



## EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

REA.B – Green Europe  
B.2 – Farm to fork, Communities Development and Climate Action

### GRANT AGREEMENT

#### **Project 101081420 — RESONATE**

#### **PREAMBLE**

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

**on the one part,**

the **European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and**

**on the other part,**

1. 'the coordinator':

**UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE)**, PIC 999866883, established in UNIVERSITATSRING 1, WIEN 1010, Austria,

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

2. **FUNDACION PRIVADA INSTITUTO DE SALUD GLOBAL BARCELONA (ISGLOBAL)**, PIC 951414122, established in C ROSSELLO 132 PLANTA 05, BARCELONA 08036, Spain,

3. **FUNDACION AZTI - AZTI FUNDAZIOA (AZTI)**, PIC 999514385, established in TXATXARRAMENDI UGARTEA Z/G, SUKARRIETA 48395, Spain,

4. **ETIFOR SRL (ETIFOR)**, PIC 950498442, established in PIAZZA ALCIDE DE GASPERI 41, PADOVA 35131, Italy,

5. **EUROHEALTHNET ASBL (EHNet)**, PIC 998095857, established in RUE ROYALE 146, BRUXELLES 1000, Belgium,

6. **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA (UNIPD)**, PIC 999995602, established in VIA 8 FEBBRAIO 2, PADOVA 35122, Italy,

7. **NBS INSTITUTE AB (SVB) (NBSI)**, PIC 897348650, established in SODRA FORSTADSGATAN 22, MALMO 211 43, Sweden,

8. **MEDITCINSKY UNIVERSITET-PLOVDIV (MUP)**, PIC 997876346, established in VASIL APRILOV BOULEVARD 15A, Plovdiv 4002, Bulgaria,

9. **PARACELUSUS MEDIZINISCHE PRIVATUNIVERSITAT SALZBURG - PRIVATSTIFTUNG (PMU)**, PIC 998417703, established in STRUBERGASSE 21, SALZBURG 5020, Austria,

10. **UPPSALA UNIVERSITET (UU)**, PIC 999985029, established in VON KRAEMERS ALLE 4, UPPSALA 751 05, Sweden,

11. **KOBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET (UCPH)**, PIC 999991043, established in NORREGADE 10, KOBENHAVN 1165, Denmark,

12. **VAN DEN BERG AGEETA ELIZABETH (NVM)**, PIC 888318532, established in KRUIZEMUNTSTRAAT 94, APELDOORN 7322 MA, Netherlands,

13. **UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE (UNTWE)**, PIC 999900833, established in DRIENERLOLAAN 5, ENSCHEDE 7522 NB, Netherlands,

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

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

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

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

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

Annex 1 Description of the action<sup>1</sup>

Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action

Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)

Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)<sup>2</sup>

Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>

Annex 4 Model for the financial statements

Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

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<sup>1</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>2</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>3</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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## DATA SHEET

### 1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>RESONATE will bring together a consortium of world leaders in Nature-based Therapy (NbT) research, practice, policy, and innovation with stakeholders in the health, environmental, economic, and societal sectors to: a) build a stronger causal evidence base of the links between nature, health, and well-being by demonstrating nature's biopsychosocial resilience building capacities; b) demonstrate how multi-sectoral stakeholders can collaborate to implement locally acceptable and inclusive NbTs; c) increase awareness and acceptance of these benefits among the public, multi-sectoral stakeholders, and policy makers; and d) ensure wider utilisation of cost-effective NbTs, to help build more resilient individuals and communities in urban, rural, and coastal settings. This will be achieved through an on-line Global Systematic Map of existing NbTs, and nine Case Studies (CSs) using longitudinal cohorts, Randomised Controlled Trials, and a Community of Practice trial, spanning 8 countries, urban, rural, and coastal settings, and all three levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid. CSs will collect sector-specific and process-related data spanning four sectors: health, environment, economy, and society. Outcomes will include effectiveness, mechanisms, equity (fairness/inclusivity), environmental sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and social acceptability. Selected CSs will develop Social Innovation Action "Nature-based Resilience Hubs" to demonstrate best practice cross-sectoral collaboration and market potential. Results will be synthesised to give insights into scaling-up/scaling-out potential, and summarised in a Toolbox of practical Guides and Tutorials aimed at different end-users, as well as an overall "What Works Nature-based Therapy Guide" for NbT implementation at scale (i.e. Impact). An International Expert Advisory Board of world leaders in NbTs will support integrated communication, dissemination, and exploitation activities for maximum reach.</p>

Keywords:

- Nature-based solutions
- Public health and well-being; Nature-based therapies; Biopsychosocial resilience; Social innovation actions; Network Nature Task Force

Project number: 101081420

Project name: Building individual and community RESilience thrOugh NATurE-based therapies

Project acronym: RESONATE

Call: HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-two-stage

Topic: HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-02-two-stage

Type of action: HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions

Granting authority: European Research Executive Agency

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

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 June 2023

Project end date: 31 May 2027

Project duration: 48 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

### 2. Participants

List of participants:

Nº	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	UNIVIE	UNIVERSITAT WIEN	AT	999866883	935 842.50	935 842.25
2	BEN	ISGLOBAL	FUNDACION PRIVADA INSTITUTO DE SALUD GLOBAL BARCELONA	ES	951414122	628 600.00	628 600.00



N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
3	BEN	AZTI	FUNDACION AZTI - AZTI FUNDAZIOA	ES	999514385	302 531.25	302 531.25
4	BEN	ETIFOR	ETIFOR SRL	IT	950498442	360 812.50	360 812.50
5	BEN	EHNet	EUROHEALTHNET ASBL	BE	998095857	349 875.00	349 875.00
6	BEN	UNIPD	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA	IT	999995602	635 346.25	635 346.25
7	BEN	NBSI	NBS INSTITUTE AB (SVB)	SE	897348650	372 656.25	372 656.25
8	BEN	MUP	MEDITCINSKY UNIVERSITET-PLOVDIV	BG	997876346	296 375.00	296 375.00
9	BEN	PMU	PARACELTUS MEDIZINISCHE PRIVATUNIVERSITAT SALZBURG - PRIVATSTIFTUNG	AT	998417703	404 316.25	404 316.25
10	BEN	UU	UPPSALA UNIVERSITET	SE	999985029	426 420.00	426 420.00
11	BEN	UCPH	KOBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET	DK	999991043	450 272.50	450 272.50
12	BEN	NVM	VAN DEN BERG AGEETA ELIZABETH	NL	888318532	282 250.00	282 250.00
13	BEN	UNTWE	UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE	NL	999900833	134 375.00	134 375.00
14	AP	UNEXE	THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	UK	999864555	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>						5 579 672.50	5 579 672.25

**Coordinator:**

- UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE)

**3. Grant****Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:**

Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Funding rate (%)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
5 579 672.50	100	5 579 672.25	5 579 672.25

**Grant form:** Budget-based**Grant mode:** Action grant**Budget categories/activity types:**

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

**Cost eligibility options:**

- In-kind contributions eligible costs

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

**Budget flexibility:** Yes (no flexibility cap)

#### **4. Reporting, payments and recoveries**

##### **4.1 Continuous reporting** (art 21)

**Deliverables:** see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

##### **4.2 Periodic reporting and payments**

**Reporting and payment schedule** (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date – whichever is the latest
1	1	18	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
2	19	36	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
3	37	48	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

**Prefinancing payments and guarantees:**

Prefinancing payment	
Type	Amount
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	2 975 639.21

**Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):**

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): Yes

MIM contribution: 5% of the maximum grant amount (278 983.61), retained from the initial prefinancing

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

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

Exception for revenues: Yes

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

AT083200000000675447

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

**4.3 Certificates** (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: only at final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

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

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

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

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Each beneficiary for their own debt

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

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

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

## **5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum**

### **Suspension and termination:**

Additional suspension grounds (art 31)

Additional termination grounds (art 32)

### **Applicable law (art 43):**

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

### **Dispute settlement forum (art 43):**

Standard dispute settlement forum:

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

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

## **6. Other**

**Specific rules (Annex 5):** Yes

### **Standard time-limits after project end:**

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

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

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

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

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

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

## **CHAPTER 1 GENERAL**

### **ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT**

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

### **ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Affiliated entities (AE)** — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046<sup>4</sup> which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Fraud** — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371<sup>5</sup> and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995<sup>6</sup>, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

**Irregularities** — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95<sup>7</sup>.

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

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

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

## **CHAPTER 2 ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 3 — ACTION**

The grant is awarded for the action **101081420 — RESONATE** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

### **ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE**

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

## **CHAPTER 3 GRANT**

### **ARTICLE 5 — GRANT**

#### **5.1 Form of grant**

The grant is an action grant<sup>8</sup> which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a

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

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

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

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

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

## 5.2 Maximum grant amount

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

## 5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 100% of the action's eligible costs.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

## 5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

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

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

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)<sup>9</sup> to be used for each budget category.

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

## 5.5 Budget flexibility

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

However:

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

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<sup>9</sup> See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

## ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

### 6.1 General eligibility conditions

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

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



- (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
- be eligible
  - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
- (d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):
- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
  - (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)
- (e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):
- (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
  - (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding
- (f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

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

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

## 6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

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

### **Direct costs**

#### **A. Personnel costs**

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

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

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

The daily rate must be calculated as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

and

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

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

If there is no such national law, collective labour agreement or written internal rules or if the project-based remuneration is not based on objective criteria, the national project reference will be the average

remuneration of the person in the last full calendar year covered by the reporting period, excluding remuneration paid for work in EU actions.

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

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

and

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

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

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

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

**A.4** The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises<sup>10</sup> not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

## **B. Subcontracting costs**

**Subcontracting costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the

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<sup>10</sup> For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

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

beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

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

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

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

### C. Purchase costs

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

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

#### C.1 Travel and subsistence

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

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

#### C.2 Equipment

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

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

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

#### C.3 Other goods, works and services

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

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

## **D. Other cost categories**

### **D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services**

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

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

and

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

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

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

### **Indirect costs**

## **E. Indirect costs**

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

### **Contributions**

Not applicable

## **6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions**

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

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
  - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary

- (ii) debt and debt service charges
  - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
  - (iv) interest owed
  - (v) currency exchange losses
  - (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
  - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
  - (viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
  - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)
  - (x) in-kind contributions by third parties: not applicable
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
- (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
  - (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant<sup>11</sup> running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other :
- (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable
  - (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

#### 6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

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<sup>11</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: ‘**operating grant**’ means an EU grant to finance “the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy”.

## **CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES**

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

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

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

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

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

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

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



(b) The coordinator must:

- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
- (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:
  - submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
  - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
  - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
  - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

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

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

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’<sup>12</sup> (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

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

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

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)

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<sup>12</sup> For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”



- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

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

## **ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES**

Not applicable

## **ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION**

### **9.1 Associated partners**

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

- **THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER (UNEXE)**, PIC 999864555

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

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

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

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

### **9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action**

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

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

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

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

### **9.3 Subcontractors**

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

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

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

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

#### **9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties**

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

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

### **ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS**

#### **10.1 Non-EU participants**

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

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>13</sup>
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

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

#### **10.2 Participants which are international organisations**

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<sup>13</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

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

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

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

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

### **10.3 Pillar-assessed participants**

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

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

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

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

and use the following specific rules, for:

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

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

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

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

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

- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

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

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

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

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

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

## **SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION**

#### **11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action**

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

#### **11.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

### **ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**



## 12.1 Conflict of interests

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

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

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

## 12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

## ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

### 13.1 Sensitive information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party

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

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

### **13.2 Classified information**

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444<sup>14</sup> and its implementing rules).

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

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

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

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

### **13.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

## **ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES**

### **14.1 Ethics**

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

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

### **14.2 Values**

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

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

### **14.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

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<sup>14</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).



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

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

## **ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION**

### **15.1 Data processing by the granting authority**

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

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725<sup>15</sup>.

### **15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679<sup>16</sup>).

They must ensure that personal data is:

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

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

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

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<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

<sup>16</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).



### 15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

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

### 16.1 Background and access rights to background

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

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

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

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

### 16.2 Ownership of results

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting

by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)

- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

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

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

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

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

## 16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

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

## 16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

## ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

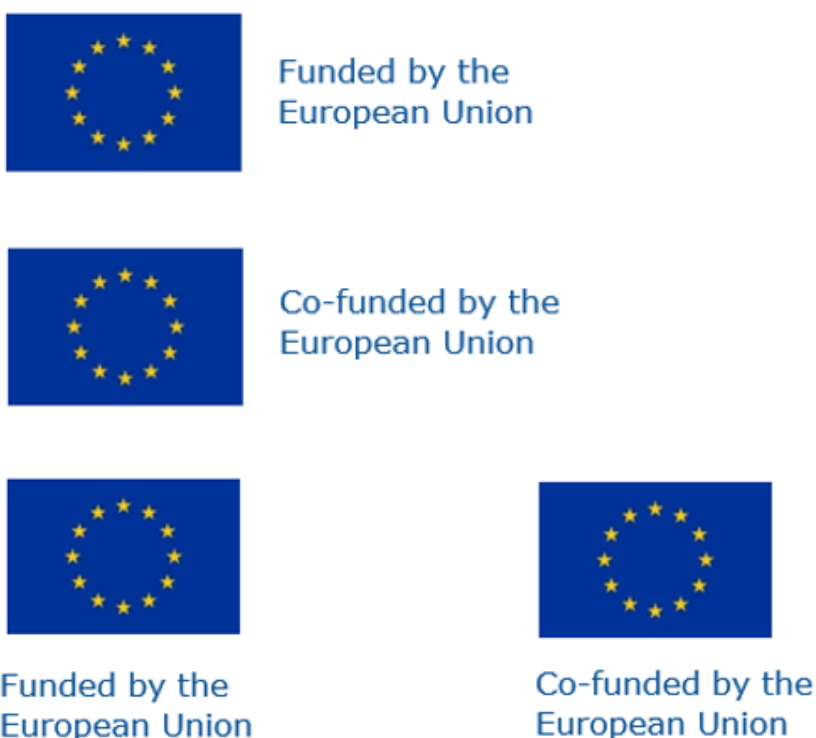
### 17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

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

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

## 17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

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



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

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

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

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

## 17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

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

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

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

#### **17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules**

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

#### **17.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

### **ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION**

#### **18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action**

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

#### **18.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

### **SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

#### **ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS**

##### **19.1 Information requests**

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

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

##### **19.2 Participant Register data updates**

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

##### **19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action**

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

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

#### **19.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

### **ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING**

#### **20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents**

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

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

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
  - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared

- (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
  - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1
- (d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

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

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

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

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

## 20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

## ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

### 21.1 Continuous reporting

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

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

## 21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

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

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

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

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

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

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

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

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

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

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

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



### **21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros**

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

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

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

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

### **21.4 Reporting language**

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

### **21.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

## **ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE**

### **22.1 Payments and payment arrangements**

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

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

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

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

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



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

## 22.2 Recoveries

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

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

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

## 22.3 Amounts due

### 22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

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

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

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

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

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

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

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

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

### 22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

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

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

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **22.3.3 Interim payments**

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

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

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

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

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

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

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

#### Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

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

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

#### Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

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

#### Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

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

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

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

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

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \{\text{final grant amount} \\ \text{minus} \\ \{\text{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)}\} \end{array} \right\}$$

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

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

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

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency,

offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{final grant amount for the action} \end{array} \right\},$$

$$\text{minus}$$

$$\left\{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments received by the beneficiary (if any)} \right\}$$

and

(b) dividing the debt:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{amount calculated according to point (a) for the beneficiary concerned} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{the sum of the amounts calculated according to point (a) for all the beneficiaries identified according to} \\ \text{point (a)} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{the amount to be recovered} \end{array} \right\}.$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 22.4 Enforced recovery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366<sup>17</sup> applies.

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

## 22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

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<sup>17</sup> Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

Not applicable

## ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

### 24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)

Not applicable

### 24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)

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

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

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



- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>18</sup> (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

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

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

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

Not applicable

### 24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)

Beneficiaries which:

- use unit, flat rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to documented (i.e. formally approved and in writing) usual costs accounting practices (if any) or
- have formalised documentation on the systems and processes for calculating their costs and contributions (i.e. formally approved and in writing), have participated in at least 150 actions under Horizon 2020 or the Euratom Research and Training Programme (2014-2018 or 2019-2020) and participate in at least 3 ongoing actions under Horizon Europe or the Euratom Research and Training Programme (2021-2025 or 2026-2027)

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

This audit will be carried out as follows:

- Step 1 – Application by the beneficiary.
- Step 2 – If the application is accepted, the granting authority will carry out the systems and process audit, complemented by an audit of transactions (on a sample of the beneficiary's Horizon Europe or the Euratom Research and Training Programme financial statements).
- Step 3 – The audit result will take the form of a risk assessment classification for the beneficiary: low, medium or high.

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

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<sup>18</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

## 24.5 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

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

### 25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

#### 25.1.1 Internal checks

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

#### 25.1.2 Project reviews

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 25.1.3 Audits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

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

## 25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

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

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013<sup>19</sup> and No 2185/96<sup>20</sup>
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **25.5.2 Extension from other grants**

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

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and

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<sup>19</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

<sup>20</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

## ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

### 26.1 Impact evaluation

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

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out

in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

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

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

## **26.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

# **CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

## **SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION**

### **ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **27.1 Conditions**

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

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

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

#### **27.2 Procedure**

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

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

#### **27.3 Effects**

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

### **ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION**

#### **28.1 Conditions**

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

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

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

## **28.2 Procedure**

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

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

## **28.3 Effects**

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

# **SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION**

## **ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION**

### **29.1 Conditions**

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

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries



about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or

(c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

## 29.2 Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

## ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

### 30.1 Conditions

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

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

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

### 30.2 Procedure



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

### 31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

#### 31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

### 31.2.1 Conditions

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

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

### 31.2.2 Procedure

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

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

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

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

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption

date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

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

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

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

## **ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION**

### **32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination**

#### **32.1.1 Conditions and procedure**

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

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

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

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

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

#### **32.1.2 Effects**

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

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

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

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

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks,

reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

## 32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

### 32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 32.2.2 Effects

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination**

#### **32.3.1 Conditions**

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

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)

- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or
- (m) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
  - (ii) the action has lost its scientific or technological relevance, for EIC Accelerator actions: the action has lost its economic relevance, for challenge-based EIC Pathfinder actions and Horizon Europe Missions: the action has lost its relevance as part of the Portfolio for which it has been initially selected

### 32.3.2 Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

### 32.3.3 Effects

#### (a) for **GA termination**:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### (b) for **beneficiary termination**:

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

### **ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES**

#### **33.1 Liability of the granting authority**

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

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



### **33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries**

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

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

## **ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES**

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95<sup>21</sup>).

## **SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE**

### **ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE**

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

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

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

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

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

## **CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

#### **36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management**

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<sup>21</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

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

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

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

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

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

### **36.2 Date of communication**

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

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

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

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

### **36.3 Addresses for communication**

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

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

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

## **ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

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

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

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

## ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71<sup>22</sup>, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

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

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

## ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS

### 39.1 Conditions

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

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

### 39.2 Procedure

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

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

The request for amendment must include:

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

The granting authority may request additional information.

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

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

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

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<sup>22</sup> Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

## **ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES**

### **40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble**

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

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

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

### **40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries**

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

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

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

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

## **ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to

any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

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

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

## **ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

### **43.1 Applicable law**

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

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

### **43.2 Dispute settlement**

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

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

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

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

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

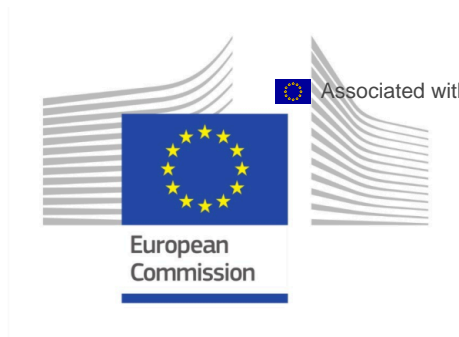
## **ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE**

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

## SIGNATURES

For the coordinator

For the granting authority



## **ANNEX 1**



# **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)**

## **Description of the action (DoA)**

**Part A**

**Part B**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)

### COVER PAGE

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

<b>PROJECT</b>	
<i>Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.</i>	
<b>Project number:</b>	101081420
<b>Project name:</b>	Building individual and community RESilience thrOugh NATurE-based therapies
<b>Project acronym:</b>	RESONATE
<b>Call:</b>	HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-two-stage
<b>Topic:</b>	HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-02-two-stage
<b>Type of action:</b>	HORIZON-RIA
<b>Service:</b>	REA/B/02
<b>Project starting date:</b>	fixed date: 1 June 2023
<b>Project duration:</b>	48 months

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Project summary

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

*Use the project summary from your proposal.*

RESONATE will bring together a consortium of world leaders in Nature-based Therapy (NbT) research, practice, policy, and innovation with stakeholders in the health, environmental, economic, and societal sectors to: a) build a stronger causal evidence base of the links between nature, health, and well-being by demonstrating nature's biopsychosocial resilience building capacities; b) demonstrate how multi-sectoral stakeholders can collaborate to implement locally acceptable and inclusive NbTs; c) increase awareness and acceptance of these benefits among the public, multi-sectoral stakeholders, and policy makers; and d) ensure wider utilisation of cost-effective NbTs, to help build more resilient individuals and communities in urban, rural, and coastal settings. This will be achieved through an on-line Global Systematic Map of existing NbTs, and nine Case Studies (CSs) using longitudinal cohorts, Randomised Controlled Trials, and a Community of Practice trial, spanning 8 countries, urban, rural, and coastal settings, and all three levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid. CSs will collect sector-specific and process-related data spanning four sectors: health, environment, economy, and society. Outcomes will include effectiveness, mechanisms, equity (fairness/inclusivity), environmental sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and social acceptability. Selected CSs will develop Social Innovation Action "Nature-based Resilience Hubs" to demonstrate best practice cross-sectoral collaboration and market potential. Results will be synthesised to give insights into scaling-up/scaling-out potential, and summarised in a Toolbox of practical Guides and Tutorials aimed at different end-users, as well as an overall "What Works Nature-based Therapy Guide" for NbT implementation at scale (i.e. Impact). An International Expert Advisory Board of world leaders in NbTs will support integrated communication, dissemination, and exploitation activities for maximum reach.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### PARTICIPANTS

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

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	UNIVIE	UNIVERSITAT WIEN	AT	999866883
2	BEN	ISGLOBAL	FUNDACION PRIVADA INSTITUTO DE SALUD GLOBAL BARCELONA	ES	951414122
3	BEN	AZTI	FUNDACION AZTI - AZTI FUNDAZIOA	ES	999514385
4	BEN	ETIFOR	ETIFOR SRL	IT	950498442
5	BEN	EHNet	EUROHEALTHNET ASBL	BE	998095857
6	BEN	UNIPD	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA	IT	999995602
7	BEN	NBSI	NBS INSTITUTE AB (SVB)	SE	897348650
8	BEN	MUP	MEDITCINSKY UNIVERSITET-PLOVDIV	BG	997876346
9	BEN	PMU	PARACELUS MEDIZINISCHE PRIVATUNIVERSITAT SALZBURG - PRIVATSTIFTUNG	AT	998417703
10	BEN	UU	UPPSALA UNIVERSITET	SE	999985029
11	BEN	UCPH	KOBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET	DK	999991043

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

<b>Number</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Short name</b>	<b>Legal name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>PIC</b>
12	BEN	NVM	VAN DEN BERG AGEETA ELIZABETH	NL	888318532
13	BEN	UNTWE	UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE	NL	999900833
14	AP	UNEXE	THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER	UK	999864555

## LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

<b>Work packages</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Work Package name</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Effort (Person-Months)</b>	<b>Start Month</b>	<b>End Month</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
WP1	Management: Co-ordination and intra- and inter-project collaboration	1 - UNIVIE	78.50	1	48	D1.1 – Cross-consortium collaboration plan D1.2 – Data Management Plan 1 D1.3 – Data Management Plan 2 D1.4 – Data Management Plan 3
WP2	Global Perspectives on Nature-based Therapy programmes	2 - ISGLOBAL	52.50	1	48	D2.1 – Grand Rounds report D2.2 – Stable release of NbT mapping tool D2.3 – NbT systematic mapping paper
WP3	Case Studies: Exploring NbTs at all three levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid	1 - UNIVIE	240.00	1	48	D3.1 – Level 1 CS synthesis report D3.2 – Level 2 CS synthesis report D3.3 – Level 3 CS synthesis report
WP4	Health equity: Ensuring equitable outcomes for NbTs	5 - EHNet	35.00	1	48	D4.1 – NbT Health Professionals Guide
WP5	Environment: NbT environmental impact and opportunities	3 - AZTI	30.50	1	48	D5.1 – NbT Environmental Assessment Guide
WP6	Economy: Economic potential of NbTs	4 - ETIFOR	46.00	1	48	D6.1 – NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide D6.2 – NbT Sustainable Financing Guide
WP7	Society: Social perspectives on NbTs and social innovation actions	6 - UNIPD	62.50	1	48	D7.1 – NbT awareness/acceptance report D7.2 – NbT Resilience Hub Guide
WP8	What Works: A 360o cross-sectoral view of effective, equitable, sustainable & scalable NbTs	14 - UNEXE	84.50	1	48	D8.1 – NbT Process Evaluation Guide D8.2 – NbT What Works Guide
WP9	Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation	7 - NBSI	74.00	1	48	D9.1 – RESONATE Website D9.2 – DEC Plan 1 D9.3 – DEC Plan 2

<b>Work packages</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Work Package name</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Effort (Person-Months)</b>	<b>Start Month</b>	<b>End Month</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
						D9.4 – DEC Plan 3 D9.5 – Project Impact Report
WP10	Ethics requirements	1 - UNIVIE	0.00	1	48	D10.1 – OEI - Requirement No. 1 D10.2 – OEI - Requirement No. 2 D10.3 – OEI - Requirement No. 3 D10.4 – OEI - Requirement No. 4 D10.5 – OEI - Requirement No. 5 D10.6 – OEI - Requirement No. 6 D10.7 – OEI - Requirement No. 7

## Work package WP1 – Management: Co-ordination and intra- and inter-project collaboration

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Management: Co-ordination and intra- and inter-project collaboration		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

### Objectives

- 1a) Ensure effective coordination, planning, implementation and realization of activities;
- 1b) Manage financial/administrative activities;
- 1c) Uphold open communication within the project and with the Commission;
- 1d) Coordinate with related projects funded under this and associated calls;
- 1e) Oversee and support collaboration with international NbT partners;
- 1f) Practically support consortium knowledge exchange.
- 1g) Ensure that all work conducted within RESONATE is conducted to the very highest ethical, data management, and open science principles.
- 1h) Ensure compliance with the 'ethics requirements' set out in Work Package 10

### Description

WP1 will draw on extensive consortium EU project experience to ensure the smooth internal management and timely submission of all deliverables. WP1 will ensure: an efficient collaboration among partners within and beyond the consortium including the Commission; project objectives are fulfilled on time and within budget; high-quality standards are met; and the expected project impact is achieved. (T = Task, M = Milestone, D = Deliverable)

T1.1 Oversee overall project management and partner coordination (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth1-48). A strong project leadership will ensure strategic guidance and interdisciplinary exchange within the consortium. The Project Coordinator (UNIVIE) along with WP and CS leads, is committed to effective information exchange to ensure collaboration between WPs and successful execution of objectives and impact. Internal communication will be maintained by UNIVIE to ensure day-to-day availability and timely response for all partners via email, telephone, and online meeting tools. T1.1 will also involve the RESONATE Steering Committee consisting of the 14 institutional leads who will meet quarterly (every 3 months) to assess progress internally, and the International Expert Advisory Board (IEAB) who will monitor and support RESONATE's progress, decisions, and achievement of objectives and will attend annual meetings. Progress will be monitored through Annual Reports which also serve as an early-warning mechanism for contingency planning.

T1.2 Manage financial and administrative activities (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth1-48). T1.2 will ensure that financial/administrative reporting is undertaken in line with Commission guidance at all reporting periods including the final project report.

T1.3 Uphold open communication with partners and the Commission (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth1-48). The management of the project includes frequent communications with the Commission Project Officer, to communicate project advancement and minimise the risk of deviations. Frequent communication with the Project Officer will include administrative reporting and also elicit the Project Officer's expertise with regard to potential dissemination channels and networks. Open communication between partners will be assured via the allocation of sufficient resources for partner discussions (included ring-fenced annual meeting budgets). These meetings are planned to take place in Sept (between holidays and term-time) in Vienna (kick-off meeting Mth4), Barcelona (Mth16) Padua (Mth28) and Brussels (Mth40).

T1.4 Co-ordinate with related projects (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth1-48). UNIVIE will coordinate cross-consortium interactions through joint activities, annual workshops, and integrated communication and dissemination activities. We propose a multi-consortium collaboration of ~9 partners, including the three consortia funded under this call, three on-going NbS/NbT projects we are involved in (i.e. Green4C, RECETAS, Go Green Routes), and ~9 consortia from related calls (e.g. HORIZON-CL6: 2021-BIODIV-01-05; 2022-BIODIV-01-03; 2021-COMMUNITIES-01-06; and 2022-COMMUNITIES-01-05/02-01). A written plan for the collaborations between the three consortia funded under this call, RESONATE, NATURELAB and GreenME will be completed by Mth4 (D1.1).

T1.5 Co-create NbT Task Force (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth39-48). If successful, our vision is to work with the other programmes engaged with under T1.4 to co-create a collaboration similar to a Network Nature Task Force specifically for NbTs (subject to agreement).

T1.6 Support lab visits to IEAB member projects (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth1-48). Many successful NbT programmes exist outside of Europe. To facilitate bi-directional knowledge/best-practice exchange our IEAB includes NbT leads across several non-European countries (incl. USA, Canada, Australia), who will support the Systematic

Mapping exercise (T2.1), host Grand Rounds (T2.3), and dissemination/communications plans (T9.3-5). Funds to support T1.6 have been distributed equally among UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, EHNet and ETIFOR as those beneficiaries are the ones whose WPs focus most on international nature-based social prescribing systems and who will learn most from these visits.

T1.7 Support internal cross-sectoral integration (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all, Mth4-42). While T1.6 will support key beneficiaries gain insights into existing NbT programmes globally, due to RESONATE's highly interdisciplinary nature, we also require within consortia knowledge sharing and exchange to better appreciate specific skills and techniques of consortium partners (e.g. process evaluation, blood sample analysis, Bayesian network analysis) that will need to be integrated across our set of CSs. The budget for these activities is shared equally between AZTI, UNIPD, NBSI and UNEXE as those beneficiaries are the ones whose WPs will need to work most closely with other WPs in co-designing the Case Study data collection and analysis protocols.

T1.8 Ensure data are managed, stored and accessible according to FAIR principles (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all partners; Mth1-48). Methodological details of how data will be managed according to FAIR principles can be found in Section 1.2. Here we note that it is the responsibility of T1.8 to ensure these processes are adopted and implemented across all WPs and CSs. A FAIR Data Management Plan (DMP) will be developed and submitted by Mth6 (D1.2) and updated at Mth36 (D1.3) and Mth 48 (D1.4) which will outline: the types of data that will be collected; how data will be collected, generated and processed; which methodologies and standards will be applied; how data will be shared, curated, made open access, and preserved. UCPH has particular expertise in data management and will offer additional support to ensure that the correct procedures are adopted across the consortium.

T1.9: Make all public (PU) deliverables and resources open access (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all partners; Mth1-48). Given the importance of the website for public access to data, resources, tools and outputs, UNIVIE will work closely with NBSI on Ts9.1-9.5 to deliver T1.9 in practice. Additionally, partners will be supported to deposit appropriate materials such as datasets, research reports, and papers, and the 'Guides' to appropriate open repositories such as Zenodo, which provides persistent digital object identifiers (DOIs) allowing our outputs to be more accessible and citable. Given that some academic papers, for instance, may not be published until after Mth48, these processes will be continued by all partners beyond the life of the project under good science principles via in-kind contributions to the project to ensure the legacy agenda.

T1.10 Independent external ethics advisor (lead: UNIVIE; Mth1-Mth48). The project raises multiple and intersectional ethics issues and some of them are sensitive. An Independent External Ethics Advisor specialised in EU data protection law will be appointed by the end of M1 (D10.1) and will prepare a report to be submitted as a deliverable at the end of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd reporting periods (D10.2, D10.3 & D10.4 respectively). The external independent Ethics Advisor will be consulted, and report, on at least the following points:

- Humans, especially in relation to the inclusion of vulnerable individuals;
- Human cells / tissues;
- Processing of personal data, including data identifiability and data transfers;
- Participation of non-EU countries.

As agreed with the Project Officer, WP1 will oversee these processes and those associated with T1.11 even though they fall under WP10.

T1.11: Clinical studies mandatory deliverables (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: CS partners; Mth1-48). All partners have an extensive track record of conducting ethical research, applying for ethical approval, and conforming to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). T1.11 will support each CS produce a Study initiation package (including registration details and ethical approval, Mth14, D10.5), a Midterm recruitment report (once 50% of participants have been recruited, Mth23, D10.6), and a Results posting report (irrespective of study completion, Mth40, D10.7), where relevant (e.g. CSs 1&2 use secondary data and do not require a mid-term recruitment report). Individual reports will be collated by WP1 into a single overarching document submitted to the portal, and no CS will begin data collection until their respective initiation package (including local ethics committee approval) has been finalised (see Clinical Studies Annex). WP1 will also liaise with the Project Officer and the IEAB, including PPI expert Maguire and environmental ethicist Poole, as well as the external independent ethics advisor (appointed under T10.1) to ensure all appropriate practices are adhered to at each stage.

## Work package WP2 – Global Perspectives on Nature-based Therapy programmes

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	2. ISGLOBAL
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Global Perspectives on Nature-based Therapy programmes		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

<b>Objectives</b>
<p>2a) Support the article search phase of multiple reviews and establish data needs for other WPs; 2b) Generate a Systematic Map of peer-reviewed NbT programmes to characterize/spatially illustrate global evidence-based NbTs across different sociocultural/environmental contexts; 2c) Develop an online interactive mapping tool to provide easily accessible and interpretable summaries of peer-reviewed NbTs for multi-sectoral practitioners, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policy-makers; 2d) Use the beta-version of the on-line tool to stimulate a series of Grand Rounds with the aim of contributing to exchanges between ongoing and upcoming related projects for optimising cooperation, utilization, expansion, knowledge generation, and global impact between NbTs.</p>
<b>Description</b>
<p>WP2 will support the collation, synthesis, distribution, and sharing of information about past and current NbTs globally (through reviews, Grand Rounds and online interactive Map) and provide an interface between what is happening beyond and within the project.</p> <p>T2.1 Co-create a multi-review search strategy (lead: ISGlobal; contributors: EHNet, AZTI, ETIFOR, UNIPD; Mth1-3). Multiple WPs will use literature reviews of the peer-reviewed and/or grey literature to inform respective data needs (Ts4.1-8.1). Following systematic review protocols (e.g. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence), WP2 will co-ordinate the co-creation of a single search strategy that includes all required terms, co-ordinate the searches across multiple platforms, and automatically funnel the resulting outputs to the respective WPs (M1, Mth3).</p> <p>T2.2 Systematic literature review of peer-reviewed NbT programmes (lead: ISGlobal; contributors: UNIVIE, MUP, Expert Advisory Board; Mths4-16 &amp; 33-44). This task will focus on NbT programmes in the peer-reviewed literature. Given the marked differences in the programmes we are already aware of, or directly involved with, our Systematic Map will provide a core set of details about existing programmes rather than a synthesis of specific outcomes. Outcome data and effect sizes will be recorded (as per a systematic review) as well as the geographical locations and types of nature (including Virtual Reality [VR]) where the NbTs take place, types of therapeutic activities, target groups (incl. data on age, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic circumstances), and details provided on validation protocols, certification of practice, cost-effectiveness, environmental considerations, and impact (including sustainability goals), with follow up approaches to authors where data is lacking. We will include different types of study design, since the purpose is not to conduct a meta-analysis or provide a strict quality assessment, but to provide a comprehensive global picture of evidence-based NbT programmes. The review protocol will be registered and uploaded to a relevant website, e.g. Cochrane/CADIMA. Because the RESONATE consortium includes members from across Europe and beyond, we will be able to include literature not only published in English, but a range of other languages. A first review will be completed by Mth16 (M2). This will be used to populate the first draft (alpha version) of the online tool (T2.3). Following testing of the tool during the Grand Rounds (T2.4), an updated search/analysis will be conducted Mths33-38 (M6) to capture publications that have emerged in the interim period, to ensure the final review and public (stable release) version of the mapping tool is as up-to-date as possible by the end of the project. A final review paper will be submitted by Mth44 (D2.3).</p> <p>T2.3 Develop an interactive online NbT mapping tool (lead: ISGlobal; contributors: UNIVIE, UCPH, PMU, UU, NVM, UNTWE, UNEXE, Mth17-24 &amp; 37-41). Using the NbT database from T2.2, we will create an alpha version of the on-line mapping tool by Mth20 (M3). Each NbT will be located on an interactive web map, which will provide a summary of the data collected as part of the review as well as links to scientific article/s and, where available, site photos. The platform will contain three components: a data catalogue (or attribute repository based on the review), an Application Programming Interface, and a Geographic Systems Information environment. We will use software, such as EviAtlas and ESRI, to develop a map application with simple commands for various functions, such as a query database, selecting and highlighting specific NbTs, share filtered maps, export selected records to new databases. Users will be able to query/filter the underlying database in order to select/highlight records of specific interest. Through an integrated function, the users may share a filtered map, or download a selection of records, e.g. in a table format. The alpha version will be tested by consortium partners and a beta version (addressing any bugs found) developed by Mth24 (M4). This beta version will be used as part of the Grand Rounds exercise and based on the feedback from these (M5, Mth31) and the updated information from the second search of the SM (M6), a final ‘stable release’ version will be released online for full open access by Mth41 (D2.2). The map will remain open-source and by uploading it on the Oppla platform, and will be managed by UNIVIE beyond the project’s lifetime.</p> <p>T2.4 Host Grand Rounds (lead: ISGlobal; contributors: UNIVIE, IEAB; Mth25-36). Using the beta version of T2.3, we will engage experts, practitioners, programmes, and research initiatives globally by creating a “Grand Rounds” series, including in-person meetings, webinars and podcasts, to highlight research and innovative practices around NbTs in various sociodemographic/geographic (including VR) contexts. We anticipate two types of Grand Round, 5 face-to-face versions including 2 in Europe and 3 hosted in our international partner countries (funded under T1.6; n~50 per meeting) and 10 online webinars (n~200 per meeting through direct streaming and downloads), with a total reach estimate of ~2,250 researchers, practitioners and stakeholders. Feedback on missing NbTs, as well as functionality, will feed into</p>



SM updating (M6). The series will be completed by Mth31 (M5) and a report summarising events and lessons learned produced by Mth36 (D2.1).

### Work package WP3 – Case Studies: Exploring NbTs at all three levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Case Studies: Exploring NbTs at all three levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

#### Objectives

WP3 will oversee 9 high-quality Case Studies, three at each level of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid, to achieve the following sub-objectives:

- 3a) Employ longitudinal prospective methods to explore issues including: when people visit nature, their experiences, type/dose issues; statistical moderators e.g. age, gender, socio-economic status and culture; and how greenness quantity/quality and geographical locations affect the health-nature relationships (Level 1 CSs);
- 3b) Employ (quasi-) experiments and well-controlled interventions to provide more evidence of the causal relationships between nature and health and well-being (Level 2 CSs);
- 3c) Test nature therapy sessions (Level 3 CSs).

#### Description

Extensive details about the 9 CSs are presented in the Clinical Studies Annex. Here we summarise the over-arching tasks that will ensure the CSs feed into the key deliverables.

T3.1 Support CS planning, ethics applications, co-creation processes & study pre-registration (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all; Mth1-16). T3.1 will support the complex data needs of WPs 4-8 for CSs 3-9 through careful discussion about feasibility and demands on participants, stakeholders, and CS leads (Ts4.1-8.1). Additional data will also be needed for estimating future scenarios (T8.5). Ethical approval will be submitted by all Case Studies by Mth14 (see D10.5) and the pre-registrations for all CSs (incl. CSs 1&2) will be collated as part of M7 (Mth16) to support the project progress review at Mth18.

T3.2 Support multi-sectoral data collection (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all; Mth12-29). T3.2 will provide logistical support for data collection including cross-partner and international IEAB visit co-ordination (Ts 1.6, 1.7) to ensure each CS has the required skills for running the interventions and collecting the required data by Mth20 (M8).

T3.3 Support relevant data collation and distribution (lead: UNIVIE; contributors: all; Mth29-30). UNIVIE will act as a central data recipient and “distribution hub” to reduce the risk of data loss etc. during transference between CSs and WPs and support our good data management goals. All data will be collated and redistributed by Mth30 (M9).

T3.4 Analyse and synthesise health/biopsychosocial resilience outcomes for CSs. (leads: UNIVIE; MUP; PMU; contributors: UNEXE, ISGLOBAL, EHNet, UNIPD, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE; Mth25-36). T3.4 will produce three synthesis reports on core health outcomes and mechanisms across CSs, one for each Level of the pyramid. Data analysis for all CSs and synthesis across CSs within the same level will be supported by UNIVIE, who will have a full-time position with additional professorial level statistical support (Voracek). They will also support other data analytic needs beyond the CSs such as analyses for the Resilience Hubs (see Task 7.3). However, although UNIVIE will lead much of the data synthesis, due to the need to produce the three CS reports at similar times, different institutions will take charge of producing the overall reports. Specifically, the Level 1 synthesis will be led by MUP (D3.1), the Level 2 synthesis by PMU (D3.2), and Level 3 synthesis by UNIVIE (D3.3). These will be in addition to the CS Results Posting Reports (see WP10, D10.7).

### Work package WP4 – Health equity: Ensuring equitable outcomes for NbTs

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	5. EHNet
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Health equity: Ensuring equitable outcomes for NbTs		



<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48
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<b>Objectives</b>
<p>WP4 aims to achieve two distinct objectives:</p> <p>4a) Improved understanding of the distributional health impacts of NbTs;</p> <p>4b) Greater clarity about the concerns, challenges, barriers, needs, and opportunities of NbTs to improve health/well-being at different levels of the prevention pyramid, and provide guidance to health professionals to increase NbT uptake.</p>

<b>Description</b>
<p>T4.1-4.4 will explore health equity issues across the Level 2&amp;3 CSs via the 5-Step WHO Health Impact Assessment framework ('screening', 'scoping', 'appraisal', 'reporting', 'monitoring'). In-depth NbT Health Equity Impact Assessments (HEIA) will be used for two CSs, and simpler NbT Health Equity Audits (HEA) for the remainder. Equity issues in Level 1 CSs 1-3 will be covered under WP3 (Ts 3.1-3.4). T4.5 will produce the NbT Health Professionals Guide.</p> <p>T4.1: Health equity data need/feasibility co-creation. (lead: EHNet; contributors: UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, MUP, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE, UNEXE; Mth1-12). T4.1 will use a partner consensus reaching workshop to select which CSs conduct HEIAs or HEAs based on a 'screening' process of available data including determinants (e.g., physical environment, socioeconomic/lifestyle factors), health outcomes, and population groups (Mth6, M10). Once decided, 'scoping' exercises will establish how the HE(I)A will be conducted and involve diverse local community samples as part of the Resilience Hubs (CSs 4-6) or through CS steering groups (CSs 7-9). T4.1 will establish Terms of Reference for each HE(I)A, and the health equity data collection plan will be complete by Mth12 (M11).</p> <p>T4.2: Support HE(I)A data collection. (lead: EHNet; contributors: UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWEMth12-29). T4.2 will support CSs collect data and evidence on health impacts and their (potential) distributional effects. T4.2 will help troubleshoot issues and provide direct support for running the HE(I)As. Health equity data collection will be completed by Mth29 (M12).</p> <p>T4.3: Analyse &amp; synthesise CS HE(I)A data. (lead: EHNet; contributors: UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE; Mth25-34). Once received, T4.3 will 'appraise' (i.e. analyse/synthesise) the qualitative data and UNIVIE the quantitative data to summarise the mechanisms by which CSs can ensure equity and avoid any unintended distributional issues. T4.3. will also 'monitor' how the HE(I)As are received by local CS stakeholders and the extent to which information about equity feeds into decision-making processes. Health equity analyses will be completed by Mth34 (M13).</p> <p>T4.4: Develop recommendations for NbT health equity assessment (lead: EHNet; contributors: UNIVIE; Mth34-37). The 'reporting' phase will consist of guidance aimed at researchers, local actors, and policymakers that describe the scope, priorities, stakeholder views, evidence, and findings across CSs, and provide evidence-based recommendations on how to design and implement NbTs that promote positive, and minimise negative, health effects and tackle health inequalities. Guidelines will include information on how to ensure that HE(I)As become a systematic part of NbTs design and monitoring and related policymaking. The report will be completed by Mth37 (M14), but it will not be a stand-alone public document instead feeding into the health equity part of WP8's overarching What Works report (D8.2).</p> <p>T4.5: Produce NbT health practitioner guide. (Lead: EHNet; contributors: UNEXE; M9-M39). T4.5 goes beyond the CSs and aims to understand concerns, challenges, barriers, needs, and opportunities related to implementing NbTs, and provide tools and guidance for health professionals to make greater use of them in their work to promote mental health/well-being. The task will draw on results from T4.1-4.4 alongside a literature review of the grey literature (M15, Mth18) and interviews (n&gt;10) with health professionals to produce a 'Nature-based Therapy Guide for Health Professionals' (Mth39 D4.1). An accompanying Online Tutorial on how to use the guide for practitioners/researchers etc. will be produced and released at the same time.</p>

**Work package WP5 – Environment: NbT environmental impact and opportunities**

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	3. AZTI
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Environment: NbT environmental impact and opportunities		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

<b>Objectives</b>
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WP5 will consider the implications of NbTs for environmental goals both in terms of risks and opportunities. There are two distinct objectives:  
 5a) Assessment of CS impact on ecosystems and estimation of “maximum carrying capacity”;  
 5b) Monitoring changes in pro-environmental attitudes/behaviours by CS participants/stakeholders.

Description
<p>T5.1: Environmental data need/feasibility co-creation. (lead: AZTI; contributors: UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, MUP, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE, UNEXE; Mth1-12). Based on existing environmental impact assessment approaches, the literature funnelled from T2.1, and CS perceptions on the local environmental characteristics likely to be most impacted alongside potential opportunities, T5.1 will develop detailed site assessment protocols for each Level 2&amp;3 CS site. A participant environmental attitude/behaviour survey will be co-developed to monitor change over time (and translated into local languages). The environmental data collection plan will be complete by Mth12 (M16).</p> <p>T5.2: Support environmental data collection. (lead: AZTI; contributors: ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, PMU, UU, CPHU, NVM, Mth12-29). Support the environmental assessments pre-post the interventions using the finalised tools and help coordinate the distribution of the participants/stakeholder attitude/behaviour surveys. Environmental data collection will be completed by Mth29 (M17).</p> <p>T5.3: Analyse &amp; synthesise CS environmental impact results. (lead: AZTI; contributors: ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE; Mth21-35). T5.3 will involve two analyses. First, environment risk matrices will be developed for each Level 2&amp;3 CS which identify the environmental characteristics (incl. ecosystem components and built-infrastructure), and the likelihood the NbTs will impact them. The matrix will serve to identify the environmental characteristics and qualities that could affect NbT success, and impacts that could hinder effective participation (including number of users) to inform estimates of “maximum carrying capacity”. The second analysis will focus on how NbTs may stimulate more pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours through, for instance, greater nature connectedness. Data analysis will be completed and summarised in an associated report by Mth35 (M18).</p> <p>T5.4: Produce NbT environmental assessment guidelines. (lead: AZTI; Mth34-38). Using the reports developed under T5.3, T5.4 will produce a more global ‘NbT Environmental Assessment &amp; Impact Guide’ (D5.1) including a step-by-step process to facilitate the implementation/monitoring of environmentally sustainable NbTs, through highlighting the key characteristics, main environmental impacts, and environmental attitude/behaviour changes that will need to be account for. Again, an accompanying Online Tutorial will also be produced.</p>

### Work package WP6 – Economy: Economic potential of NbTs

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP6	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	4. ETIFOR
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Economy: Economic potential of NbTs		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

Objectives
<p>WP6 has three key objectives which involve understanding and clarifying:</p> <p>6a) The economic value of the ecosystem services benefits to health/well-being from nature (CSs 4-9);                      6b) If such therapies are cost-effective by comparing them to traditional alternatives;                      6c) The public and private market and finance potential of NbTs for different sectors.</p>

Description
<p>T6.1: Economic data and scenario need/feasibility co-creation (lead: ETIFOR; contributors: UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, MUP, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE, UNEXE; Mth1-12). Based on the ‘green care’ economic assessment methods explored in Green4C, along with literature funnelled from T2.1, T6.1. will co-create a research plan for the economic evaluation of Level 2&amp;3 CSs in collaboration with CS/WP leads. The plan will set out the research objectives/framework including approaches/methodologies for data collection/analysis, considering that a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted in the more established Level 3 CSs. The opportunity of applying cost- or demand- based methodologies, or mixes of these, will be decided taking into consideration adherence with objectives, data availability, resources, impact and feasibility, complexity and state of progress (beginning or already ongoing) for each CS. For example, given the established nature of CSs 7-9, the possibility of carrying out a demand-based approach will be considered to determine the perceived value of the NbT to user/beneficiary. The economic data collection plan will be complete by Mth12 (M19).</p>

T6.2: Support economic data collection across CSs (lead: ETIFOR; contributors: ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, PMU, UU, CPHU, NVM, Mth12-29). Depending on the data needs and methodology requirements identified in T6.1, surveys will be carried out online and/or in person, involving participants and stakeholders one-to-one or in focus groups, and at different geo-political and jurisdictional levels (also for the impact assessment, when relevant, e.g., community, local, province, regional etc.). Economic data collection will be completed by Mth29 (M20).

T6.3: Analyse and synthesise economic impact results (lead: ETIFOR; UNIVIE; Mth25-37). Based on the models chosen in T6.1, T6.3 will analyse the data to determine the extent to which NbTs save health and social-related costs for their users, society and public and private health institutions. Where possible (e.g. CSs 7&8 where comparators exist) T6.3 will also conduct cost-effectiveness analysis by comparing treatment with existing/traditional alternatives. This task will also develop evidence-based scenarios about what a scaled-up/scaled-out offering of selected NbTs might look like. Based on the results of the two selected CSs, it will be possible to quantify the hypothetical impact of a generalized adoption of the NbTs including job creation and local economy impacts, which are key for demonstrating their value and orientating policies regarding infrastructure and therapy-related investments. Economic data analyses will be completed by Mth34 (M21) and feed into a final ‘NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide’ (D6.1, Mth37) focusing on the main methodological/practical findings.

T6.4: Identify sustainable NbT financing options (lead: ETIFOR; contributors: ISGlobal, UNEXE, UNIPD, NBSI; Mth9-24). While the CSs are collecting data, T6.4 will analyse the public and private business/market case for NbTs building on the innovation/market analysis work carried out for the Green4C Erasmus project for the Green Care sector. A market analysis of the supply and demand potential for NbTs in different sectors (green space management, rural development, and forestry) and in the public and private sector will be conducted. It will include the barriers and opportunities to accessing public and private finance for NbTs and what makes them bankable. T6.4 will produce a draft report for discussion (M22, Mth18) and a final Guide presenting the market/business case for NbTs in general, identifying their potential in different sectors and the markets and finance opportunities for NbT investors ‘NbT Sustainable Financing Guide’ (D6.2, Mth24), with accompanying Online Tutorial.

### Work package WP7 – Society: Social perspectives on NbTs and social innovation actions

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP7	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	6. UNIPD
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Society: Social perspectives on NbTs and social innovation actions		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

**Objectives**

7a) To identify, examine, and classify the factors that promote or hinder awareness and social acceptance of NbT interventions in different socio-economic, institutional, and geographical contexts (T7.1).

7b) To identify and build on possible linkages between healthcare, social and educational sectors with green space management, nature protection, agriculture, and forestry sectors based on the analysis of networks and characteristics of three CSs with social innovation potential (T7.2).

7c) To facilitate and support the design/establishment/implementation and scaling of NbT interventions in the three selected CSs to help local communities turn NbTs into innovative opportunities for community resilience, green job creation and nature protection, using Social Innovation Actions (SIAs) (T7.3).

**Description**

T7.1: Awareness and societal acceptance of Nature-based Therapies (lead: UNIPD; contributors: UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, AZTI, ETIFOR, EHNet, NBSI, MUP, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE, UNEXE; Mth1-27). This will be done in 3 steps:

1. A scoping literature review will be carried out applying protocols that will be jointly developed with WPs 2,4,8. Results will inform the creation of a survey to collect primary data.
2. The survey will target: a) local level multi-sectoral stakeholders of CSs 4-9; b) EU level multi-sectoral stakeholders including: green areas managers (e.g. associations of private land owners-USSE, etc. and State forest companies-EUSTAFOR); agriculture and rural development actors (e.g. EU LEADER program Local Action Groups); nature protection actors (e.g. NATURA 2000 network, CIPRA); health, social and educational sectors (e.g. regional networks of healthcare givers, schools); policymakers of relevant sectors (health/education/social and nature management/agriculture/forestry/rural development). Awareness/acceptance data will be completed by Mth20 (M23).

3. Data processing and analysis will be done using mixed methods. UNIPD will draw the overall analysis, which the participants will contribute to. Contextual data about CSs will be obtained from WPs 3,4,5,6,8. Results of this task will inform T7.2 and T7.3 and feed directly into the ‘Towards new cultural trajectories: Factors influencing awareness and societal acceptance of nature-based therapies’ report (D7.1, Mth27).

T7.2: Cross-sectoral linkages and networks (lead: UNIPD; contributors: ISGLOBAL; PMU; Mth4-18). T7.2 will assess the potential for social innovation actions in CSs 4-6 and set the scene for T7.3, and involves 4 steps:

1. Develop tools/templates: Existing tools (e.g. SIMRA’s Manual for social innovation evaluation) will be adapted and integrated into a set of ad hoc methods, data collection, and analysis tools. UNIPD will provide CS leads with templates, training, assistance, and guidance for data collection about actors’ networks.

2. Identify and map relevant stakeholders and their networks: Each selected CS will begin with focus groups (1 per CS) to establish the baseline network for SIA and engage stakeholders in collective action around NbT interventions. CS leads will provide descriptions and contextual data, with the help of other relevant participants in WP4-7. CS leads will arrange the local focus group, collect social innovation information, and prepare data entry for analysis. Stakeholders identification and mapping will be completed by Mth18 (M24). Stakeholders networks analysis will be completed by Mth27 and will inform T7.3 and 7.4.

3. Analysis of the potential and gaps for social innovation: In each CS semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders and basic network analysis will be used to assess indicators of social innovation. UNIPD will draw-up the overall analysis, which the CS leads/involved participants will contribute to.

4. Co-creation of step-by-step DIY guidelines for using social innovation and stakeholders’ engagement as leverage to integrate/create linkages between relevant sectors around NbT interventions and support more resilient communities. UNIPD will produce draft co-creation guidelines including steps and recommendations, which will then be adapted in consultation with CS leads, to make them appropriate for local context and need, feeding into T7.3 (Mth18, M24).

T7.3 Social innovation actions (SIAs) (lead: UNIPD; contributors: ISGLOBAL, UNEXE, ETIFOR, PMU; Mth7-44). T7.3 will support CSs 4-6 design, establish, and implement SIAs that mobilise the local communities towards developing and scaling NbT interventions in their areas/regions, finding cross-sectoral place-based solutions benefiting both human health/well-being and the environment. This will be done in 3 steps:

1. Design and establish Nature-based Resilience Hubs (Hubs), as a physical (indoor or outdoor) creative space in each SIA for continuous dialoguing within the local community about the NbT interventions. Sub-task lead (ETIFOR) will coordinate the three SIAs and will, together with UNIPD, provide expert knowledge, technical assistance and feedback on Hub design and establishment, using CS4 (Padua) as the local preliminary test case which we will then extend to CSs 5 (Salzburg) and 6 (Barcelona). Of note, although the basic Hub structure will be in place by the start of the respective CSs, Hub activities are not limited to those directly involved in the specific CSs, and will involve much broader local participation. As such many T7.3 activities will be conducted in parallel with and even beyond CS data collection activities.

2. Co-creation of innovative cross-sectoral solutions to stabilize and scale NbT interventions will be done through stakeholder engagement in a continuous, structured, and facilitated process of community-tailored participatory-based activities. Three matched in-person, 2.5-day workshops (one per Hub) will be organized to run this in a similar way across setting. If needed, online stakeholders’ engagement sessions will also be organized. CS leads will engage SIA relevant stakeholders, collect data (e.g. proposed solutions for long-term financial sustainability, in collaboration with WP6) and prepare them for analysis. UNIPD will collect the data from the CS/SIAs leads (via UNIVIE collation), and draw-up the overall analysis, which the other participants will contribute to. An interim progress report detailing the establishment of the three Resilience Hubs will be completed Mth18 (M25), and final Step-by-Step Social Innovation Hub Guidelines will be completed Mth32 (M26).

3. Monitoring/evaluation of co-creation process to implement/scale NbT interventions. Working closely with WP8 process evaluations, this step will assess stakeholders’ attitudes, perceptions, trust, willingness to collaborate in SIAs at baseline, prior the Hub establishment, half way through Hub activities, and after final CS data collection is completed. UNIPD and ETIFOR will provide the templates/instructions for monitoring and evaluation; CS leads will collect the data. UNIPD will lead the analysis with help from CS leads and relevant partners. Results will feed into the ‘Guidelines for implementing/scaling socially innovative NbTs in Europe: Lessons-to-learn from practices for more resilient communities’ (D7.2, Mth41) guide, with accompanying Online Tutorial. The aim is to arrive at a situation where relevant stakeholders feel comfortable preparing and/or signing a Memorandum of Understanding for future implementing/scaling of NbTs. An example MoU template will be finalized by Mth44 (M27).



## Work package WP8 – What Works: A 360o cross-sectoral view of effective, equitable, sustainable & scalable NbTs

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP8	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	14. UNEXE
<b>Work Package Name</b>	What Works: A 360o cross-sectoral view of effective, equitable, sustainable & scalable NbTs		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

<b>Objectives</b>
<p>In combination, WP8 Tasks will bring all the various parts together in order to contribute significantly to EO3: “A sharper view of green space management, nature protection, agriculture and forestry sectors as care providers and their possible linkages with the healthcare, social and educational sectors”.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>8a) Conduct process evaluations of Level 2&amp;3 CSs to investigate ‘what works’ in terms of intervention delivery including mechanisms, barriers/enablers, and design, training, delivery, receipt, and enactment fidelity;</p> <p>8b) Conduct cross-sectoral scenario analyses to estimate the combined health, environmental, economic, and societal impact (benefits &amp; risks) of scaling-up (increasing participants) of selected CSs at the local level, and scaling-out (replicating) across different geographical and/or socio-economic contexts;</p> <p>8c) Provide a comprehensive 360° cross-sectoral view of successful NbT processes, impacts, and futures.</p>

<b>Description</b>
<p>T8.1: Co-create process evaluation data needs. (lead: UNEXE; contributors: all; Mth1-12). Collaborating with Level 2&amp;3 CSs, T8.1 will develop: a) CS specific theory-based logic models of change, identifying how the intervention is implemented, mechanisms of impact, outcomes, and context; b) quantitative process measures of intervention reach, recruitment, attrition; c) qualitative process evaluation interview schedules to illuminate the contextual factors identified in the logic models, with regards to intervention feasibility and acceptability (incl. issues such as referral mechanisms, quality assurance, link worker support etc.); and d) fidelity assessment protocols to capture intervention design, training, delivery, receipt and enactment fidelity (CSs 7&amp;9). The process data collection plan will be complete by Mth12 (M28).</p> <p>T8.2: Support process evaluation data collection. (lead: UNEXE; contributors: ISGLOBAL, UNIPD, PMU, UU, CPHU, NVM, Mth12-29). T8.2 will support the CSs conduct process data collection. Consistent with guidance, quantitative participant-based process measures will be carried out among participants in the treatment arms of each intervention. We anticipate ~6 participants in each CS will also undertake the qualitative process evaluation measures. As each intervention will last just several weeks, these measurements will be at the end of the intervention only. Fidelity measures will be captured retrospectively with CS leads using structured documentation developed in T8.1. Process data collection will be completed by Mth29 (M29).</p> <p>T8.3: Synthesise process evaluation outcomes. (lead: UNEXE; contributor: ISGLOBAL, EHNet, UNIPD, PMU, UU, UCPH, NVM, UNTWE; Mth22-33). T8.3 will conduct an integrated analysis of qualitative and quantitative process data. Quantitative data will be analysed using techniques such as path modelling. Deductive qualitative content analysis will be performed using themes based on the intervention’s original logic model and NBRT. Fidelity assessment will focus on the extent to which the intervention aligned with or deviated from intervention protocols. Triangulation protocols will be used where quantitative and qualitative results are analysed separately and brought together to identify convergent, complementary, and divergent results. Reflecting possible inequalities in delivery experiences T8.3 will work with WP4 to identify gender and socioeconomic equity issues. Process data analyses will be completed by Mth33 (M30).</p> <p>T8.4: NbT process evaluation guide. (lead: UNEXE; Contributors: UNIVIE, Mth32-36) This task will use our experience of creating, undertaking, and synthesizing process evaluations (Tasks 8.1 – 8.3) to create a guide on best practice for undertaking process evaluations of NbTs. Following complex intervention guidance, the guide will focus on understanding the context of the NbTs, its implementation (fidelity, dose, reach), and the mechanisms of impact, as well as suggestions on measurement of psychological constructs and analysis if adopting similar guiding theoretical frameworks as those used in RESONATE. A guide to conducting process evaluations for NbTs will be completed by Mth36 (D8.1).</p> <p>T8.5: Co-create scenario data needs. (leads: AZTI/ETIFOR; contributors: all; Mth1-12). T8.5 will identify 2-3CSs where detailed cross-sectoral scenario analyses are conducted to estimate the impacts of scaling-up CSs in the local area to include more participants, and scaling-out to other locations. Data needs for scenario analysis will include local urban plans, economic forecasts, and climate predictions, with selected CSs offering the best available local data. Time frames for future scenarios will be determined for each CS, discussing the expected changes with CS leaders. AZTI will focus</p>

on data needs for the health and environmental sectors and ETIFOR on those for the economic and societal sectors. The scenario data collection plan will be complete by Mth12 (M31).

T8.6: Support scenario data collection. (leads: AZTI/ETIFOR; Contributors: UNIVIE, Mth12-29). T8.6 will support the CSs collect the relevant scenario data and be available to troubleshoot issues and provide direct support. Scenario data collection will be completed by Mth29 (M32).

T8.7: Conduct cross-sectoral scenario analyses (lead: AZTI; contributor: ETIFOR; Mth25-36). T8.7 will use modelling tools to synthesise relevant health equity, environmental, economic, and societal data, to identify ‘what works’ in terms of wider NBT outcomes for selected CSs. Where possible, future implications of selected NbTs will also be examined by factoring in climate change and other scenarios (e.g., temperature, plant health, population density). First, a social-ecological model will be co-developed and tested with CS4 (and potentially a second CS). The model will be developed using system dynamics modelling tools and/or Bayesian networks. The model will help to visualize the complex relationships between the different spheres. Based on the outputs of WP4-7 and CS4, a set of key variables (i.e., health, environmental, economic, and social factors) will be selected and used to build the model. Threshold values for each of the variables included in the model will be obtained from the literature or defined through surveys and interviews with local stakeholders and/or expert judgement. Second, health, environmental, economic, and social future scenarios will be described by WP4-7 leaders. Things to consider will include: health equity issues (e.g. local demographic forecasts); environmental issues (e.g. climate change related variations in snow quantities, water flow change, bird populations, etc.); economic issues (e.g. potential job creation, reduced work absence); and societal issues (e.g. restricted user access; increased parking pressures). Scenario data analysis will be completed by Mth36 (M33), and feed directly into T8.8.

T8.8: Co-production of ‘What Works’ report (lead: NBSI contributor: all; Mth31-42). To provide a 360° view of NbT processes, impacts, and futures, T8.8 will bring together the headline findings from WPs3-8 and tools and guides developed for deliverables D4.1 to D8.1 into a single overarching ‘What Works: Nature-based Therapies Guide For Decision Makers, Practitioners, & Funders’ (D8.2, Mth42). The Guide will target more generic audiences than the specific WP guides, and focus on higher-level policy-makers/funders aiming to raising awareness (GO3) and encouraging wider implementation of NbTs for health promotion/disease prevention (GO4). Graphical design expertise will be sought to ensure the guide is attractive and appropriate for its target audiences, led by WP9 lead NBSI to ensure appropriate audience-focused design and reach. Two online videos will accompany the release of this guide. We will provide a generic overview summary of the document and how to use it, and a more specific Tutorial on how to conduct NbT Process Evaluations using the methods adapted there. NBSI, UNEXE and other partners have significant experience developing such materials. NBSI co-developed guidelines for health promotion through green/blue spaces for the Flemish government. UNEXE’s 2021 ‘A Handbook for Nature on Prescription to Promote Mental Health’ was accessed 1,665 times by people in 50 different countries within 9 months of launch.

## Work package WP9 – Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP9	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

### Objectives

Objectives. WP9 will contribute to realising the ambitions of RESONATE by:

- 9a) Communicating and disseminating project findings with a range of target audiences;
- 9b) Enhancing project impact and ensuring the project’s legacy by supporting the planning of longer-term exploitation of project results, e.g., through wider adoption of good practice and making available a knowledge base that has a legacy beyond the project.

Of note, all partners will be engaged in the project for the full 48Mths and will continue with DEC activities under WP9 Tasks 1-5, even after their own CSs and Deliverables have been completed. This is reflected in the Gantt chart with the timelines for T9.1-5 extending until Mth48, rather than the activities of all partners being recorded separately under the different WPs. Each partner has devoted significant PMs to these activities.

### Description

T9.1: RESONATE website development and legacy (lead: NBSI; contributors: sub-contractors, all partners; Mth1-48). The project website will be a key part of RESONATE’s communication and dissemination strategy, both for internal participants and external audiences. Website development will be coordinated by NBSI but subcontracted to a web

designer/developer. The site will include a password protected, internal domain for project partners, as well as a repository of open-access project results and resources for further reach. It will come online at Mth5 (D9.1). The interactive online Systematic Map, and underlying database, produced by WP2, will be hosted on the site providing a practical open-access tool for inspiration and best-practice guidance by highlighting some of the world's most successful NbT programmes, and serving as a key "entry-point" for wider engagement with the RESONATE project via the website that hosts it. For instance, and building on the in-situ Resilience Hubs (WP7), the site will also host a virtual (and moderated) 'Resilience Forum', which interested parties can sign-up to join, and which will provide an opportunity for NbT stakeholders to seek and share information with the project and one another. The website will be linked automatically with key social media channels, will continue to be updated throughout the project, and will undergo a "refresh" at Mths 18, 34 and 48 (M34). The final Mth48 version will ensure a 'stand-alone' legacy tool which will be hosted and updated by UNIVIE for at least 5 years post project.

T9.2: Develop a Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan (lead: NBSI; contributors: all; Mth1-48). RESONATE's detailed Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan will help guide all dissemination, communication, and exploitation activities in the project (D9.2, Mth6. This will be updated for each subsequent reporting period Mth36 (D9.3) & Mth48 (D9.4). The DEC will outline objectives and identify key target audiences to ensure tailoring of activities and messaging across a range of oral, written, and digital media. Exploitation and longer-term legacy of the project will be key. The Resilience Hubs (WP7), the sectoral specific guides (D4.1, D5.1, D6.1, D6.2, D7.2), the process evaluation guide (D8.1) and overall What Works guide (D8.2) are central to exploitation of project findings and will help to create partnerships and a knowledge base on "What Works" for wider NbT implementation. It will include a project branding and visual identity component. The plan will be revisited bi-annually by the communications sub-group to reflect possible changes in communication, dissemination, and exploitation needs.

T9.3: Support and coordinate communication and dissemination activities (lead: NBSI; contributors: all; Mth7-48). T9.1 and T9.2 describe the planning and infrastructure in place to support communication, dissemination and exploitation activities. T9.3 will oversee, record, and collate the efforts of all partners on these activities to document successful delivery of the DEC Plan. Supporting activities will include, among others: i) supporting social media platform activities including 20 blogs and 10 'nature resilience' podcasts; ii) a dissemination package for partners including all dissemination tools partners need for targeted events, e.g. templates, brochures, images; iii) at least 8 press releases, accompanied by press events and kits; and iv) a set of 4 factsheets and 4 policy briefs based on project findings and the sector specific and overarching What Works guide. Consortium members will be supported in their delivery of project findings at n~56 local, national, and international events. A storytelling approach will be used, communicating project outcomes and benefits in 'real time', sharing the stories of those involved in project activities, including service users (where consent is agreed). Stories will be shared on the project website, social media, in the blogs and podcasts, and through other formats. A compilation of stories will be provided as part of T9.6. Annual summary reports of DEC activities will be completed at Mths 12, 24 & 36 (M35). These reports will also include records of engagement with stakeholders and academic audiences (T9.4 & T9.5).

T9.4: Stakeholder (incl. practitioner/policy) engagement (lead: NBSI; contributors: all; Mth1-48). T9.4 will also collate and record the extensive stakeholder engagement activities across the project, including those conducted in the 9 CSs, and by all WPs 2-8. Activities will include, among others, the development of policy briefs and factsheets (at least 1 brief/factsheet for each of WPs 4-7, on the topics of NbT-related issues of health equity, environmental impact, economic opportunities, and SIA opportunities), dissemination events organised at the local/national level by CS/WP leads (n~14); and 2 higher level cross-sectoral policy events (e.g., 'policymaker breakfasts'). A detailed roadmap for events will be prepared during the early phase of the project. T9.4 also coordinates responses to policy consultations and processes, drawing on the work across WPs. It focuses on the EU level, but will also seek national level impact with the support of consortium members.

T9.5: Engage academic audiences (papers/conferences) (lead: NBSI; contributors: all; Mth1-48). Under this task engagement with academic audiences will be coordinated across the project, with emphasis on e.g., scientific publications, as well as conferences and webinars (both hosting and participation). NBSI will work closely together with UNIVIE to implement T9.5, keep track of scientific outputs, and upload all open-access publications to the website, and support partner scientific dissemination efforts, for example by providing templates for presentations at conferences and seminars. The project aims to produce at least 35 peer-reviewed scientific papers and present its work at a minimum of 40 scientific and related conferences and seminars.

T9.6: Co-produce 'Project Impact Report' (lead: NBSI; contributors: all; Mth43-45). T9.6 will compile all key findings/ outputs from the annual reports (M35) and update these with subsequent activities into a single, comprehensive Project Impact Report (D9.5), bringing together the work of the different WPs and CS. The report will include an exploitation component in the light of project legacy.

**Work package WP10 – Ethics requirements**

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP10	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Ethics requirements		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	48

**Objectives**

The objective is to ensure compliance with the 'ethics requirements' set out in this work package.

**Description**


This work package sets out the 'ethics requirements' that the project must comply with.



## STAFF EFFORT

<b>Staff effort per participant</b>											
<i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>											
<b>Participant</b>	<b>WP1</b>	<b>WP2</b>	<b>WP3</b>	<b>WP4</b>	<b>WP5</b>	<b>WP6</b>	<b>WP7</b>	<b>WP8</b>	<b>WP9</b>	<b>WP10</b>	<b>Total Person-Months</b>
1 - UNIVIE	39.50	1.50	30.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	8.00		86.50
2 - ISGLOBAL	4.50	35.50	29.00	3.00	2.00	2.50	4.00	5.50	4.00		90.00
3 - AZTI	2.50	1.00	4.50		18.50			8.00	2.00		36.50
4 - ETIFOR	2.50	2.00	3.00			28.50	8.00	3.00	2.50		49.50
5 - EHNNet	2.50	1.00	1.00	19.00			2.00	1.00	6.00		32.50
6 - UNIPD	6.50	3.50	20.00	1.00	1.00	6.00	29.00	3.00	7.00		77.00
7 - NBSI	2.00						2.00	6.50	27.50		38.00
8 - MUP	2.50	1.50	30.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	3.50		43.00
9 - PMU	2.50	0.50	20.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	8.00	1.50	2.50		39.50
10 - UU	2.50	1.00	24.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	3.00		36.50
11 - UCPH	2.50	2.00	22.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	3.00		35.00
12 - NVM	1.75	0.75	31.00	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	2.50		40.00
13 - UNTWE	3.25	0.25	3.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50		8.50
14 - UNEXE	3.50	2.00	22.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	48.50	2.00		91.00
<b>Total Person-Months</b>	78.50	52.50	240.00	35.00	30.50	46.00	62.50	84.50	74.00	0.00	703.50

## LIST OF DELIVERABLES

<b>Deliverables</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<i>The labels used mean:</i>						
<i>Public — fully open ( automatically posted online)</i>						
<i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i>						
<i>EU classified —RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision <a href="#">2015/444</a></i>						
<b>Deliverable No</b>	<b>Deliverable Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
D1.1	Cross-consortium collaboration plan	WP1	1 - UNIVIE	R — Document, report	PU - Public	4
D1.2	Data Management Plan 1	WP1	1 - UNIVIE	DMP — Data Management Plan	PU - Public	6
D1.3	Data Management Plan 2	WP1	1 - UNIVIE	DMP — Data Management Plan	PU - Public	36
D1.4	Data Management Plan 3	WP1	1 - UNIVIE	DMP — Data Management Plan	PU - Public	48
D2.1	Grand Rounds report	WP2	2 - ISGLOBAL	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D2.2	Stable release of NbT mapping tool	WP2	2 - ISGLOBAL	DEC —Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	41
D2.3	NbT systematic mapping paper	WP2	2 - ISGLOBAL	R — Document, report	PU - Public	44
D3.1	Level 1 CS synthesis report	WP3	1 - UNIVIE	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	34
D3.2	Level 2 CS synthesis report	WP3	1 - UNIVIE	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	35
D3.3	Level 3 CS synthesis report	WP3	1 - UNIVIE	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	36
D4.1	NbT Health Professionals Guide	WP4	5 - EHNet	R — Document, report	PU - Public	39
D5.1	NbT Environmental Assessment Guide	WP5	3 - AZTI	R — Document, report	PU - Public	38

**Deliverables**

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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D6.1	NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide	WP6	4 - ETIFOR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	37
D6.2	NbT Sustainable Financing Guide	WP6	4 - ETIFOR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D7.1	NbT awareness/acceptance report	WP7	6 - UNIPD	R — Document, report	PU - Public	27
D7.2	NbT Resilience Hub Guide	WP7	6 - UNIPD	R — Document, report	PU - Public	41
D8.1	NbT Process Evaluation Guide	WP8	14 - UNEXE	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D8.2	NbT What Works Guide	WP8	7 - NBSI	R — Document, report	PU - Public	42
D9.1	RESONATE Website	WP9	7 - NBSI	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	5
D9.2	DEC Plan 1	WP9	7 - NBSI	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D9.3	DEC Plan 2	WP9	7 - NBSI	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	36
D9.4	DEC Plan 3	WP9	7 - NBSI	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D9.5	Project Impact Report	WP9	7 - NBSI	R — Document, report	PU - Public	45
D10.1	OEI - Requirement No. 1	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	1
D10.2	OEI - Requirement No. 2	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	18
D10.3	OEI - Requirement No. 3	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	36
D10.4	OEI - Requirement No. 4	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	48
D10.5	OEI - Requirement No. 5	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	14

**Deliverables**

*Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.*

*The labels used mean:*

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*EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision [2015/444](#)*

<b>Deliverable No</b>	<b>Deliverable Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
D10.6	OEI - Requirement No. 6	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	23
D10.7	OEI - Requirement No. 7	WP10	1 - UNIVIE	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	40

**Deliverable D1.1 – Cross-consortium collaboration plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Cross-consortium collaboration plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	4	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
D1.1: A cross-consortium collaboration plan developed with NATURELAB and GreenME which details our cross-communication plans of regular sharing of Information and updates, clarity with regards who is approaching which stakeholders in which geographical jurisdictions and when, and the identification of potential co-dissemination events etc. (e.g. high-level policy makers, academic conferences etc.). We will also make joint agreements about how we go about collaborating with other EU Horizon projects discussed in the call e.g. HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-05; HORIZON-CL6-2022-BIODIV-01-03; HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-01-05: HORIZON-CL6-2021- COMMUNITIES-01-06. This plan will be updated annually.

**Deliverable D1.2 – Data Management Plan 1**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Data Management Plan 1		
<b>Type</b>	DMP — Data Management Plan	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	6	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
A FAIR Data Management Plan will be developed which will outline: the types of data that will be collected; how data will be collected, generated and processed; which methodologies and standards will be applied; how data will be shared, curated, made open access, and preserved. UCPH has particular expertise in data management and will offer additional support to ensure that the correct procedures are adopted across the consortium. The DMP will be updated at Mths36 and 48.

**Deliverable D1.3 – Data Management Plan 2**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Data Management Plan 2		
<b>Type</b>	DMP — Data Management Plan	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
Update on Data Management issues to date following consultation with External Data Management Ethics Advisor

**Deliverable D1.4 – Data Management Plan 3**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
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<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Data Management Plan 3		
<b>Type</b>	DMP — Data Management Plan	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
Final report on Data Management during and also beyond the life of the project following consultation with the External Data Management Advisor.

### Deliverable D2.1 – Grand Rounds report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	2. ISGLOBAL
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Grand Rounds report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

<b>Description</b>
Using the beta version of the interactive NBT mapping tool (T2.3) we will engage experts, practitioners, programmes, and research initiatives globally by creating a “Grand Rounds” series, including in-person meetings, webinars and podcasts, to highlight research and innovative practices around NbTs in various sociodemographic/geographic (including VR) contexts. We anticipate two types of Grand Round, 5 face-to-face versions including 2 in Europe and 3 hosted in our international partner countries (funded under T1.6; n~50 per meeting) and 10 online webinars (n~200 per meeting through direct streaming and downloads), with a total reach estimate of ~2,250 researchers, practitioners and stakeholders. Feedback on missing NbTs, as well as functionality, will feed into SM updating (M6). The series will be completed by Mth31 (M5) and this deliverable will be a report summarising events and lessons learned from the Grand Round Process

### Deliverable D2.2 – Stable release of NbT mapping tool

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	2. ISGLOBAL
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Stable release of NbT mapping tool		
<b>Type</b>	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	41	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

<b>Description</b>
This deliverable will produce an interactive map of existing nature-based therapies globally which is underpinned by a systematic review of such interventions. Unlike traditional systematic reviews which attempt to review evidence in support of a specific research question, these approaches have a broader remit and try to scope or “map out” the field in more generic terms by creating a specific typology, which for NbTs might include: geographical location, nature-setting, target-population, stakeholder involvement, funding mechanisms, and health/well-being outcomes monitored. Drawing on consortium member experience of a similar digital mapping exercise for a United Nations Environmental Program, the results from the mapping exercise will be converted into a literal map, with results digitised in an open-source virtual platform to visualise NbT patterns and trends globally (T2.3). The platform will be developed in a multi-stage process and include alpha, beta, and stable release versions to ensure a robust final product.

### Deliverable D2.3 – NbT systematic mapping paper

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	2. ISGLOBAL
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT systematic mapping paper		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	44	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

<b>Description</b>
This will be an academic paper (e.g. pre-print) that presents the results of the global systematic review of nature-based therapies globally. It will provide the underpinning data for the online interactive map (See D2.2)

### Deliverable D3.1 – Level 1 CS synthesis report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Level 1 CS synthesis report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	34	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

<b>Description</b>
This report will presents a narrative, and where possible statistical, synthesis of key findings across the three level one Case Studies. All CSs use survey data to explore the links between nature exposure (e.g. neighbourhood greenspace) and various outcomes, for general populations and will look at whether these exposures might mitigate the impact of different types of stressor (e.g. life events and daily stressors) on mental health and well-being. Of note this report will be co-ordinated by Beneficiary MUP for WP3 since three similar reports will be delivered at the same time.

### Deliverable D3.2 – Level 2 CS synthesis report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Level 2 CS synthesis report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	35	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

<b>Description</b>
This report will provide a narrative and statistical synthesis of the three Level 2 matched Case Studies in Padua, Salzburg and Barcelona. The three Case Studies will use the same basic design adjusted for local needs and in collaboration with local communities. The report will highlight similarities (generalisability) and differences (boundary conditions) in effects across the three matched Case Studies in three different contexts. PMU will lead this deliverable on behalf of WP3.

### Deliverable D3.3 – Level 3 CS synthesis report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Level 3 CS synthesis report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

Description			
This report will provide a narrative synthesis of the three Level 3 Case Studies. Unlike level 1 and 2 CSs a statistical synthesis of the three will not be possible because of the very different nature of the interventions, participants and primary outcome measures. Univie will lead this report for WP3.			

### Deliverable D4.1 – NbT Health Professionals Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D4.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	5. EHNet
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT Health Professionals Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	39	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP4

Description			
This Guide will be part of our RESONATE toolbox and will be focusing on a Health Professional readership. It goes beyond the CSs and aims to understand concerns, challenges, barriers, needs, and opportunities related to implementing NbTs, and provide tools and guidance for health professionals to make greater use of them in their work to promote mental health/well-being. The deliverable will draw on results from T4.1-4.4 alongside a literature review of the grey literature and interviews with health professionals to produce a ‘Nature-based Therapy Guide for Health Professionals’. An accompanying Online Tutorial on how to use the guide for practitioners/researchers etc. will be produced and released at the same time.			

### Deliverable D5.1 – NbT Environmental Assessment Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D5.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	3. AZTI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT Environmental Assessment Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	38	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP5

Description			
This Guide will form part of the RESONATE Toolbox. Using the reports developed under T5.3, T5.4 D5.1 will be a more global ‘NbT Environmental Assessment & Impact Guide’ including a step-by-step process to facilitate the implementation/monitoring of environmentally sustainable NbTs, through highlighting the key characteristics, main environmental impacts, and environmental attitude/behaviour changes that will need to be account for. Again, an accompanying Online Tutorial will also be produced.			

### Deliverable D6.1 – NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D6.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	4. ETIFOR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	37	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP6

Description			
This Guide will form part of the RESONATE toolbox. Based on the models chosen in T6.1, D6.1 will present the analysis of Case Study data to determine the extent to which NbTs save health and social-related costs for their users, society			



and public and private health institutions. Where possible (e.g. CSs 7&8 where comparators exist) it will also include cost-effectiveness analysis by comparing treatment with existing/traditional alternatives. This Guide will also include evidence-based scenarios about what a scaled-up/scaled-out offering of selected NbTs might look like. Based on the results it will be possible to quantify the hypothetical impact of a generalized adoption of the NbTs including job creation and local economy impacts.

### Deliverable D6.2 – NbT Sustainable Financing Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D6.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	4. ETIFOR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT Sustainable Financing Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	24	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP6

#### Description

While the CSs are collecting data, T6.4 will analyse the public and private business/market case for NbTs building on the innovation/market analysis work carried out for the Green4C Erasmus project for the Green Care sector. A market analysis of the supply and demand potential for NbTs in different sectors (green space management, rural development, and forestry) and in the public and private sector will be conducted. It will include the barriers and opportunities to accessing public and private finance for NbTs and what makes them bankable. T6.4 will produce a draft report for discussion (M22) and a final Guide presenting the market/business case for NbTs in general, identifying their potential in different sectors and the markets and finance opportunities for NbT investors ‘NbT Sustainable Financing Guide’ (D6.2), with accompanying Online Tutorial.

### Deliverable D7.1 – NbT awareness/acceptance report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D7.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	6. UNIPD
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT awareness/acceptance report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	27	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP7

#### Description

The aim of this deliverable will be to present data on the public acceptance of wider implementation of NbTs. It will be based on a literature review, surveys targeting a wide range of stakeholders including: a) local level multi-sectoral stakeholders of CSs 4-9; b) EU level multi-sectoral stakeholders including: green areas managers (e.g. associations of private land owners-USSE, etc. and State forest companies-EUSTAFOR); agriculture and rural development actors (e.g. EU LEADER program Local Action Groups); nature protection actors (e.g. NATURA 2000 network, CIPRA); health, social and educational sectors (e.g. regional networks of healthcare givers, schools); policymakers of relevant sectors (health/education/social and nature management/agriculture/forestry/rural development).

### Deliverable D7.2 – NbT Resilience Hub Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D7.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	6. UNIPD
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT Resilience Hub Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	41	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP7

<b>Description</b>			
This Guide will offer a road map for how to set up and coordinate Resilience Hubs, as Social Innovation Actions aimed at establishing sustainable nature based therapy programmes in a local areas. It will draw heavily on the lessons learned from the three Hubs set up as part of Case Studies 4,5 & 6. The Guide will form part of the RESONATE toolbox and will be aimed at providing useful practical tips and guidance for those setting up new initiatives. It will be accompanied by an online tutorial.			

### Deliverable D8.1 – NbT Process Evaluation Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D8.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	14. UNEXE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT Process Evaluation Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP8

<b>Description</b>			
This Guide will focus on how to conduct Process Evaluations for NbT projects, to help practitioners better understand not just if a programme is effective, but why it was effective, what barriers and enablers affected the effectiveness and are there any particular groups who do not benefit from the programme. The Guide will draw on the 6 process evaluations to be conducted in Case Studies 4-9. The guide will be part of the RESONATE toolbox and be accompanied by an online Tutorial.			

### Deliverable D8.2 – NbT What Works Guide

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D8.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	NbT What Works Guide		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	42	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP8

<b>Description</b>			
The Guide will provide a 360° view of NbT processes, impacts, and futures, by bringing together the headline findings from WPs3-8 and tools and guides developed for deliverables D2.1 to D8.1 into a single overarching ‘What Works: Nature-based Therapies Guide For Decision Makers, Practitioners, & Funders’. The Guide will target more generic audiences than the specific WP guides, and focus on higher-level policy-makers/funders aiming to raising awareness and encouraging wider implementation of NbTs for health promotion/disease prevention. Graphical design expertise will be sought to ensure the guide is attractive and appropriate for its target audiences. Two online videos will accompany the release of this guide. We will provide a generic overview summary of the document and how to use it, and a more specific Tutorial on how to conduct NbT Process Evaluations using the methods adapted there.			

### Deliverable D9.1 – RESONATE Website

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D9.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	RESONATE Website		
<b>Type</b>	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	5	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP9

Description
The project website will be a key part of RESONATE’s communication and dissemination strategy, both for internal participants and external audiences. Website development will be coordinated by NBSI but sub-contracted to a web designer/developer. The site will include a password protected, internal domain for project partners, as well as a repository of open-access project results and resources for further reach. It will come online at Mth 6 as D9.2. The interactive online Systematic Map, and underlying database, produced by WP2, will be hosted on the site. which will also host a virtual (and moderated) ‘Resilience Forum’, which interested parties can sign-up to join, and which will provide an opportunity for NbT stakeholders to seek and share information with the project and one another. The website will be linked automatically with key social media channels, will continue to be updated throughout the project, and will undergo a "refresh" at Mths 18, 34 and 48 (M34). The final Mth48 version will ensure to transform it into a ‘stand-alone’ legacy tool which . This final version will be hosted and updated by UNIVIE for at least 5 years post project.

### Deliverable D9.2 – DEC Plan 1

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D9.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	DEC Plan 1		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	6	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP9

Description
RESONATE’s detailed Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) plan will help guide all dissemination, communication, and exploitation activities in the project. The DEC Plan will outline objectives and identify key target audiences to ensure tailoring of activities and messaging across a range of oral, written, and digital media. Exploitation and longer-term legacy of the project will be key. It will include a project branding and visual identity component. The plan will be revisited bi-annually by the communications sub-group to reflect possible changes in communication, dissemination, and exploitation needs. The first report will be produced Mth 6 which will be updated at Mths 36 and 48.

### Deliverable D9.3 – DEC Plan 2

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D9.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	DEC Plan 2		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP9

Description
Report summarising all DEC activities up to Mth36.

### Deliverable D9.4 – DEC Plan 3

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D9.4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	DEC Plan 3		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP9

Description

Final report on Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Activities
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### Deliverable D9.5 – Project Impact Report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D9.5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. NBSI
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Project Impact Report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	45	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP9

#### Description

This report will bring together a summary of all of the dissemination, communication and exploitation activities conducted up to Mth45. This will include supporting activities such as: i) supporting social media platform activities including 20 blogs and 10 ‘nature resilience’ podcasts; ii) a dissemination package for partners including all dissemination tools partners need for targeted events, e.g. templates, brochures, images; iii) at least 8 press releases, accompanied by press events and kits; and iv) a set of 4 factsheets and 4 policy briefs based on project findings and the sector specific and overarching What Works guide. It will also collate the extensive stakeholder engagement activities across the project, including those conducted in the 9 CSs, and by all WPs 2-8. Activities will include, among others, the development of policy briefs and factsheets (at least 1 brief/factsheet for each of WPs 4-7, on the topics of NbT-related issues of health equity, environmental impact, economic opportunities, and SIA opportunities), dissemination events organised at the local/national level by CS/WP leads (n~14); and 2 higher level cross-sectoral policy events (e.g., ‘policymaker breakfasts’). It will also document responses to policy consultations and processes, drawing on the work across WPs.

### Deliverable D10.1 – OEI - Requirement No. 1

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 1		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	1	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

The project raises multiple and intersectional ethics issues and some of them are sensitive. The project's International Expert Advisory Board includes an expert on environmental/ecological ethics. Additionally, an Ethics Advisor specialised in EU data protection law must be appointed in M1. The Ethics Advisor must at least be consulted on the inclusion of vulnerable individuals and processing of personal data, including data identifiability and data transfers.

### Deliverable D10.2 – OEI - Requirement No. 2

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 2		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	18	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

A report prepared by the external independent Ethics Advisor must be submitted as a deliverable at the end of the 1st reporting period.  
The external independent Ethics Advisor must be consulted (and report on) at least the following points:

- Humans, especially in relation to the inclusion of vulnerable individuals;
- Human cells / tissues;
- Processing of personal data, including data identifiability and data transfers;
- Participation of non-EU countries.

### Deliverable D10.3 – OEI - Requirement No. 3

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 3		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

A report prepared by the external independent Ethics Advisor must be submitted as a deliverable at the end of the 2nd reporting period.

The external independent Ethics Advisor must be consulted (and report on) at least the following points:

- Humans, especially in relation to the inclusion of vulnerable individuals;
- Human cells / tissues;
- Processing of personal data, including data identifiability and data transfers;
- Participation of non-EU countries.

### Deliverable D10.4 – OEI - Requirement No. 4

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 4		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

A report prepared by the external independent Ethics Advisor must be submitted as a deliverable at the end of the 3rd reporting period.

The external independent Ethics Advisor must be consulted (and report on) at least the following points:

- Humans, especially in relation to the inclusion of vulnerable individuals;
- Human cells / tissues;
- Processing of personal data, including data identifiability and data transfers;
- Participation of non-EU countries.

### Deliverable D10.5 – OEI - Requirement No. 5

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 5		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	14	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

Study Initiation Package.

This deliverable represents the first of three mandatory ethics and data management related deliverables required for each Clinical Study as laid out in the Annex for Clinical Studies (Annex 1 - Part B). A report will be produced collating all 'study initiation packages' (including registration details and ethical approval) for all 9 Case Studies. No CS will begin data collection until their respective initiation package (including local ethics committee approval) has been finalised.

### Deliverable D10.6 – OEI - Requirement No. 6

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.6	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 6		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	23	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

Midterm recruitment report.

This deliverable represents the second of three mandatory ethics and data management related deliverables required for each Clinical Study as laid out in the Annex for Clinical Studies (Annex 1 - Part B). A report will be produced collating details such as participant recruitment which should be at least 50% by Month 23 for Case Studies 3-9. Any ethical issues arising and/or delays will be described and plans for how to address these detailed. CSs 1 and 2, which will be using existing secondary data, will produce updates of analytical progress which will be included in this report.

### Deliverable D10.7 – OEI - Requirement No. 7

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D10.7	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. UNIVIE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 7		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	40	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP10

#### Description

Report on the status of posting results.

This deliverable represents the third of three mandatory ethics and data management related deliverables required for each Clinical Study as laid out in the Annex for Clinical Studies (Annex 1 - Part B). A report will be produced collating any outstanding ethical issues and a summary of key findings from the 9 Case Studies and where these have been/will be posted for Open Science practices (e.g. Zenodo).

## LIST OF MILESTONES

<b>Milestones</b>					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
<b>Milestone No</b>	<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
1	Literature Lit. search strategy complete	WP5, WP6, WP4, WP3, WP7	2-ISGLOBAL	Document outlining parameters of finally agreed search strategy added to intranet.	3
2	Global NBT literature review complete	WP2	2-ISGLOBAL	NBT database finalised for building on-tool in form easily accessible to assessors. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	16
3	Alpha version Map complete	WP2	2-ISGLOBAL	Internal consortium access for testing	20
4	Beta version of Map complete	WP2	2-ISGLOBAL	Restricted access for Grand Rounds testing	24
5	All Grand Rounds completed	WP2	2-ISGLOBAL	Document collating session minutes and notes uploaded to intranet.	31
6	Systematic Map updated	WP2	2-ISGLOBAL	Online updates to Map complete (publicly accesible link from the project website).	38
7	Case study pre-registrations collated	WP5, WP6, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	1-UNIVIE	Document including all pre-registrations prepared by UNIVIE added to project intranet. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	16
8	First wave data collection complete	WP5, WP6, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	1-UNIVIE	Progress updates for all CSs received by WP3 for preparation of D10.3 and sumamry document uploaded to the intranet.	20
9	All case study Final data collated/distributed	WP5, WP6, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	1-UNIVIE	Database of data from all CSs developed in form verifiable by assessors.	30
10	Case Studies for HEIAs & HEAs decided	WP4, WP3	5-EHNet	Rationale documented and sent to WP3 for uploading on project intranet.	6

<b>Milestones</b>					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
<b>Milestone No</b>	<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
11	HEIA & HEA data collection plan complete	WP4, WP3	5-EHNet	Report added to project intranet. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	12
12	HEIA & HEA data collection complete	WP4, WP3	5-EHNet	Data sent to WP3 for storage in a form shareable with relevant WPs and assessors.	29
13	Equity data analysis complete	WP4, WP3	5-EHNet	Report added to project intranet	34
14	Health equity guidelines complete	WP4, WP3, WP8	5-EHNet	Summary uploaded on project intranet and sent to NBSI for D8.2	37
15	Grey literature review complete	WP4	5-EHNet	Report added to project intranet	18
16	Environmental data collection plan complete Env. data analysis complete	WP5, WP3	3-AZTI	Report added to project intranet. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	12
17	Environmental data collection complete	WP5, WP3	3-AZTI	Data sent to WP3 for storage in a form shareable with relevant WPs and assessors.	29
18	Environmental data analysis complete	WP5, WP3	3-AZTI	Report added to project intranet	35
19	Economic data collection plan complete	WP6, WP3	4-ETIFOR	Report added to project intranet. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	12
20	Economic data collection complete	WP6, WP3	4-ETIFOR	Data sent to WP3 for storage in a form shareable with relevant WPs and assessors.	29
21	Economic data analysis complete	WP6, WP3	4-ETIFOR	Report added to project intranet	34
22	Draft finance report	WP6, WP3	4-ETIFOR	Report added to project intranet	18
23	Awareness/acceptance data collection complete	WP7	6-UNIPD	Report added to project intranet	20
24	Stakeholder mapping completed	WP3, WP7	6-UNIPD	Report added to project intranet. A detailed	18



<b>Milestones</b>					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
<b>Milestone No</b>	<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
				description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	
25	Interim report on progress of 3 Resilience Hubs	WP3, WP7	6-UNIPD	Report added to project intranet including meeting minutes/photos etc. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	18
26	Step-by-Step social innovation Hub Guidelines	WP3, WP7	6-UNIPD	Guidelines uploaded to the project intranet.	32
27	Example NbT memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)	WP7	6-UNIPD	Prepared and/or signed MoUs uploaded to the project intranet.	44
28	Process data collection plan complete	WP3, WP8	14-UNEXE	Report added to project intranet. A detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report.	12
29	Process data collection complete	WP3, WP8	14-UNEXE	Data sent to WP3 for storage in a form shareable with relevant WPs and assessors.	29
30	Process data analysis complete	WP3, WP8	14-UNEXE	Report added to project intranet	33
31	Scenario data collection plan complete	WP3, WP8	3-AZTI	Report added to project intranet	12
32	Scenario data collection complete	WP3, WP8	3-AZTI	Data sent to WP3 for storage in a form shareable with relevant WPs and assessors.	29
33	Scenario analysis complete	WP3, WP8	3-AZTI	Report added to project intranet	36
34	Website refreshes	WP5, WP9, WP2, WP6, WP1, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	7-NBSI	Significant website updates/refreshes at Mths 18, 34 & 48 (with a document tracking all updates uploaded to the project intranet).	18
35	Annual DEC summary updates	WP5, WP9, WP2, WP6, WP4, WP1, WP3, WP8, WP7	7-NBSI	Reports added to project intranet, also at Mths 24 and 36	12

## LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
1	Recurrence of COVID-19 or other pandemic lockdowns/travel restrictions hindering project progress, particularly field work/data collection: i) medium; ii) medium.	WP5, WP9, WP2, WP6, WP1, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	All partners have experience adapting to COVID-19 restrictions. In-person meetings/workshops can be transferred online. CSs 3-9 can be adapted to ensure participant/researcher safety using recent mitigation methods. A key pandemic recommendation was for people to regularly visit natural environments thus interventions would be consistent with most local/national guidance.
2	As an associated partner UNEXE's involvement will need to be funded by the UK's UKRI system. A risk has been identified that UKRI may not support this. According to colleagues in the UK the risks have been categorised as I: i) low; i) medium.	WP3, WP8	We would identify alternative partners eligible to take over Tasks/Deliverables; e.g. in the case of the UK, CS1 uses open source data that can be used internationally, and Process Evaluation (Ts8.1-8.3) involves recognised practices that could be transferred to another partner.
3	Moving/loss of core staff: i) medium; ii) low.	WP5, WP9, WP2, WP6, WP1, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	Applications will be made to transfer WPs to new institutions where moves occur. Loss e.g. due to ill-health will be mitigated by identifying a 'second' in all institutions that would take over responsibility of delivering Tasks/Objectives etc.
4	Lack of communication between partners, or / partners do not fulfil tasks set: i) low; ii) low.	WP5, WP9, WP2, WP6, WP1, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	All partners have excellent track records of successful collaboration on similar projects, as evidenced during the development of the new theoretical paper and this highly coordinated, consensual proposal. Regular consortium and IEAB meetings will be used to track project progress.
5	Failure to meet target number of participants based on power calculations: i) low; ii) medium.	WP3	A polling company will be paid to achieve the required sample size CS3. Hubs (CSs4-6) and existing networks (CSs 7-9) are designed to support recruitment. Where, Ns remain low, exclusion criteria may be relaxed (e.g. age ranges or metabolic risk thresholds) to achieve adequately powered samples.
6	Difficulty in engaging target & under-represented groups for stakeholder engagement processes: i) medium; ii) medium.	WP4, WP3	EHNet are specialists in inclusive citizen engagement e.g. H2020 project PSLifestyle, and Hubs designed to promote and support inclusivity; CSs 7-9 already achieve such engagement.

<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
7	High attrition rate leads to missing data at follow up: i) medium; ii) medium.	WP3	Follow-up interviews can take place over telephone/online. Power calculations have accounted for attrition. Statistical methods accounting for systematic attrition will be applied.
8	Delays in environmental assessments for some CSs: i) medium; ii) low.	WP5, WP3	Tasks 5.2/5.3 can be carried out in parallel, and data analysed per CS when received. If fieldwork is delayed due to sampling difficulties, suggestions will be proposed by CS leaders.
9	Inability to complete CS due to regulatory/finance/ community issues: i) low; ii) medium.	WP3	Having 3 CSs at each level provides in-built project resilience to produce results for each level. If issues arise early we will seek alternative options.
10	Stakeholders not interested or not able to find appropriate physical spaces for creating Resilience Hubs: i) Medium; ii) Low	WP7	Additional dedication to negotiate with local key stakeholders to find an appropriate solution. Shift the physical space into an outdoor space or conceptual space. Support in finding appropriate forms of agreements to find an acceptable solution to all local stakeholders. Mobilize additional resources to cover costs, if this is the barrier.
11	Stakeholders not motivated to sign the Memorandum of Understanding: i) Low; ii) Medium)	WP7	Early engagement with all relevant stakeholders. Additional dedication to critical stakeholders. Outreach to other relevant stakeholders to substitute the critical ones. Preparation of MoUs for signature and continuing dialogue. Mediation. Adjusting MoUs in a way that is acceptable to all relevant stakeholders with the support of qualified consultants (e.g. lawyers). Design place-based solutions appropriate for the specific conditions.
12	Insufficient quantitative data for all domains in scenario models: i) low; ii) low.	WP8	Alternative semi-quantitative parameters will be sought (e.g. where future local CS population density estimates are lacking, matched localities will be sought for approximate estimates).
13	Sustained change/impact unobservable in short- term: i): high; ii) medium.	WP5, WP6, WP4, WP3, WP7, WP8	Clear recognition that any observed changes (e.g. in health/well-being, behaviour, attitudes) and local impact needs to be followed-up post project to assess long-term impact.
14	Exploitation of project findings lags behind expectations: i) low; ii) medium.	WP9	Work closely with key stakeholders and co-funded projects, in a cross-sectoral collaborative manner, to build a sound foundation for exploitation.

## PROJECT REVIEWS

<b>Project Reviews</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Reviews screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Review No</b>	<b>Timing (month)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
RV1	21	to be decided	Contact the Project Officer at least 3 months in advance
RV2	39	to be decided	Contact the Project Officer at least 3 months in advance
RV3	50	to be decided	Contact the Project Officer at least 3 months in advance

<b>Table of History of Changes</b>	
<b>Version (date)</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Version 2 (Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> 2023) based on the original proposal submitted.	<p><b>1. Addressing Shortcomings.</b></p> <p><i>a. More detail on NBRT and resilience types.</i> We have now expanded on aspects of the theory, as requested, in Sections 1.1 and 1.2.1 (O1.1).</p> <p><i>b. Biodiversity Assessments.</i> The relevant beneficiary (AZTI) has provided additional text which has been added to Section O2.2, WP5.</p> <p><i>c. Role of WP3 (Case Studies).</i> Clarification of WP3’s role is provided in T3.4 (Part A) to clarify the key analytical and statistical support offered by WP3 across the Case Studies and consortium.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2. Deliverables and milestones.</b></p> <p><i>a. DEC Reports.</i> This has now been updated to Mths 6, 36, and 48 as requested.</p> <p><i>b. DMP Reports.</i> This has also been updated to Mths 6, 36, and 48 as requested, and changed to deliverable type DMP.</p> <p><i>c. Add website deliverable.</i> The original submission already contained a website deliverable (D9.1). We have brought this forward one month to Mth5.</p> <p><i>d. Deliverables and milestones to inform reporting periods.</i> As requested we have significantly increased the number of Milestones (from 25 to 44 – including regular reporting targets under a specific milestone) and have added clearer Milestones for each Work Package for each review period, with a particular focus on Mth18 which previously had few Milestones or Deliverables. A key aim is to provide documentation that reviewers could use to judge the successful progress of the project at each reporting period. This will be done by providing annexes to the associated periodic technical report. We have added the following text “<i>a detailed description of this process will be provided as an annex to the first periodic technical report</i>”, to the means of verification for the following Milestones: M2 (WP2), M7 (WP3), M11 (WP4), M16 (WP5), M19 (WP6), M24 &amp; M25 (WP7) and M28 (WP8). Since these Milestones all relate to data plans, and data collection will be ongoing for all WPs we believed it was more appropriate for the associated Deliverables to come after data collection and analysis was completed. Although M2 and M15 (literature reviews) appear to be discrete pieces of work that might be considered as Deliverables, M2 is only an interim review that will be discussed in the Grand Rounds and finalised as D7, and similarly M15 will serve as a discussion piece with relevant stakeholders before being finalised as part of D11. We keep them as confidential as they are working documents that will only be finalised as part of the later Deliverables. This has had very little impact on the planned work programme but rather reflects clearer documentation and recording of the targets that would have needed to have been reached for the successful completion of Tasks anyway. Tables 3.1 b/c/d (now online in Part A) and Figure 5 (Gantt chart) have all been updated to include these changes.</p> <p><i>e. Gantt Chart:</i> The Gantt chart has now been presented in landscape format which enabled the inclusion of Milestone and Deliverable Numbers.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3. Check partner details.</b></p> <p>a. Inconsistencies between partner names in part A and B have been corrected (see participant Table in Part B).</p> <hr/> <p><b>4. Sub-contracting.</b></p> <p>a. Greater details are now provided directly after original Table 3.1g now Table 3.1a.</p> <hr/> <p><b>5. Ethics.</b></p> <p>a. The Ethics Self-Assessment has now been added to the end of Part B.</p>
Version 3 (Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> 2023)	<p><b>1. Clearer justification for visits to IEAB members by EU beneficiaries</b></p> <p>In the original submission, the budget for learning visits to IEAB members from EU partners was</p>

<p>based on the original proposal submitted.</p>	<p>held by UNIVIE for allocation to partners based on an application process. Having learnt that this would not be eligible due to the movement of funds between beneficiaries we have now distributed these funds equally between the four WP partners that we envisage will benefit most from these IEAB visit opportunities (UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, EHNet, ETIFOR). If the funds are not used by the currently allocated partner we will transfer them to another partner for this purpose in discussion with the Project Manager. Added clarification text included below:</p> <p><u>See Section O2.1: Taking a global perspective</u>  <i>“The global nature of this work will be supported by lab visits by key beneficiaries to our four IEAB partners in the USA (Cornell Univ. and Univ. California San Francisco), Canada (Univ. British Columbia) and Australia (Univ. of Woolongong). These exchanges will enable researchers at EU-beneficiaries to spend up to four weeks with international partners in order to: a) learn more about the different activities and programmes in those regions in order to enrich the Systematic Map (T2.2); and b) conduct locality specific Grand Round events to enhance truly global perspectives (T2.4).”</i></p> <p><u>See Section 2.1: Economic Impact</u>  <i>“The communication, dissemination, and exploitation strategy is expanded in Section 2.2, but here we note that the mapping tool will be promoted via the five face-to-face and ten online Grand Rounds (T2.4), including ones supported by our IEAB in Canada, East and West Coast USA, and Australia, which between them are estimated to reach n~3,000 researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders.”</i></p>
	<p><b>2. Clearer justification for visits between researchers at different WP beneficiaries</b></p> <p>In the original submission, the budget for learning exchanges between EU partners was held by AZTI for allocation to partners based on an application process. Having learnt that this would not be eligible due to the movement of funds between beneficiaries we have now distributed these funds equally between the five WP partners that we envisage will benefit most from these cross-partner visit opportunities (UNIVIE, AZTI, UNIPD, NBSI, UNEXE). If the funds are not used by the currently allocated partner they will transferred to another partner for this purpose in discussion with the Project Manager. Added clarification text included below:</p> <p><u>See Section: O2.2 A sharper view of cross-sectoral linkages.</u>  <i>“In order to facilitate cross-sectoral integration we will support lab-exchanges between researchers in different WPs with different expertise. These exchanges will allow, for instance, a researcher from EHNet (WP4 leads with expertise in Health Equity) to spend several days with the AZTI team (WP6 leads with expertise in ecosystem assessment), in order to better understand the inter-linking relationships between health equity and the environment, with the aim of optimising the evaluation package developed for each of the Case Studies.”</i></p> <p><u>See Section: 2.1 Societal/environmental Impact.</u>  <i>“Some of the societal and environmental impacts will be achieved through the pathways discussed above i.e. the Toolbox incl. the Systematic Map and Guides and the cross-sectoral silo-busting lab exchanges between partners.”</i></p> <p><u>Purchase cost table 3.1b</u>                  The original entry for AZTI “Holding budget for intra-consortium ECR exchange (€40k)” has now been removed. Instead these resources are now recorded as “1-week knowledge exchange partner lab visits €2,000 x 4 = €8,000” for AZTI, UNIVIE, UNIPD, NBSI and UNEXE).</p> <p><u>Part A.</u>                  The precise wording of tasks T1.6, T1.7, T3.2, T4.2, T5.2, T6.2 and T8.6 have all been adjusted slightly in Part A to stress the knowledge exchange (as opposed to capacity building) nature of the activities.</p>
	<p><b>3. Ethics</b></p>

See Section 2: Ethics, data management, and open science.  
 Clarification that an independent expert ethics advisor will be recruited by Mth 1 has now been added to Section 2.

Part A Changes

In order to avoid having two Ethics Work Packages (WP10, as included in the original submission) and WP11 (added automatically by the commission) we have moved the Tasks and Deliverables related to Data Management (e.g. 3 x Data Management Plans; now D1.2, D1.3 and D1.4 in Part A) and Open Science to WP1 (Management). The three-remaining ethics-related deliverables in the original proposal, i.e. those required for Clinical Studies, have been added to the new Ethics Work Package as *D28: Study Initiation Package; D29: Midterm recruitment report; and D30: Report on the status of posting results.*

Of note, the effort associated with these deliverables, in terms of 20 Person Months (PMs), has moved to WP1, as suggested by the Project Officer.

**4. Cross-consortium collaboration**

In the original submission we did not know who the other consortia would be. Now that we know we have managed to have a meeting and several e-mail exchanges to discuss coordination efforts (aided by the fact the team for GreenME are colleagues at ISGlobal). The core change in the text associated with these discussions is below.

See section 2: O3.2: Events and cross-project collaboration.

*Following discussions with the two other projects funded under the 'Horizon-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-02: Developing nature-based therapy for health and well-being' call, i.e. NATURELAB and GreenME, we can confirm at the Description of Action (DoA) stage that we will align our efforts in this regard. This will be facilitated by having no duplication of research site locations. Together we agreed to include the following text in each of our DoAs: The coordinators of the three projects agree to coordinate their Communication and Dissemination strategies and stakeholder engagement plans to promote synergies and reduce potential conflicts (e.g. in terms of demands on specific stakeholder groups). To this end the coordinators will meet (in-person or virtually) after the projects have started and at least once annual for the duration of the projects, to update each other on activities and plans. Respective consortium team members with associated responsibilities will be in regular contact with those charged with similar tasks in the other two consortia. Project coordinators are welcome, but not required, to attend the yearly consortium meetings of the other projects, and will receive a timely invitation and respect all confidentiality issues associated with the meeting. Regardless of their presence at these meetings, each project coordinator agrees to provide a summary (video and/or PPT) of the project outcomes (or project outline, at the start) that will be shared at the consortium meetings, ensuring that all the three consortia are well informed and can better foresee and pursue joint initiatives. All events and other joint initiatives will be described in the periodic reports. We have set aside €6k to support these activities and will explore ways in which we, as a group, can fund support structures for NbT researchers and practitioners after the end of this cluster of projects. A report summarising all DEC activities will be submitted at the end of the project in Mth 45 (D9.5).*

**5. Changes in Person Months**

a. After making partners aware of these rules, Partner 13 (NVM) has realised that the submission inadvertently attributed 6 Person Months for WP3 to NVM, which in fact would be delivered, and was already accounted for, by Partner 14 (UNTWE). Accordingly, there has been a reduction of 6 PMs for both this partner and WP3 (original Tables 3.1a and 3.1f – now in Part A).

b. Following attendance at the Horizons Europe Co-ordinators day (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb) it became apparent that the project would benefit from a full-time (100%) Project Manager. Accordingly, this was increased from the 80% post in the original submission in the UNIVIE Budget. These costs have been met by reducing those associated with visits to Europe by the IEAB, which will now be met through the



	<p>UNIVIE overheads. This increase in Project Management activities of the co-ordinator (UNIVIE) is equivalent to 19.5 PMs, taking the total UNIVIE PMs to 86.5 PMs.</p> <p>c. IEAB member Poole was incorrectly allocated support via “Other goods and services” at UNTWE previously. This has been rectified as she is a full-time member of staff. This has not changed the budget but increased PMs by 2.5, taking the total UNTWE PMs to 8.5 PMs. These 2.5 PMs have been added to WP1 as they are concerned with the IEAB and Ethics.</p> <p>d. As a consequence, the total consortium PMs has increased to 703.5.</p>
	<p><b>6. Equipment costs</b></p> <p>a. UNIPD Freezer – the costs for a new freezer for storing Saliva Samples for CS4 was lower than originally estimated (due to storage requirements being only -20°C). The reduction of these costs was countered though by increases in estimated costs for Other Goods and Services (esp. online survey coding and software licences) so no overall change in total purchase costs.</p> <p>b) Computers - Several beneficiaries originally reported computer and software costs in the Equipment category, however since none of these will be more than €1,500 (and potentially supplied through indirect costs where appropriate) they were removed from the Equipment listings and added to the Other Goods and Services, or in the case of NVM to the Travel budget as it was realised that travel to and from the Care Farms had not originally been included.</p> <p>c) UCPH – Following internal review the UCPH team believe the EEG, HRV, and Eye-tracking kit originally stated under Equipment should now come under Other Goods and Services, and the costs for these have also been adjusted based on a more up-to-date purchasing assessment.</p>
	<p><b>7. Associated Partner</b></p> <p>The UK partner UNEXE has now been reclassified from Beneficiary to Associated Partner. The Work Plan, Deliverables, Milestones, and Person Months have not changed but the costs associated with UNEXE will be financed by UKRI. The Critical Risks statement relating to UK participation has been updated in part A – recognising that several of the tasks could at least in part be conducted by Beneficiaries should there be an issue with UKRI, but this risk is identified as low in likelihood.</p>



Participant No.	Participant organisation name	Country
1.	Universität Wien (UNIVIE)	Austria
2.	Fundación Privada Instituto de Salud Global Barcelona (ISGLOBAL)	Spain
3.	Fundacion Azti - Azti Fundazioa (AZTI)	Spain
4.	Etifor SRL (ETIFOR)	Italy
5.	EuroHealthNet ASBL (EHNet)	Belgium
6.	Universita degli Studi di Padova (UNIPD)	Italy
7.	NBS Institute AB (SVB) (NBSI)	Sweden
8.	Meditsinsky Universitet-Plovdiv (MUP)	Bulgaria
9.	Paracelsus Medizinische Privatuniversität Salzburg Privatstiftung (PMU)	Austria
10.	Uppsala Universitet (UU)	Sweden
11.	Københavns Universitet (UCPH)	Denmark
12.	Natuurvoormensen Omgevingspsychologisch Onderzoek (NVM)	Netherlands
13.	Universiteit Twente (UNTWE)	Netherlands
14.	University of Exeter (UNEXE) (Associated Partner)	UK

## 1. Excellence

**Aim** *RESONATE* will bring together a consortium of world leaders in nature-based therapy (NbT) research, practice, policy, and innovation with stakeholders in the **health, environmental, economic, and societal sectors** to: a) build a **stronger causal evidence base** of the links between nature, health, and well-being by demonstrating nature’s **biopsychosocial resilience** building capacities; b) demonstrate how multi-sectoral stakeholders can **collaborate to implement locally acceptable and inclusive NbTs**; c) increase **awareness and acceptance** of these benefits among the public, multi-sectoral stakeholders, and policy makers; and d) ensure **wider utilisation of cost-effective NbTs**, to help build more **resilient individuals and communities** in urban, rural, and coastal settings.

### 1.1. Objectives & ambition

Despite significant improvements in many areas of public health across Europe in recent decades important challenges remain<sup>1</sup>. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as ischaemic heart disease, diabetes, and depression, for instance, is rising<sup>2</sup>. The costs of mental ill-health alone are estimated at €600bn annually across 28 EU countries (4% of GDP)<sup>1</sup>. Although urban<sup>3</sup>, rural<sup>4</sup>, and coastal<sup>5</sup> communities face their own specific health challenges, many of the most common NCDs in all localities are linked to **stress**<sup>6</sup>. Stress occurs when situational demands exceed a person’s coping resources<sup>7</sup>. Chronic stress is damaging to biological, psychological, and social processes, with the cumulative burden referred to as **allostatic load**<sup>7</sup>. Stress can be exacerbated through environmental factors such as air pollution and excess heat<sup>6</sup>, economic factors, such as regional inequalities in income evident for many rural/coastal communities<sup>4,5</sup>, and social factors such as crowding and noise in urban communities<sup>8</sup>. Regardless of locality, evidence is also emerging that individuals and populations are losing touch with nature, spending less recreational time in parks and woodlands and on beaches than previous generations<sup>9</sup>. Changing societal habits, including the growing use of technology, are also associated with a reduction in psychological connectedness to the natural world<sup>10</sup>. This is important, because spending time in and around nature can reduce stress. Natural settings are associated with less air pollution, lower ambient temperatures, and less crowding and noise<sup>11</sup>, and may help reduce income-related inequalities in health and well-being<sup>12</sup>. Reconnecting urban, rural, and coastal individuals and communities physically and psychologically to the natural world thus holds considerable potential to improve health and well-being, and thereby address many of the leading causes of disability and death in Europe.

Accordingly, health promotion and disease prevention through nature contact is a cross-cutting theme in several **EU Green Deal Actions**<sup>13</sup> and in specific initiatives such as the **Forest Strategy**<sup>14</sup> and the ocean-related **Sustainable Blue Economy**<sup>15</sup>. The **Green City Accord** aims to support cities to become “*greener, cleaner and healthier*”<sup>16</sup> and the **Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** has the goal of “*bringing nature back into our lives*”<sup>13</sup>. Although an appealing call to arms, the goal raises a number of issues that need to be addressed: a) what precisely does it mean to bring nature back into our lives; b) why does contact with the natural world help reduce stress and the risk of chronic disease, i.e. what are the causal mechanisms; c) what can we learn from good practice innovations globally that could be adapted for the European context; d) which sectors and stakeholders need to be involved to ensure that nature-based interventions are not just effective but also equitable, environmentally sustainable, value for money, and socially acceptable and inclusive; e) how can such actors be brought together to achieve these goals; and f) how can research

findings be exploited for long-lasting impact? The scientific literature has recently seen exponential growth in work on nature contact and health<sup>17</sup>, including ‘nature-based social prescribing’, ‘green prescriptions’, and ‘green care’ (in sum *Nature-based Therapies – NbTs*), but has concluded that substantial knowledge gaps remain for all these questions<sup>18</sup>. It is important to fill these evidence gaps, because they are hindering the widespread adoption of efforts to connect individuals and communities to the natural world, especially those at risk-of or experiencing chronic disease. Cross-sectoral actors, including health professionals, land-owners/managers, environmental protection organisations, policy/decision makers, civil society bodies, investors, the general population, and potential service users themselves, urgently need firm evidence of the benefits, as well as collaboration models to capture the benefits and develop tools that allow them to manage any potential risks. Only then will the wider utilisation of nature for disease prevention and health promotion achieve its full potential.

**RESONATE** (RESilience thrOugh NATurE-based therapies) brings together an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral consortium of world leaders in nature-health research, practice, policy, and innovation, in order to: a) clarify what “bringing nature back into our lives” means in practice; b) apply a novel conceptual framework to explain and test the causal mechanisms by which nature contact reduces stress, promotes health, and reduces disease; c) capture global advances in NbT innovation and practice; d) identify the key actors that need to be involved in NbT programme development and maintenance; e) demonstrate how effective cross-sectoral collaboration can be achieved through a Social Innovation Action (SIA) approach; and f) provide, coordinate, and deploy a set of resources, methods, and tools, to ensure lasting impact at the EU and global level. Our evidence base, practical tools, and guides will raise awareness of the benefits, offer clear guidance on establishing, evaluating, and funding nature-health initiatives, with the ultimate ambition of NbT programmes, and related policies, becoming mainstream across Europe.

Our proposal is built on a conceptual framework that consortium members developed specifically for this proposal: *Nature-based Biopsychosocial Resilience Theory (NBRT)*<sup>19</sup>. This framework places the concept of *resilience* at the heart of why nature helps reduce stress, promote health and prevent disease, and distinguishes between two related but distinct mechanisms for “bringing nature back into our lives”<sup>13</sup>: **Nature-based Solutions (NbSs)** and **Nature-based Therapies (NbTs)**. NbSs integrate elements of the natural world into urban infrastructures, e.g. through tree planting or urban wetland restoration<sup>20</sup>. Broadly speaking, *NbSs bring nature closer to people*. In synergy, NbTs support people to connect with natural elements available in their surroundings, including those associated with NbSs. *NbTs bring people closer to nature*. In line with the call, RESONATE is primarily concerned with NbTs, but our aim is to take a broad and inclusive approach that recognises multiple ways of connecting individuals and communities to nature by building resilience. By bringing nature closer to people, NbSs play a role in building and maintaining community level or *social-ecological resilience* to environmental stressors such as air pollution, excess heat, and noise<sup>11</sup>. NbSs promote health and reduce disease by reducing the number and severity of environmental stressors communities encounter.

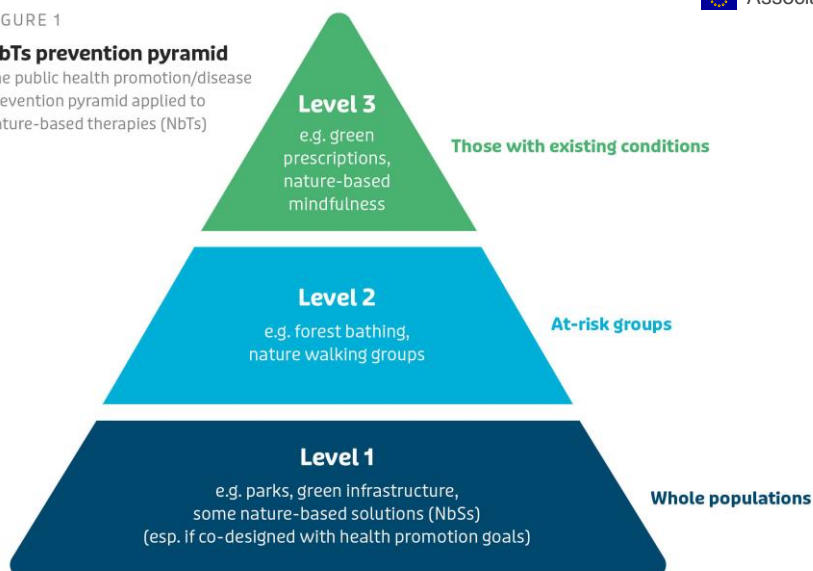
In contrast, by bringing people closer to nature, NbTs build and maintain ‘stocks’ of intra- and inter- individual level resilience<sup>21</sup> that can be used to help people better respond to and recover from a range of stressful situations and circumstances (e.g. bereavement, economic hardship, mental ill-health). Resilience at this level is generally considered in terms of biological processes (e.g., immune functioning), psychological processes (e.g., threat appraisals), and social processes (e.g., social networks) which interact to provide a person’s set of *biopsychosocial resilience* resources<sup>22</sup>. Based on an extensive literature review, NBRT<sup>19</sup> argues that contact with nature can contribute significantly to all of three types, i.e. biological resilience (e.g. improved immune functioning)<sup>23</sup>, psychological resilience (e.g. more accurate threat appraisals)<sup>24</sup>, and social resilience (e.g. richer social networks)<sup>25</sup>. Although many other circumstances (e.g. genetics) and behaviours (e.g. indoor exercise) can also build biopsychosocial resilience resources, NBRT refers to that portion of these resources built through nature contact, and NbTs in particular, as *Nature-based Biopsychosocial Resilience*.

The notion that nature might build resilience resources that can be used to help mitigate the impact of stressful circumstances is not new, and is reflected in the nature-health literature by terms such as ‘inoculation’<sup>26</sup>, ‘immunisation’<sup>27</sup> and ‘buffering’<sup>28</sup>. However, to date this work has been fragmentary, generally only considered biological, psychological and social resilience resources in isolation, and not really explored where in the stress-recovery process these resilience resources might be deployed. NBRT brings greater clarity to this issue by following the World Health Organisation’s climate resilience framework<sup>29</sup>, in arguing that these resilience resources can be deployed at two separate stages, an initial *response stage* where people first encounter the stressor and quickly appraise the level of the threat and their ability to cope, and a later *recovery stage* where people return to a homeostatic equilibrium. NBRT refers to these as *response resilience* and *recovery resilience* respectively and identifies previous literature which shows that prior nature contact can support both these processes<sup>19,30</sup>. Such a distinction between response and recovery resilience is important here because it highlights how NbTs are not simply “therapies” that help people experiencing stress to recover, they also have the potential to be “therapeutic” by building biopsychosocial resources that can protect people against the impact of future potential stressors. Indeed,

FIGURE 1

**NbTs prevention pyramid**

The public health promotion/disease prevention pyramid applied to nature-based therapies (NbTs)



NbT types can be identified at all three levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid (Fig.1)<sup>31</sup>. Level 1 initiatives target whole groups/populations and use nature to help people take control over their own health and build response resilience; they tend to come under the umbrella of health promotion. For instance, people in countries that encouraged citizens to visit local nature during early COVID-19 lockdowns, showed fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression, presumably because they could use nature places to help cope with the stressfulness of early pandemic lockdowns<sup>32</sup>. Level 2 initiatives tend to focus on at-risk populations, encouraging those with, for

instance, high blood pressure, to access nature in order to engage in physical activity and build biological resilience resources (e.g. greater cardiovascular fitness)<sup>33</sup>. Due to their more targeted nature, Level 2 initiatives are generally considered as disease prevention. Finally, Level 3 initiatives support individuals with existing mental and/or physical conditions (e.g. clinical psychological symptoms, restricted mobility) in accessing nature, to help manage their symptoms, reduce further complications, and possibly treat certain issues (i.e. recovery resilience)<sup>34</sup>. Level 3 initiatives are thus more in line with lay perceptions of “therapy”, as a treatment for existing conditions.

Moreover, building individual-level biopsychosocial resilience through NbTs not only helps people manage stress and promote/protect their own health, it can also improve the resilience of social-ecological systems. For instance, NbTs can support environmental goals by engaging people in conservation activities<sup>35</sup> and by strengthening nature connectedness and pro-environmental attitudes/behaviours<sup>36</sup>, which help to promote and protect NbSs. This virtuous circle demonstrates how we can build both ‘individual and community RESilience thrOugh NATurE-based therapies’ (RESONATE).

To date, however, providing clear causal evidence of the effectiveness of NbTs has been difficult because, in public health terms, NbTs are ‘*complex interventions*’<sup>37</sup>. Complex interventions are hard to evaluate because they are characterised by interconnected causal processes and a range of potential confounds (e.g. is nature exposure *per se* important or is it the physical activity and/or social contacts that occur in nature that are key?). NBRT can help address this challenge by arguing that they are all important because they help build different types of nature-based biopsychosocial resilience. NbTs are also hard to implement because they involve sectors beyond health. These include sectors linked to the locations where NbTs take place (e.g. land-managers/owners, conservationists, planners) and groups affected by the use of these spaces for therapeutic purposes (e.g. regular park users, local residents). As well as needing to be sensitive to environmental concerns and social acceptability, NbTs also need to be financially sustainable. Existing providers often stress that a lack of stable financing undermines long-term planning and creates stress and uncertainty among service users<sup>38</sup>.

RESONATE will address all of these challenges through a highly ambitious program of research and innovation that goes *beyond-the-state-of-the-art* in terms of *theory*, *approach*, and *methods*. These innovations are linked to four overarching General Objectives (GOs, linked to the call’s Expected Outcomes) and nine more specific Objectives (Os, see Table 1.1).

In terms of *theory innovation*, NBRT was designed by the consortium for this application. It goes beyond the two theories that currently dominate the nature-health field, Attention Restoration Theory<sup>39</sup> and Stress Reduction Theory<sup>40</sup> in two key ways. First, by stressing the tripartite role of bio-psycho-social resilience processes, it provides a coherent structure for multiple causal pathways/mechanisms that is currently lacking. Second, it’s focus on resilience brings together the health sector’s primary interest in using nature to promote individual level health and well-being, via biopsychosocial resilience, and the environmental sector’s interest in using nature to promote community level health and well-being through social-ecological resilience. If we are to provide a “*sharper view of green space management, nature protection, agriculture, and forestry sectors as care providers and their possible linkages with the healthcare, social and educational sectors*” (GO2), it is essential to begin by identifying key cross-sectoral commonalities on which to build such linkages and the concept of resilience spans all sectors. Operationalising this new theory for testing across multiple contexts is RESONATE’s first objective (O1.1).

Testing the theory, and providing a stronger evidence-base of causal relationships between nature and health/well-



being (GO1), is our second objective (O1.2). This will be achieved by focusing on the causal mechanisms relating to biological resilience (e.g. immune functioning), psychological resilience (e.g. self-efficacy) and social resilience (e.g. functional social support) across a series of nine Case Studies (CSs). A key beyond-the-state-of-the-art innovation will be the simultaneous, coordinated exploration of 3 CSs at each level of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid. Led by Work Package 3 (WP3) the three general population Level 1 CSs will use two existing longitudinal cohorts and a prospective longitudinal cohort to answer novel questions raised by the call including “when people choose to go”, “what experiences they have”, “the type and dose of interactions necessary for long term health and well-being benefits”, the moderators of these relationships “such as age, gender, socio-economic status or culture”, and how “greenness quantity and quality” and “geographical locations and factors.. affect the health-nature relationships”. The three Level 2 CSs will use a set of three, matched Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) across urban, rural, and coastal communities “to provide more evidence of the causal relationships between nature, health and well-being” through increasing nature contact for a key group exhibiting health risks rarely explored in the NbT field, i.e. people with metabolic syndrome. Finally, the Level 3 CSs will use two RCTs and a Community of Practice (CoP) intervention to test the potential of “nature therapy sessions” to help individuals manage current conditions by further extending existing state of the art interventions for people with clinical levels of psychological distress (CS7), restricted physical mobility (CS8), and a range of cognitive related challenges (CS9). A key feature of our Level 3 CSs is the promotion of inclusive nature access in order to ‘Leave No One Behind’, reflecting RESONATE’s strong commitment to reducing discrimination, exclusion, and inequality.

**Table 1.1: RESONATE’s general objectives (GO) and specific objectives (O)**

General Objectives	Objectives (O)
<b>GO1</b> Stronger evidence-base of causal relationships between nature and health/well-being.	<b>O1.1</b> Operationalise the causal mechanisms proposed by <b>Nature-based Biopsychosocial Resilience Theory (NBRT)</b> by identifying appropriate metrics of the biological, psychological, and social resilience processes affected by Nature-based Therapies (NbTs). <b>O1.2</b> Test these processes with 3 Case Studies (CSs) at each level of health promotion/disease prevention (total 9 CSs) across urban, rural, coastal settings, using <b>3 longitudinal cohorts, 5 Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs), and 1 Community of Practice Trial.</b>
<b>GO2</b> Sharper view of cross-sectoral NbT linkages spanning health, environment, economy, and wider society.	<b>O2.1</b> Identify <i>existing, evidence-based NbTs</i> and explore their cross-sectoral linkages via an interactive <b>Global NbT Systematic Map</b> that can be used by stakeholders/decision makers for cross-sectoral collaboration, inspiration, and best-practice guidance. <b>O2.2</b> Explore <i>cross-sectoral linkages</i> by conducting multiple CSs assessing actors’ networks and multi-sectoral outcomes spanning the health ( <i>effectiveness/equity/inclusiveness</i> ); environmental ( <i>impact/ carrying capacity/connectedness</i> ); economic ( <i>cost-effectiveness/funding/jobs</i> ) and societal ( <i>acceptability/empowerment</i> ) sectors. <b>O2.3</b> Demonstrate how to promote cross-sectoral cooperation & partnership to ensure locally acceptable and empowering NbTs that build biopsychosocial and social-ecological resilience through 3 Social Innovation Action guided ‘ <b>NbT Resilience Hubs</b> ’.
<b>GO3</b> Greater citizen and policy-maker awareness of nature benefits for health.	<b>O3.1</b> Identify target audiences among public, practitioners, and policy makers and increase their awareness of NbT benefits by deploying a set of <b>traditional and innovative communication and dissemination tools</b> to share and exchange data, outputs, and policy recommendations in accordance with best practice Open Science principles. <b>O3.2</b> Establish a Network Nature style Task Force for NbTs, via a <b>multi-consortium collaboration</b> which engages in joined-up communication and exploitation plans/activities.
<b>GO4</b> Wider utilisation of cost-effective NbTs for disease prevention/health promotion.	<b>O4.1</b> Explore what a scaled-up and scaled-out offering of selected NbTs might look like under different social/financial/climate futures through <b>cross-sectoral scenario analysis</b> . <b>O4.2</b> Support potential NbT programmes to address the social, legal, administrative, and financing challenges of implementing sustainable NbT programs at scale by providing a 360° toolbox of <b>systems-thinking-based Guides</b> , based on the evidence and insights gathered from the Global Systematic Map, the 9 CSs and the 3 Resilience Hubs.

In terms of **approach innovation**, despite appeals to the contrary, scientific, sectoral, and policy actors continue to “operate in silos, focusing only on ‘their’ targeted aspects (e.g. physical, biological, or social)”<sup>41</sup>, including in the NbT field<sup>38</sup>. RESONATE will go beyond-the-current-state-of-the-art by developing a highly reflexive and integrative “interdisciplinary cross-sectoral approach”<sup>42</sup>, to include not just the health and environmental (incl. “green space management, nature protection, urban planning and landscape architecture”) sectors, but also researchers and actors from the economic and societal sectors in order to “identify legal and administrative arrangements, partnerships, and financial mechanisms for implementation of nature therapy sessions”. We do this in two key ways. First, we

have WPs for each of the four core sectors: Health (WP4), Environment (WP5), Economy (WP6), and Society (WP7). This will ensure that the issues in each sector are explored in the requisite depth across our nine CSs, in terms of not just *effectiveness* (health) but also *equity* (fairness), *sustainability* (environment), *cost-effectiveness* (economy), and *acceptability* (society) (O2.2). Second, WP8 (What Works) will work closely with sectoral WPs 4-7 to support the integration of results and insights into a systems-based approach<sup>43</sup>. Combined, this will result in a toolbox of guides (with accompanying tutorials) aimed at meeting the needs of specific sectoral actors as well as an overarching guide that synthesises sectoral learnings into an integrated, systems perspective (O4.2). This approach will be achieved via our international, transdisciplinary consortium including academics, SMEs, and NbT practitioners, supported by an International Expert Advisory Board (IEAB) of global NbT leaders and specialists in Public Patient Involvement (PPI) and environmental ethics.

In terms of *methodological innovation*, we will use several beyond-the-state-of-the-art methods to operationalize our approach. First, WP2 (Global Perspectives) will employ innovative *Systematic Mapping* techniques<sup>44</sup> to review existing NbT programmes globally and synthesise them in a novel, interactive, on-line mapping tool for public, practitioner, and policy maker use (O2.1). Second, we will apply formal *process evaluation* methods, established for complex interventions in other fields, to all of our Level 2&3 CSs to establish the *barriers/enablers* of cross-sectoral collaboration that need to be overcome/exploited for NbTs to be scaled-up and scaled-out, and to establish not just if the programmes are working, but *why* they are working and *for whom*, with a focus on potential inequalities such as gender, age, and income (O2.2). Third, to facilitate such collaboration we will build on *Social Innovation Action*<sup>45</sup> methodology to establish three demonstrator Resilience Hubs (O2.3). These Hubs will provide an innovative working context in which *the “health care sector, and... green space management and nature protection sectors”* can come *“together with a variety of community and health sector representatives, businesses, civil society organizations and citizens”* to deliberate over and co-produce NbTs that are effective, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, cost-effective and financially viable, as well as acceptable and empowering to local communities. Fifth, we will use cutting edge analytical methods<sup>46</sup> to integrate sectoral specific data to produce a set of cross-sectoral scenario analyses that will estimate what a scaled-up and scaled-out offering of selected NbTs might look like under different social/financial/climate futures (O4.1). Finally, we will engage with the other consortia funded under this and related calls to co-ordinate our research, communication, dissemination, and exploitation efforts, and discuss the highly ambitious notion of establishing a Network Nature style Task Force with a specific focus on NbTs (O3.2).

**R&I Maturity.** NbTs are primarily social/environmental interventions rather than technological ones, so we mainly consider RESONATE’s state of maturity in terms of Societal Readiness Levels (SRL)<sup>47</sup>. The problem has already been identified (SRL1), so planned activities range from SRL2 to SRL7. CSs 4-6, and the WPs associated with them, will engage relevant stakeholders through the NbT Resilience Hubs (SRL2) to develop local solutions and conduct initial testing (SRL3). Further, given that CSs 7-9 build on and develop existing, evidence-based NbTs (SRL6), the geographical scaling-out (CS7) and/or refinement (CS8/9) of these programmes falls under SRL7. Designing, implementing, and testing NbTs with clinical groups takes many years, including ethical approval processes. Therefore, integrating such groups within the 4-year constraints of RESONATE requires connecting with projects that are already well advanced in terms of societal readiness. Nonetheless, these CSs are highly innovative, because they apply the new framework, examine adaptations/extensions through the lens of biopsychosocial resilience processes, and assess in detail their cross-sectoral implications in terms of health, environmental, economic, and societal outcomes. Although our focus is primarily on SRLs, there are also tasks related to technology in RESONATE, where consideration of Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) is appropriate. WP2’s Systematic Map will develop an open-access interactive on-line mapping tool, with results digitised using an open-source virtual platform including a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) environment, a data catalogue/attribute repository and an Application Programming Interface (API) for global open access and usability. As noted below, there will be three key development steps, broadly reflecting TRLs 3-6. Further, CS8 plans to test a prototype App that is already under development, which supports people with mobility issues in accessing and deriving maximum benefit from the Move Green forest and park trails. The planned testing will broadly cover TRLs 7-9. Finally, CSs 4-6 will use well-established on-line Apps for recreational nature visits/walks (e.g. <https://www.outdooractive.com/>), to support participants navigate their planned routes but these will not be new technologies produced by the project (TRL9).

## 1.2 Methodology

RESONATE will meet its objectives through 10 Work Packages (WPs). A schematic overview of the programme’s structure and how the WPs feed into each other is provided, as per template instructions, in Section 3, *Figure 4 (p.30)*. A brief examination of this Figure may clarify how the following sections fit together in an over-arching framework. Each WP has several Tasks (numbered T1.1, T1.2 etc.) that address specific objectives. The mapping of WP Tasks to objectives is presented in Table 1.2. The table highlights two key things. First, it shows how parallel Tasks of co-creation, data collection support, and data analysis/synthesis are occurring simultaneously for multiple CSs across the

different sectoral WPs in a highly integrated, co-ordinated fashion. **Second**, the Table highlights the tasks involved in producing an integrated and co-ordinated package of key Deliverables (D) aimed at exploiting RESONATE results to provide the evidence, inspiration, and methodological tools for impact via coherent scaling-up and scaling-out of NbTs across Europe and beyond. Specifically we will co-produce: a) sector specific guides targeting the health, environmental and economic (x2) sectors, b) practical guides explaining how to set up Social Innovation Action-inspired NbT Resilience Hubs to enable co-creation and local empowerment and detailing how to evaluate the processes that support intended outcomes; and c) a final, all encompassing, “What Works NbT Guide” which will provide a summary of the six more sectoral specific and technical guides alongside the results of our cross-sectoral scenario analyses, bringing the various opportunities and challenges together. Further details are provided in Section 2, but they are highlighted here to explain our overall vision and why we adopt the methods we do.

**Table 1.2: Mapping selected RESONATE’s Tasks (T) to general objectives (GO) and specific objectives (O)**

General objectives (GO)	Objectives (O)	Tasks (T)
<b>GO1</b> Stronger evidence-base of causal mechanisms	<b>O1.1</b> Operationalise NBRT	T3.1 Support CS design and co-creation to operationalise NBRT constructs T4.1 Co-design health equity data needs T5.1 Co-design environmental data needs T6.1 Co-design economic data needs T7.2 Co-design cross-sectoral linkages data needs T8.1 Co-design process evaluation data needs T8.5 Co-create scenario data needs
	<b>O1.2</b> Test NBRT using 9 Case Studies (CSs) across 3 Levels of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid	T3.2 Support multi-sectoral data collection T3.3 Support data collation and distribution T3.4 Analyse and synthesise resilience outcomes T1.10 Support all ethical requirements/practices
<b>GO2</b> Sharper view of cross-sectoral linkages	<b>O2.1</b> Systematic global map	T1.6 Support lab visits to IEAB member projects T2.2 Conduct systematic literature review T2.3 Develop interactive online-map T1.7 Support cross-sectoral integration
	<b>O2.2</b> Cross-sectoral linkages	T2.1 Co-create multi-sectoral literature review searches T4.2 Support health equity data collection T4.3/4 Analyse and synthesise health equity outcomes
	<b>O2.3</b> Nature-based Resilience Hubs	T5.2 Support environmental data collection T5.3 Analyse and synthesise environmental outcomes T6.2 Support economic data collection T6.3 Analyse and synthesise economic outcomes T6.4 Identify sustainable financing options T7.1 Assess societal awareness/acceptance T7.3 Run Resilience Hubs as Social Innovation Actions T8.2 Support process evaluation data collection T8.3 Analyse/synthesise process evaluation outcomes
	(These are combined here because the cross-sectoral linkages for CSs 4-6 will be achieved through the Resilience Hubs)	T2.4 Host Grand Rounds
<b>GO3</b> Greater awareness	<b>O3.1</b> Communication and dissemination	T9.2 Develop/update dissemination/exploitation plan T9.3 Support communication/dissemination activities T9.4 Coordinate stakeholder/policy engagement T9.5 Coordinate academic engagement T9.6 Compile project impact report T1.8 Ensure data is managed/stored and accessible according to FAIR principles
	<b>O3.2</b> Multi-consortium collaboration	T1.4 Coordinate joint events, targeted/tailored activities, communications. T1.5 Co-create NbT “Task Force”
<b>GO4</b> Wider utilization	<b>O4.1</b> Cross-sectoral scenario analysis	T8.6 Support scenario data collection T8.7 Analyse and synthesise scenario outcomes
	<b>O4.2</b> Deployment via tools, guides and open-access practices	T4.5 Develop the NbT Health Practitioner Guide T5.4 Develop the NbT Environment Assessment Guide



- T6.4 Develop the NbT Sustainable Financing Guide
- T7.3 Develop the NbT Resilience Hub Guide & establish Memoranda of Understanding
- T8.4 Develop the NbT Process Evaluation Guide
- T8.8 Develop the overarching NbT What Works Guide
- T1.9 Make all resources open access

While recognising important overlaps and synergies throughout, the following sections focus on how we will deliver the outputs related to GO1 and GO2. The steps we take to deliver GO3 and GO4 are explained in Section 2.

### 1.2.1 Methods for achieving GO1

**01.1 Operationalising NBRT.** The concepts of stress and resilience are central to RESONATE, underpinning our entire programme of work. The theory argues that NbTs “work” because nature contact can promote health and prevent disease by reducing people’s allostatic stress load through building and maintaining a range of biological, psychological and social resources (i.e. biopsychosocial resilience) that mitigate the impact of stressful circumstances, (e.g. pollution, income-inequalities, crowding) in two ways. First the stock of nature-based biopsychosocial resilience resources can be deployed at the response stage, e.g. by helping to make more accurate threat and coping appraisals which dampen the initial emotional and physiological reaction (i.e. response resilience)<sup>19,29</sup>. Second, this stock of resilience resources can be deployed at the recovery stage, e.g. by talking through the issues with a friend during a walk in the park (i.e. recovery resilience)<sup>19,29</sup>. A key innovation of our approach lies in its focus on causality and in analysing how different types of nature contact affect different biopsychosocial resilience processes at the intra- and inter-individual level and how these interact with broader resilience processes at the social-ecological level. NBRT answers the call’s request to “develop a common framework” to help us understand the “mediating” and “causal mechanisms” and help “recognize and promote contact with nature... for the prevention and treatment of human health and well-being”.

Nature can build biological resilience by bolstering clinically relevant anti-inflammatory immune-profiles including natural killer cells and anticancer proteins<sup>48</sup>, it can reduce pro-allergic cytokines such as IL-13 and IL-5, and induce anti-inflammatory IL-10 producing T cells in certain groups<sup>49</sup>. Nature contact can also boost biological resilience through physical activity. Just 30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity can buffer against blood pressure responses to psychosocial stress<sup>50</sup>, and regular physical activity reduces the risk of many chronic NCDs<sup>51</sup>. More people are willing to engage in, often informal, nature-based physical activity than in formal/indoor exercise<sup>52</sup>, and walking/jogging on uneven terrain also induces a more complex and demanding patterns of movement, with benefits for the musculoskeletal system<sup>53</sup>. Even short nature contact experiences can build psychological resilience by promoting positive emotions that reduce the biophysiological arousal resulting from stressful tasks<sup>19</sup>, as well as “broaden-and-build” problem-solving repertoires that increase creativity and are key mechanisms in coping<sup>54</sup>. Regular and/or extended periods of nature contact can build people’s self-esteem and global sense of self-worth<sup>55</sup> as well as practical skills, reducing the probability that situational demands are perceived to exceed available resources. Finally, nature contact can also build social resilience. People are more pro-social<sup>56</sup> following short nature exposures, which can strengthen social networks used to support individuals in times of stress<sup>25</sup>. In short, NBRT’s answer to questions such as, “is it nature *per se*, physical activity in nature, or positive social interactions that are key?”, is to respond that it is **all of these processes** because they each build and maintain **different types of biopsychosocial resilience**. Although we have already identified a range of potential metrics that appear to be good operationalisations of our constructs (Table 1.3), Ts3.1-8.1 will finalise them.

**01.2 Testing NBRT across 9 Case Studies.** We will test NBRT using 3 CSs from each level of the health promotion/disease prevention pyramid (Fig1.). Each CS is designed to examine the potential causal relations between NbTs and health/well-being along with the hypothesised biopsychosocial resilience mechanisms. A summary of each CS is presented in Table 1.3 with full details provided in the *Annex for Clinical Studies*.

**Table 1.3: RESONATE Case Study 1-9 Summaries**

Case Study	Design Prevention level (Fig. 1)	Sample*	Stressor/ risk mitigated by nature	Nature contact / NbT intervention	Health/ well-being outcomes	Biopsychosocial resilience mechanisms	Social-ecological resilience mechanisms
1. UK, Population representative	Level 1: 11yr. long cohort	N~ 37,000	Stressful life events (e.g.	Urban, rural, coastal neighbourhoods	GHQ-12 Life sat.	Psych. GES Social.NSCS	Equity. HEA

(UNEXE) 2. UK, Dementia risk Cohort (UNEXE)	<i>Level 1:</i> 10yr. long. cohort	N~ 24,000	divorce) COVID-19 & other societal level stressors	Occupational Urban, rural, coastal neighbourhoods Occupational Recreational	SF-12 GAD-7 PHQ-9, SPANE	Psych. NAT Social. LS	Equity. HEA Envi.† GEBS
3. Bulgaria, bespoke panel (MUP)	<i>Level 1:</i> 12mth. long. Cohort (3 waves, 6 months apart)	N=1,500 incl. n=250 bio- marker cohort	Everyday stressors (e.g. traffic emissions, financial)	Urban/rural neighbourhoods Occupational Recreational	SF-12 GAD-7 PHQ-9, SPANE	Bio. Immune (e.g. IL-6), metabolic (e.g. lipids), Psych. BRS Social. BSCS	Equity. HEA Envi. INS, GEBS Econ. QALY Social. SAS
4. Italy, Padua urban woods (UNIPD)	<i>Level 2:</i> Two- arm RCT (Intervention vs. waiting control)	N=134*	Having or being at- risk of metabolic syndrome (larger waistline, high blood pressure, abnormal blood lipid levels, high blood sugar	5-week guided, + technology assisted/self- guided, nature immersion Basic design in each locality will be enriched with locally supported SIA insights.	SF-12 EQ-5D PHQ-9, GAD-7, SPANE NRS SWLS IPAQ-SF	Bio. Chronic stress (allostatic load). Immune function (e.g. IL- 6/10); metabolic function (e.g. SAA) Psych. BRS Social. BSCS, ST	Equity. HEIAs Envi. EIA, INS, GEBS Econ. QALY Social. SAS
5. Austria, Alpine mountains (PMU)	<i>Level 2:</i> Two- arm RCT (Intervention vs. waiting control)	N=134*					
6. Spain, Barcelona seafront (ISGLOBAL)	<i>Level 2:</i> Two- arm RCT (Intervention vs. waiting control)	N=134*					
7. Sweden, Urban gardens (UU)	<i>Level 3:</i> Four- arm RCT (ReST vs. mindful; vs. nature; vs. waiting control)	N=260*	Clinically elevated psycholo- gical symptoms (DASS-21)	5-week 'Restoration Skills Training' (ReST) = formal mindfulness training + nature immersion	DASS 21 SF-12 GAD-7 PHQ-9 SPANE	Psych. Attention (CFQ), BRS Social. BSC, ST	Equity. HEA Envi. EIA, INS, GEBS Econ. QALY Social. SAS
8. Denmark, Urban forest/park (UCPH)	<i>Level 3:</i> Two- arm RCT (App-visits vs. waiting control)	N=110*	Chronic mobility issues (e.g. wheelchair users)	5-week technology enhanced nature immersion in the Move Green Urban Forest	SF-12 GAD-7 PHQ-9, SPANE	Psych. Attention (EEG, Eye tracking), BRS Social. BSCS	Equity. HEA Envi. EIA, INS, GEBS Econ. QALY Social. SAS
9. Netherlands, Care farms (NVM/ UNTWE)	<i>Level 3:</i> Community of Practice trial (Standard vs. Enhanced practice)	N=24 care farms (N~450 clients)	Cognitive impairment (e.g. dementia)	Co-created staff training for enhanced support of client centred nature-based experiences.	Feasibility assessment of new procedures plus pilot outcome assessments including GCCWB		

\* See Clinical Studies Annex for detailed power analysis. Envi.† = Environment, incl. connectedness/behaviours. BMI: Body Mass Index; BRS: Brief Resilience Scale; BSCS: Brief Sense of Community Scale; CFQ: Cognitive Failures Qaire; DASS21: Depression, Anxiety & Stress Scale-21; GAD-7: Generalised Anxiety Disorder-7; GCCWB: Greater Cincinnati Chapter Well-Being Observation Tool; GEBS: General Ecological Behavioural Scale; GHQ-12: General Health Qaire-12; FFSQ: Functional Social Support Qaire; GSS: General Self-Efficacy Scale; IL6/10: Interleukin 6/10; INS: Inclusion of Nature in Self; IPAQ: International Physical Activity Qaire; LS: Loneliness Scale; NAT: Network Attention Task; NSCS: Neighbourhood Social Cohesion; PHQ-9 Patient Health Qaire -9; QALY: Quality Adjusted Life Year; SAA: Serum Amyloid A; SF-12: Short-Form Health Survey; SAS: Social Acceptance Survey; SPANE: Scale of Positive/Negative Emotions; ST: Social Trust. HEA: Health Equity Audit; HEIA: Health Equity Impact Assessment; EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment.

Level 1 CSs. CSs 1-3 will use longitudinal data, tracking samples of general populations over time, to monitor



nature contact (e.g. neighbourhood greenness, recent nature visits), and metrics of biopsychosocial resilience and indicators of health/well-being before, partly during, and after stressful circumstances. The large samples sizes will allow us to answer the following research questions: a) Does nature contact mitigate (buffer) the effect of a given stressor on health/well-being; b) is this process mediated by one or more biopsychosocial resilience related processes; c) are these effects similar or different for different groups in society (e.g., ‘age, gender, socio-economic status or culture’); and d) how important is ‘quantity vs. quality’? **CS1** will use the UK’s longitudinal household panel (N~37,000) to explore whether neighbourhood nature contact can mitigate the effect on mental health from personally stressful life events (e.g. divorce, unemployment) via psycho-social resilience processes. **CS2** uses data from the UK’s longitudinal dementia risk panel (N~24,000), run by the UNEXE team, to explore whether neighbourhood nature contact and recreational visits mitigate the effects of societal level stressors (e.g. COVID-19; cost of living shocks) on mental health. This enables us to look at ‘dose-response’ effects and focus on an older age cohort at risk of additional health issues. **CS3** is a RESONATE specific prospective longitudinal study in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, monitoring 1,500 individuals over a 12-month period. CS3 will explore whether nature contact mitigates the effects of everyday stressors (e.g. traffic emissions, financial worries) on mental health, and which biopsychosocial mechanisms underlie this. It will also include a sub-sample (N=250) to investigate a rich selection of biopsychosocial resilience metrics including immune function (e.g. IL-6/10, TNF- $\alpha$ , CRP, TB-NK cells), oxidative stress (e.g. chromogranin), stress hormones (cortisol) and general allostatic load biomarkers (e.g. cholesterol).

*Level 2 CSs.* CSs 4-6 are conceptually linked in order to facilitate later comparison, although specific operationalisations of the design will be sensitive to local conditions and co-developed with local stakeholders using a Social Innovation Action approach (WP7). Systematic reviews in the nature-health field often call for more standardised processes, interventions, and outcomes to improve study comparability, but a multi-centre trial adopting exactly the same protocols is neither feasible nor desirable for NbTs which require sensitivity to context and local co-creation. Our hybrid approach will create three Level 2 CSs that can be meaningfully compared, while leaving enough flexibility to make each CS reflect locally applicable social innovation. Based on a series of studies by RESONATE partners at UU<sup>57</sup> and a recent meta-analysis<sup>58</sup>, the three CSs will focus on testing similar nature-based mindfulness interventions. In terms of NBRT, the benefits may include greater exposure to immune-function promoting microbial-biodiversity, greater physical activity, and more positive social interactions. Our target ‘at-risk’ group will be sedentary, low nature-users (<30mins per week) with metabolic syndrome (a combination of at least 3 of 5 risk factors: large waistline, high blood pressure, abnormal blood lipid levels, low HDL cholesterol, and high blood sugar), a condition common across Europe associated with an increased risk of stress and allostatic load related conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes<sup>59</sup>. CS design will adopt a two-arm wait-list design, randomising one group to an assisted nature-based mindfulness intervention and one to a waiting list control condition (no treatment). We will use gender stratification in the randomisation procedure to explore the gender dimension. The control group will receive the same intervention after the active intervention group. The ~5-week interventions will extend existing mindfulness-in-nature practices and involve elements of movement, rest, and mindful contemplation through different sensory modalities. Based on previous studies by the teams, but depending on co-creation results, the intervention will involve approximately three semi-structured 40-minute walks per week, 15 sessions in total. The initial sessions will be led by a guide, with later sessions supported through established on-line Apps that help people navigate selected nature routes (e.g. <https://www.outdooractive.com/>), with the final decision on the number of in-person vs. self-directed walks determined through the co-creation processes in each location. Data will be collected pre, during, post, and at 3-month follow-up, to explore longer-term health/well-being effects and maintenance of higher nature contact. In order to explore geographical, cultural, meteorological, and other contextual factors, the CSs will be set in urban nature (**CS4**, Padua, Italy), rural mountainous settings (**CS5**, Salzburg, Austria), and urban coastal zones (**CS6**, Barcelona, Spain). Metrics of biological resilience (e.g. via saliva samples) will be collected in all sites but analysed by PMU who have the requisite laboratory facilities. Structural design similarities will facilitate data synthesis and meta-analysis, while unique elements will increase ecological validity, local ownership, and long-term sustainability, rather than a “one-size-fits-all approach”.

*Level 3 CSs.* CS 7-9 will design/test innovations for established NbTs for people with existing conditions, including: an RCT for people with clinical levels of psychological symptoms (CS7); one for those with chronic mobility issues (CS8); and a multi-site Community of Practice trial across a set of Care Farms catering for clients with dementia and other cognitive and functional impairments (CS9). As noted in 1.1 (R&I Maturity), the design and implementation of high quality, robust, interventions “ex novo” with Level 3 groups within the 3-year time-frame to inform Year 4 deliverables is not feasible. Therefore, we extend existing programmes by scaling-up/scaling-out, adding trial-arms, and/or analysing biopsychosocial resilience processes. **CS7** will build on the successful Restoration Skills Training (ReST) programme, developed by partners at UU, Sweden, which integrates mindfulness training with restorative nature experiences for people suffering from clinical levels of stress and/or depression/anxiety related disorders. Although ReST has already shown sustainable advantages compared to standard mindfulness

interventions<sup>55</sup>, the relevant biopsychosocial resilience processes are unknown, and will now be measured here through evaluations of protective resilience (i.e., resistance to fatigue induction) and recovery resilience (i.e., restoration efficiency). Further innovations include an ambitious 4-armed RCT design with a 6-month follow-up to compare ReST, conventional mindfulness training, and nature-on-prescription interventions with each other and a waitlist control condition. Further, the interventions will take place at multiple locations by trained instructors to explore the programme's scaling-out potential. **CS8** will build on an ongoing project in Denmark called Move Green, an NbT programme exploring the potential health and well-being benefits for individuals with mobility issues who visit an urban forest park designed according to the 'Evidence-based health design in landscape architecture' (EBHDL) process model. People with mobility issues tend to be more exposed to stress and have significantly poorer QoL compared to the able-bodied population<sup>60</sup>. The Move Green Lab site uses a 'designed-in' accessibility approach to support people with limited mobility, thus 'leaving no one behind' in terms of the benefits of nature contact. Move Green has developed a prototype App with guided restorative nature experiences for individual use. The App's aim is to enhance sensory experiences, physical interactions, and connectedness with natural environments. The trial will use a two-arm RCT with a 6-month follow-up to analyse whether App-enhanced visits increase biopsychosocial resilience, compared to a waiting control group, for people with mobility issues. The intervention group will visit the Move Green forest for at least 2hrs (actively 60 minutes) a week for five consecutive weeks. **CS9** will use a collaborative action approach to explore how to support the building of biopsychosocial resilience by adapting existing practices of a region-wide care farming programme. It will work with a Foundation of Care farmers (SZZ), the largest organisation of care farming in the Netherlands with more than 100 care farms and offering day care for about 3,800 clients with special needs. Building on an ongoing relationship, CS9 will work with SZZ to identify 24 care farms willing to take part in the two-stage study. Stage 1 will be a co-creation stage where staff of 12 care farms will participate in a Community of Practice (COP) with experts and researchers to co-design and test nature-based activities tailored to the special biopsychosocial resilience needs of adults with dementia and other cognitive and functional impairments. Reflecting the elements of mindfulness in several of our CSs, the proposed training programme will be designed according to principles of 'attentive presence' where caregivers are trained to be especially attentive to how the client is captured and guided by affordances in the natural environment (e.g. how the bark of a tree feels, birdsong, insect behaviour), and to support the client in engaging in these activities safely. Stage 2 will then compare the biopsychosocial resilience and health and well-being outcomes of clients (N ~ 450), using a 'lighter touch' quantitative and more qualitative evidence gathering approach than the RCTs above, at the 12 intervention farms with a matched control group of 12 (practice as usual) farms. CS9 is also firmly embodied in the 'Leave no one behind' agenda, and will derive particular support from one of the International Expert Advisory Board (Nicole Prop) who is the Director of Austria's care farming programme (Green Care Österreich).

WP3 (Case Studies) will oversee and support the development, implementation, data management, and data analysis of CSs via Tasks 3.2-3.4. To achieve an integrated body of evidence across CSs, we will, where possible (i.e. CSs 2-8), use the same primary health outcome variable, the Short Form-12 (SF-12) general health questionnaire to assess the impact of nature contact on both mental and physical health. The SF-12 was chosen due to its strong predictive validity of health conditions<sup>61</sup>, and suitability for estimating cost-effectiveness<sup>62</sup>. Secondary health/well-being outcomes, and metrics of biopsychosocial and social-ecological resilience will also be the same across CSs where possible. Each CS will submit a preregistration detailing hypotheses, protocols, and planned analyses etc. to the Open Science Framework portal. Three data syntheses on the novel data measuring primary and secondary health/well-being and biopsychosocial resilience outcomes will be conducted, one for each Level (Deliverables **D.3.1-3.3**). Social-ecological resilience outcomes from WP3 will be explored in WPs dedicated to these specific issues. All outcomes will inform the RESONATE "Toolbox" and "What Works" guide (see Section 2.1).

All CS leads are globally recognised researchers in the NbT field with excellent track-records of delivering high quality outputs using the designs and methods to be used for their respective CSs (Section 3.2). Consortium members are also at the forefront of the use of digital and virtual nature in both research<sup>63</sup> and applied projects for people who are unable to access nature in person<sup>64</sup>. Nevertheless, all of our CSs focus on "real" nature, consistent with RESONATE's goals of: a) focusing on the interconnections between NbTs and NbSs; b) exploring biological, psychological, and social resilience processes; c) building a sharper view of cross-sectoral linkages (including the environmental sector); and d) developing a series of beyond-the-state-of-the-art social innovation actions to promote cross-sectoral collaborations in practice. Nevertheless, the potential of VR-based nature therapies will be included at various points in the project, e.g. during the systematic mapping exercise, the Grand Rounds, and the cross-consortium collaborations. Our ongoing work in the VR area funded through other projects will inform, and be informed by, RESONATE as it progresses.

## 1.2.2 Methods for achieving GO2

**O2.1 Taking a global perspective.** Several NbT programmes already exist in Europe and beyond, including those involving RESONATE partners and IEAB members in the USA, Canada and Australia. RESONATE will ensure this existing evidence base is used to systematically inform the proposed research, social innovations, and impact activities, through several interlinking mechanisms covered by WP2 (Global Perspectives). First, WP2 will work with WPs 4-7 to support a suite of sectoral specific reviews (health, environment, economy, society) of existing NbT programmes globally, by helping to produce and run a single search strategy spanning all review needs with results then funnelled back to the respective WPs (T2.1). This will not only avoid duplication of effort, but will embed a focus on cross-sectorality from the start. Second, WP2 will itself lead an overarching ‘Systematic Map’ of NbTs in the peer-reviewed literature (T2.2). Given our involvement in on-going mapping reviews in related NbS projects (e.g., Naturvation, GoGreenRoutes, Connecting Nature), our NbT Systematic Map will have several distinctive features to ensure it is complementary yet unique. First, it will focus only on NbTs in the peer-reviewed literature, to clearly distinguish it from reviews that are looking at: a) NbSs more broadly; and/or b) NbT programmes only discussed in the grey literature (see WP4). Second, it will use a state-of-the-art Systematic Mapping approach<sup>65</sup>. Unlike traditional systematic reviews which attempt to review evidence in support of a specific research question, these approaches have a broader remit and try to scope or “map out” the field in more generic terms by creating a specific typology, which for NbTs might including: geographical location, nature-setting, target-population, stakeholder involvement, funding mechanisms, and health/well-being outcomes monitored (T2.2). All reviews will follow standard review protocols as set out by the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence to reduce potential bias. Third, and drawing on consortium member experience of a similar digital mapping exercise for a United Nations Environmental Program<sup>66</sup>, the results from the mapping exercise will be converted into a literal map, with results digitised in an open-source virtual platform to visualise NbT patterns and trends globally (T2.3). The platform will be developed in a multi-stage process and include alpha, beta, and stable release versions to ensure a robust final product. The map will serve as a repository for supporting multi-sector collaboration, inspiration, and guidance at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Finally, WP2 will use the map to generate multi-sectoral discussion at a series of events (T2.4). These ‘Grand Rounds’ are discussed in more detail in Section 2. The global nature of this work will be supported by lab visits by key beneficiaries to our four IEAB partners in the USA (Cornell Univ. and Univ. California San Francisco), Canada (Univ. British Columbia) and Australia (Univ. of Wollongong). These exchanges will enable researchers at EU-beneficiaries to spend up to four weeks with international partners in order to: a) learn more about the different activities and programmes in those regions in order to enrich the Systematic Map (T2.2); and b) conduct locality specific Grand Round events to enhance truly global perspectives (T2.4). WP2 will be led by an expert team at ISGLOBAL who have themselves spent time working on NbT programmes in Canada (van den Bosch) and the USA (Litt) and who have already conducted global reviews of nature-health relationships for organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO)<sup>11</sup>, as well as reviews of “nature-assisted therapy”<sup>67</sup>.

**O2.2 A sharper view of cross-sectoral linkages.** For NbTs to be equitable, environmentally and financially sustainable, socially acceptable, and inclusive, cross-sectoral collaboration between representatives of these four sectors is key: health (incl. health professionals, link workers, and local health partnerships), the environment (incl. land owners/managers, planners, forestry, and agricultural organisations), the economic/financial sector (incl. public and private funders, SMEs, and local economic partnerships), and society more broadly (incl. legal institutions and authorities, educational bodies, civil society organisations and local residents/green space users). RESONATE includes these sectoral perspectives and linkages by having a distinct WP devoted to each sector: WP4: Health (equity); WP5: Environment; WP6: Economy; and WP7: Society). Finally, WP8: What Works, will conduct formal *process evaluations* for relevant CSs, as recommended for complex interventions, focusing on *how* the interventions work (or not) and for *whom*, as opposed to merely whether they work. Since the focus here is on “interventions”, WPs 4-8 will primarily focus on the cross-sectoral linkages in the Level 2&3 CSs. Issues of cross-sectorality for Level 1 CSs will be considered within WP3. In order to facilitate cross-sectoral integration we will support lab-exchanges between researchers in different WPs with different expertise. These exchanges will allow, for instance, a researcher from EHNet (WP4 leads with expertise in Health Equity) to spend several days with the AZTI team (WP6 leads with expertise in ecosystem assessment), in order to better understand the inter-linking relationships between health equity and the environment, with the aim of optimising the evaluation package developed for each of the Case Studies. Although WPs 4-7 cover different sectors, each WP has five common elements that will be harmonised between and across them.

Each WP will conduct a sector relevant literature review, supported by WP2. These reviews will be used to inform the development of tools used to collect data across multiple CSs and/or other tasks. Many relevant metrics already exist, but these will need adapting to: a) reflect new learnings from the respective reviews; b) the specific context of each CS; and c) be compatible with our multi-sectoral data collection activities. These adaptations will require co-creation with CS leads, CS stakeholders, and the other WPs (facilitated by cross-WP lab visits) to assess the feasibility



and acceptability of collecting certain types of data, and to avoid duplication and excess demands on CS participants/stakeholders (Ts 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 7.3, 8.1). Once a data collection strategy is agreed, WPs will provide oversight and support of data collection to each CS, e.g. to help adapt measurement tools (Ts 4.2, 5.2, 6.2, 7.3, 8.2). On completion of data collection, each CS will share their data with the relevant WPs for analysis and synthesis. Given there are 6 Level 2&3 CSs, 4 sectoral WPs, and 1 process WP, this amounts to 30 data “packets”. To ensure efficient, secure, and traceable data management, WP3 will act as a “data distribution point” collating all relevant data from CSs and distributing it to the relevant WPs (T3.3). Once received, each WP (again in collaboration with CSs) will analyse and synthesise their data to meet their specific objectives (Ts 4.3, 5.3, 6.3, 7.3, 8.3). The final stage for each WP involves disseminating the results and providing tools and/or guidelines that target different sectoral actors and which feed into the overarching “What Works” guide. Below we give a more detailed description of each of these WPs.

**WP4: Health and health equity impact of NbTs.** WP4 aims to understand the concerns, challenges, barriers, needs, and opportunities of the health sector related to implementing NbTs, and provide tools and guidance for health professionals to make greater use of NbTs in their work to improve health/well-being. Drawing on EHNet’s expertise in health equity issues across Europe, and co-ordination of EU Horizon 2020 projects such as INHERIT, WP4 will focus on: a) the health sector’s role in supporting or restricting (if lack of causal evidence), the wider uptake of NbTs; and b) how health determinants and access to green/blue spaces are distributed across the population, and the potential distributional effects of interventions on participants’ physical and mental health (i.e. does everyone benefit equally?) as part of the biopsychosocial resilience framework. WP4 will conduct either detailed Health Equity Impact Assessments (HEIA) or lighter Health Equity Audits (HEA) for all Level 2&3 CSs depending on data availability. Data needs will be based on a comprehensive model of health including social and environmental determinants, and focus on site factors (e.g. air quality, noise, walkability, public transport links), participant characteristics (e.g. education levels, employment status), and local health contexts (e.g. current NbT attitudes/practices). Both methods will follow the five key stages laid out by the WHO<sup>68</sup> and the EU’s Joint Action Health Equity Europe (JAHEE<sup>69</sup>), health impact assessment tools: **Screening** (deciding which CSs will undertake an HEIA vs. HEA, T4.1); **Scoping** (establishing how to conduct/evaluate the HE(I)As and supporting CS specific steering groups, T4.2); **Appraisal** (supporting CSs gather the relevant data analysing evidence on health impacts and their (potential) distributional effects due to inequalities, T4.3); **Reporting** (presenting results and providing recommendations, T4.4); and **Monitoring** (identifying goals for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the HEIA process). Stakeholder participation will be encouraged at all stages, aiming to contribute to empowering participants and leading to consensual policy decisions. RESONATE will strive to ensure inclusive, diverse participation including vulnerable groups, both in terms of the process (e.g., in CS steering groups), as well as in the focus groups and surveys. Results will be summarised in a health equity impact assessment guide (M14), which will feed into WP8’s overarching What Works Guide (**D8.2**). WP4 will use its review to focus on the health sector’s role in NbTs and equity issues (T4.5). Based on an initial literature scan, and to avoid overlap with WP2’s Systematic Map, WP4 will focus on the NbT grey literature, much of which describes in more detail the health sector related enablers and barriers, the interlinkages with NbSs, as well as issues such as difficulty in recruiting individuals from certain socio-economic and cultural groups in society. The review will be supplemented by in-depth interviews with n~10-15 health professionals about their awareness and perceptions of appropriateness, acceptability, and equity of NbTs. Interviewees will be diverse, spanning primary care (e.g. General Practitioners), specialists/doctors in secondary care, and health service administrators/funding priority setters. Interviewees will be from a range of geographies/countries and have varying levels of experience with NbTs including those with no experience. Recruitment will be facilitated by EHNet’s extensive European health partner network, members of the IEAB, and through the Resilience Hubs. Results will be synthesised into a ‘*Nature-based Therapy Guide for Health Professionals*’ (**D4.1**).

**WP5: Environmental impact/opportunities of NbTs.** Human and environmental health are deeply interconnected<sup>70</sup>. Environmental quality is thus a key determinant of nature’s potential to contribute to human health and well-being<sup>71</sup>, including for NbT’s. However, NbTs could, if not carefully managed, also generate pressures on the environment itself, reducing the quality of the NbT experience with negative effects on both social-ecological and biopsychosocial resilience processes. WP5 will thus build on the team’s extensive experience in environmental impact assessment to assess the potential environmental impact of our Level 2&3 CSs, both in terms of current activities, but also implications if the programmes were to be scaled-up, in order to estimate each site’s “carrying capacity” in terms of the number of users it can support before significant degradation occurs. Despite their potential negative impacts on natural settings, NbTs may nonetheless have the potential to be environmentally net positive. Spending more time in natural settings, especially engaging with it in a mindful manner, is associated with better nature connectedness and more pro-environmental behaviours<sup>36</sup>. Therefore, WP5 will begin by reviewing environmental characteristics of successful NbTs for evidence of positive as well as negative impacts. This information will then be used to co-create environmental data assessment and participant environmental attitude/behaviour assessment needs with CSs (T5.1)

to develop an NbT specific environmental assessment based on similar tools developed by consortium members. WP5 will support the use of this assessment tool in each CS site, and with participants both pre- and post-intervention (T5.2). Biodiversity/ecosystem indicators will be identified for each case study. Whenever possible, existing thresholds will be used to determine good/bad condition of the indicator. Otherwise, those may be developed or adjusted to the different cohorts (acceptable conditions in this case are not only determined environmentally, but socially). Indicators and thresholds will be used for the development of socio-ecological models, in which cascading effects of conditions will be observed. If appropriate the NEAT (Nested Environmental Assessment Tool) will be applied. Although we might expect relatively little direct environmental impact of trials of this nature and time-scale, the environmental assessment will develop a risk matrix to identify the environmental characteristics and quality levels that could condition the success of NbTs, and levels of impact that would hinder effective prescriptions (including carrying capacity, T5.3). Processes and results will be summarised in a '*Nature-based Therapy Environmental Assessment and Impact Guide*' (D5.1). Involvement of diverse environmental stakeholders in these tasks and processes (e.g. land owners/managers, planners, forestry and agricultural sectors etc.) will be supported through the Resilience Hubs for CSs 4-6 and existing in-place networks for CSs 7-9.

*WP6: Economic potential of NbTs.* Many NbT providers are concerned about a lack of sustainable financing<sup>38</sup>, partly due to a lack of clear business cases that can be made to public or private funders/investors. Building on our leadership of the Erasmus+ funded Green 4C (GreenForCare) project exploring innovation and entrepreneurship in the 'green care' sector, WP6 will begin with an updated review of the more economically relevant literature (T6.1). Key features of this exercise will be to identify which level of analysis will be performed at each CS and to define: a) the asset being assessed (what is the object of estimation – i.e. single ecosystem service, co-benefits, nature in general, etc.); b) the reference population (who is benefitting from the ecosystem service(s)); c) the most appropriate/feasible evaluation method for each CS (cost-based, demand-based, cost-effectiveness and/or cost-benefits methodologies); d) the sampling plan; and e) definitions related to economic impact. WP6 will support the relevant data collection by CS leads (T6.2). Once collected, analysis will focus on the extent RESONATE's NbTs might save health and social-related costs for their users, society, and public/private health institutions (T6.3). For CSs with clear current practice comparators (e.g. CS7), cost-effectiveness analysis will also be undertaken. Although the economic potential of any given trial is likely to be small, the synthesised data can be used to develop evidence-based scenarios about what a scaled-up/scaled-out offering of selected NbTs might look like. Based on CS results, it will be possible to quantify the hypothetical impact of a generalised adoption of NbTs, for example considering job creation and local economy improvements, and identify, catalogue, and assess business cases and the market for NbTs. These kinds of results are of paramount importance for demonstrating the value of NbTs and could be used to orientate policies and justify forms of infrastructure and therapy-related investments. Processes and results will be summarised in a '*Nature-based Therapy Economic Impact Assessment Guide*' (D6.1). Finally, WP6 will identify sustainable financing options (T6.4). Developing the public and private business and market case for NbTs requires a market analysis of the supply and demand potential for NbTs in different sectors (green space management, agriculture and forestry) and in the public/private sectors including health insurers. Such an analysis will include the barriers and opportunities for accessing public/private finance for NbTs and what makes them bankable and will result in a '*Nature-based Therapy Sustainable Financing Guide*' (D6.2).

*WP7: Societal perspectives and social innovation actions (SIAs).* NbTs often take place in publicly accessible/shared spaces, and thus other users (e.g. recreational visitors) are also stakeholders. Understanding their perspectives, as well as those of the local community more broadly, is critical for the long-term acceptability of NbTs. Regardless of type, successful NbTs tend to have a core social element, including community engagement in green-infrastructure design<sup>72</sup> and group-based nature activities<sup>42</sup>. Consequently, NbTs can be viewed as 'social innovations'<sup>73</sup>. Although the term has a multi-disciplinary heritage, social innovations tend to reflect social processes that are built on the voluntary engagement and collaboration of citizens to help create new social networks, civil society partnerships, and social entrepreneurships that help deliver services to vulnerable groups<sup>74</sup>. With this in mind, WP7 aims to contribute to a better understanding of factors affecting awareness and societal acceptance of NbTs and facilitate the establishment, implementation, and scaling of selected NbT interventions through Social Innovation Actions (SIAs). It will meet this aim by: identifying and examining the factors that promote/hinder awareness and social acceptance of NbT interventions in different socio-economic, institutional and geographical contexts (T7.1); identifying and building on possible linkages between healthcare, social, and educational sectors with green space management, nature protection, agriculture, and forestry sectors on the analysis of networks and characteristics of three CSs with social innovation potential (CSs4-6; T7.2); and facilitating the design, implementation and/or scaling of CSs 4-6 to help local communities turn NbTs into opportunities for community resilience, green job creation, and nature protection, using a SIA approach. Ultimately, we will work with local communities to arrive at a situation where relevant stakeholders feel comfortable preparing and/or signing a Memorandum of Understanding for future implementing/scaling of the respective interventions (T7.3).

WP8: *What Works: A 360° cross-sectoral view of effective, equitable, replicable, sustainable & scalable NbTs*. The primary aim of WP8 is to take an overarching cross-sectoral view and integrate these various perspectives into a single unified overview in order to provide a “*sharper view of green space management, nature protection, agriculture and forestry sectors as care providers and their possible linkages with the healthcare, social and educational sectors*”. We will develop a systematic process evaluation protocol<sup>75</sup> for Level 2&3 CSs that will take a meta-perspective monitoring how the sectors work together, and how such collaborations can be improved, in order to “*identify best-practices*” and “*improve monitoring schemes of nature-health linkages to enhance the evidence base*”. Key aspects will include how patients are/could be referred to such programmes (e.g. directly by health professionals or through link workers), the appropriateness of referrals (are the projects appropriate for specific clients?), how costs are reimbursed or covered, and the existence of any quality appraisal systems to ensure standards of care exist etc..<sup>76</sup> As with other WPs, these evaluations will be co-designed e.g. in the Hubs (T8.1), data collection for them supported during the CSs (T8.2), and data from multiple CSs synthesised (T8.3). Findings will inform a ‘*Nature-based Therapy Process Evaluation Guide*’ (D8.1) to support future NbT programmes optimise cross-sectoral working. WP8 will also conduct cross-sectoral scenario analyses for selected CSs that will combine the biopsychosocial and social-ecological systems perspectives and integrate multi-sectoral data in order to understand the potential NbT-related cross-sectoral trade-offs and synergies (T8.5-T8.7). Scenarios will estimate the cross-sectoral impact of scaling-up and/or scaling-out a given programme under different future conditions (e.g. temperature, population density, land-use etc.). The social-ecological system dynamics will be simulated using modelling tools which can test the resilience of a system, simulate the behaviour of the elements under plausible future conditions, compare management alternatives, and facilitate the communication of scientific results to managers and policy makers, by estimating multi-sectoral implications of various scaling-up and scaling-out options for different geographical or socio-economic contexts<sup>71</sup>. Cross-sectoral scenario results will feed into the ‘*What Works Nature-based Therapies Guide For Decision Makers, Practitioners & Funders*’ (D8.2), and be led by AZTI given previous experience and expertise with these scenario modelling systems<sup>77</sup>.

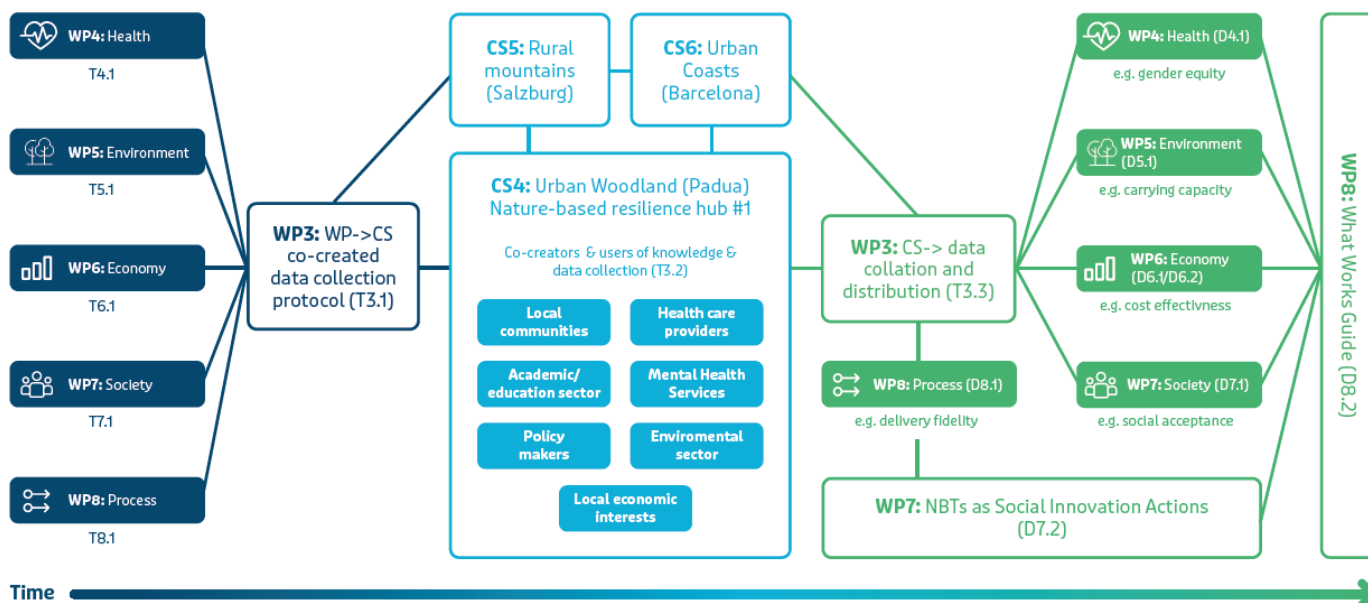
**O2.3 Demonstrating how multi-sectoral actors can collaborate in practice.** While our Level 3 CSs 7-9 already have well-established cross-sectoral networks, our nascent Level 2 CSs 4-6 present an opportunity to build new local stakeholder co-creation partnerships to develop locally acceptable NbTs by combining new social, technological, and/or organisational practices via Social Innovation Actions (SIAs). Due to the centrality of both biopsychosocial and social-ecological resilience in our approach we refer to these SIAs as “Nature-based Therapy Resilience Hubs”. The 3 Resilience Hubs, one each for CSs4-6, will build on, strengthen, and enlarge existing local networks to establish and run local NbT initiatives by empowering individuals to be partners in NbT innovation processes (T7.3). Drawing on best-practice H2020 SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas) project guidance, and following the quintuple helix<sup>78</sup> approach, stakeholders will include actors from all relevant sectors including health/social care, planning, agriculture, forestry, marine, education, public/private finance, and resident associations. In each CS, a preparatory Social Network Analysis (SNA<sup>79</sup>) will use snowball sampling techniques, semi-structured interviews, and specialised software (e.g. Gephi), to analyse the existing cross-sectoral linkages and identify the potential gaps in relations between key actors. The Hubs will then act as focal nodes for community engagement, guiding the cross-sectoral co-creation process, and seek to find new governance solutions and financial instruments to support a stable reconfiguration of nature-based social practices for more resilient communities. Further cross-sectoral support will be provided by the WP lab-exchanges. By enriching these NbTs through SIA practices we will ensure locally-sensitive, community-acceptable, and technically feasible NbTs, and provide a set of examples of how NbTs can realise their potential through SIA approaches. Combined, these processes will support our understanding of how NbTs can be scaled-up (e.g. changing policies/regulations to support NbTs) and scaled-out (e.g. increasing numbers, rolling out to different locations). Lessons learned from these three demonstrator Hubs will be synthesised in a ‘*How to Set up Resilience Hubs for Nature-based Therapies Guide*’ (D7.2).

A schematic view of how these cross-sectoral processes and Resilience Hubs will work in practice is provided in Fig.2, taking CS4 (Padua) as an example. Fig.2 also shows how key tasks across WPs lead to specific deliverables (when scaled up across all CSs) and thus represents a type of **PERT diagram** (inserted here rather than Section 3.1 to aid clarity). The Hub is the central focal point, with members drawn from different local sectors and supported through SIMRA-inspired processes and expert knowledge/advice from consortium and IEAB members. Once established, Hubs will be presented with the same “seed” NbT study design across CSs 4-6 and members stimulated to discuss the pros/cons and enablers/barriers of such a study in their locality, co-develop solutions and adapt the protocols to make them appropriate for local needs and sensitivities. Simultaneously, the four sectoral WPs and one process WP will be developing a data needs package (Ts 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1) spanning the research objectives. These processes will occur in parallel in the rural (CS5) and coastal (CS6) locations, with data outputs from the 3 CSs collated in T3.3 for subsequent distribution to the WPs for analysis. WPs 4-7 will produce sectoral specific guides that in turn feed into the overarching What Works guide (D8.2). WP7 and 8 will also synthesise process evaluation



results and metrics of how the Hubs are working as SIAs, results of which will feed into the Resilience Hub Guide (D7.2) and ultimately the overall What Works guide, which are designed to help meet GOs 3 & 4 (greater awareness and utilisation of NbTs) as discussed further in Section 2 Impact.

FIGURE 2  
**Example Case Study Collaboration**  
 Schematic of cross-sectoral collaboration and research for CS4 (Padua Urban Woods)



### 1.2.3 Directly relevant projects involving RESONATE partners and International Expert Advisory Board

RESONATE consortium members are among the most-established, funded, productive, and highly-cited researchers and practitioners in the nature-health field. Each partner provided a summary of up to 5 relevant projects in Part A of the original submission. We broadly categorise these into four types:

**a) Nature-based Therapy projects.** Between them, consortium and IEAB members are currently involved in at least 10 major NbT programmes including 4 funded through the commission: RECETAS (H2020), Green4C (Eurasmus+), GreenCare Austria (EAFRD), HEALPS2 (INTERREG); and 6 funded through national/regional bodies: Green Social Prescribing, MoveGreen, Nature-based Social Prescribing, Nature Recipes, NEST, Community for Action Prevention Study, and PaRX Canada. Some projects feed directly into specific CSs by extending ongoing methods and using existing established networks, e.g. CS5 (HEALPS2), CS6 (RECETAS), CS7 (ReST), CS8 (Move Green/NEST) and CS9 (Nature Therapies). Others feed more directly into WPs by bringing relevant insights and skills into potential NbT entrepreneurship and cost-effectiveness (WP6: Green4C/ Nature-based Social Prescribing) and NbT process evaluation (WP8: Green Social Prescribing). Major NbT programmes run by our IEAB, including PaRX Canada, Greener Cities Healthier Lives (Australia), and Stay Healthy In Nature Everyday (SHINE, USA), will support WP2 (Global Perspectives) and offer insights across the whole project.

**b) Nature-based Solutions projects.** Consortium and IEAB members also have a long history of leading and being involved in NbS projects. Current ongoing projects include Connecting Nature (H2020), GoGreenRoutes (H2020), GroundsWell (UK, MRC), RECONNECT (H2020), REGREEN (H2020), URBiNAT (H2020) and Better Parks, Healthier For All? (NHMRC, AU/UKRI, UK). A common theme across all of these projects is the need for community co-creation and innovation to achieve equitable health goals, with experiences and insights directly feeding into relevant community co-created CSs 4-6 and the development of the Resilience Hubs. Ensuring that NbSs protect environmental (as well as human) health and well-being is also an aim of several of these projects (e.g. REGREEN), whose results will directly inform WP5 (Environment). Other projects (e.g. RECONNECT) have inspired us to work with other related programmes to develop an “NbT Task Force” (see Impact).

**c) Relevant networks.** The relevant networks that consortium and IEAB members have is already extensive. Some members are also deeply embedded in specific networks with direct relevance to RESONATE activities. EHNet, for instance, are a central partner in CHAIN (The Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research) which is the leading global network for the international study for health inequalities, with direct relevance for WP4. Similarly, PMU are core members of the INTERREG-funded Forest-based Health Tourism Network which promotes cross-border development of sustainable business models for the use of forests for nature-based health tourism. The insights from this network feed into several WPs, most notably WP7, and have directly inspired the methods proposed to seed the



community co-creation discussions for CSs4-6. Finally, the University Global Partnership Network funded 'Less Netflix, More Nature!' project (Astell-Burt) is a global research network examining the acceptability of, demand for, and perceived barriers and enablers of 'green social prescriptions' across contrasting cultural, economic and climatic contexts, with insights feeding directly into WP2 (Global Perspectives) and WP7 (Society).

**d) Relevant methods.** Further projects use methods directly relevant to RESONATE. PROTECT (NIHR, UK) is a UNEXE run prospective longitudinal panel of older adults. The analytical methods used to explore environmental and behavioural predictors of dementia here will be extended to the as yet unexplored issues of nature contact before and during times of stress to build biopsychosocial resilience resources (CS2), with parallels to the Nature, Healthy Ageing and Dementia project (NHMRC, AU). Similarly, the statistical life-course methods being used in Equal-life (H2020) and Greener Cities, Healthier Lives (Hort Innovation/UOW) will be adapted to explore the role of prior and ongoing nature contact in mitigating the impact of both major life (CS1) and every day (CS3) stressful events through biopsychosocial resilience processes. Consortium member projects such as Healthy Green Hospitals (NWO, NL) and JAHEE (DG-SANTE) have already informed our metrics for measuring health and health equity outcomes, based on reviews and best-practice recommendations within those projects. The development of the Social Innovation Action Resilience Hubs will use the steps recommended by UNIPD's role in the SIMRA (H2020) project, as well as other aspects of social innovation and network-based governance solutions in agriculture, forestry, and rural development inspired by SINCERE (H2020). Finally, the cross-sectoral scenario analyses planned in WP8 will use a system dynamic modelling tool (VENSIM) to build a social-ecological model that was developed as part of the MARS (FP7) project exploring how environmental changes can impact the benefits that humans obtain from ecosystems.

### **Transdisciplinary Approach (including social sciences and humanities)**

RESONATE is inherently transdisciplinary reflecting the cross-sectoral needs of successful NbTs. Consortium members work across disciplines, with backgrounds including medicine (Dimitrova, Fleming, Lem, van den Bosch), paediatrics (Razani), immunology, molecular medicine & public health (Freidl, Hartl, Pichler), epidemiology (Astell-Burt, Dzhambov, Grellier, Litt), health policy (Costongs, Godfrey), process evaluation (Morgan Trimmer), health geography (Wheeler), medical sociology (Lovell), clinical/motivational psychology (Lymeus, Moe), environmental psychology (Elliott, Hartig, Pahl, Wells, White, Van den Berg, Van Rompey), environmental economics (O'Driscoll, Doimo), forestry (Konijnendijk, Rogelja, Secco), agriculture (Prop), marine ecology (Borja, Pouso, Uyarra), landscape architecture (Bekke-Hansen, Stigsdotter), statistical methods (Voracek), and data management (Karlsson Nyed). Most individuals already work in interdisciplinary teams in NbT research and practice, including recognised pioneers (e.g. Hartig, Stigsdotter, Van den Berg, Van den Bosch, Wells), and have demonstrable experience and core skills needed to achieve our objectives, including: global systematic and mapping reviews in the nature-health field (WP2); analysing longitudinal nature-health datasets and developing and administering NbTs (WP3); health equity assessments (WP4); environmental impact assessments (WP5); economic impact assessments and NbT financing (WP6); social and digital innovation actions, including co-creation mechanisms (WP7); and NbT process evaluation, multi-sectoral scenario analysis, and preparing overarching NbT policy documents (WP8). RESONATE is deliberately designed to represent and gather information from different interdisciplinary and sectoral perspectives through its WP structure (esp. WPs 4-7) and innovations such as the Resilience Hubs, which are designed to promote and facilitate transdisciplinary collaboration, and the sectoral specific Guides that feed into the overarching What Works guide aimed at synthesising the multi-sectoral perspectives. Our International Expert Advisory Board is composed of experts who run their own NbT programmes in Austria (Prop), Australia (Astell-Burt), Canada (Lem), and the USA (Razani, Wells), alongside experts in public patient involvement (Maguire) and environmental/ecological ethics (Poole), see also Section 3.2 (Consortium as a whole).

### **Gender, intersectionality, & socio-demographic inequalities**

Despite efforts to equalise health and well-being across genders and socio-demographic groups, including SDG 5 (Gender Equity), widespread inequalities remain. Although women tend to have higher life expectancy, they also tend to live more years with a disability, with ischemic heart disease and stroke being the leading causes of mortality<sup>80</sup>. Women and girls also report higher rates of mental health disorders across the life-span<sup>80</sup>. Importantly, these NCDs are precisely those that NbTs can address<sup>11</sup>. Nevertheless, there is also considerable evidence that men and women perceive and use greenspaces differently. While safety concerns are a widely discussed reason for women to visit urban nature less than men<sup>81</sup>, a large UK study found that being "too busy at home" was a far more important reason for women's reduced nature visits, reflecting wider gender disparities in domestic and caring roles<sup>82</sup>. Other disparities also exist. The same study found that those in the lowest vs. highest social grade, those over 65years vs. 16-34yrs, those with vs. without a long-term illness/disability, and those from an ethnic minority vs. being 'white British', were all approximately half as likely to visit nature for recreational purposes, raising the issue of intersectionality in the nature-health field. In short, those who may benefit most from nature are often those who access it least, and reversing this trend may help to reduce health inequalities, a so-called equigenetic effect<sup>12</sup>.

RESONATE takes these inequalities extremely seriously, ~~including WP4 to their exploration, and including~~ widespread efforts to make NbTs more inclusive, fair, and available to all. WP2 will investigate gender and other sources of inequality in the global Systematic Map; the large-scale longitudinal cohorts of CSs 1-3 will enable analysis of relationships between nature exposure and outcomes to be stratified on a range of potential sources of inequality, including gender, age, income, and ethnicity; CSs 4-6 will recruit approximately equal numbers of males and females to observe potential differences in both NbT outcomes and procedural factors such as drop-out rates across gender (the size of these studies will make it difficult to explore relationships for those identifying as non-binary); CSs 7-9 deliberately target under-represented groups in the nature-health field including people with clinical levels of psychological distress which is more prevalent among women (CS7), people with physical disabilities (CS8), and older adults with cognitive impairment (CS9). WP7 will stratify the analysis of awareness and acceptance by gender, and The Resilience Hubs will actively promote inclusivity and openness to all, a requirement for genuine community representation and long-term effectiveness and sustainability of NbT programmes. In addition, our IEAB member Maguire is an expert in Public Patient Involvement (PPI) and will help us ensure that all perspectives are inclusively captured and utilised across all aspects of the project. We will follow the Sex and Gender in Research (SAGER) publication guidelines in our publications and reports, and report sex/gender disaggregated analysis regardless of positive or negative findings to avoid publication bias.

### Ethics, data management, and open science

Recognising the importance and interconnectedness of ethics, data management, and open science, WP1 will oversee the coordination of all ethical, data management, and open science needs and practices and will support all partners achieve the highest standards of ethical and open science, and FAIR data management. T1.8 will produce a FAIR Data Management Plan (**D1.2**) which will be updated for subsequent reporting periods (D1.3 and D1.4) summarising the management of data including: bibliometric, biological, geospatial, observational, and self-report. Plans will include a clear variable naming convention and information on data format, file size, and anonymisation protocols. **Findability** protocols will include repository information, a DOI (where applicable), and metadata (enabling fast/efficient data location). **Accessibility** protocols will identify embargoed data and provide a timeline for full open access, and software needed for further scrutiny. We have already begun discussions on the IPR of those requesting (i.e. WPs) and collecting (i.e. CSs) data and on collaboration agreements regarding use of the data and joint publications. Following recommendations, we plan to make all anonymised data Open Access within 24 months of collection. **Interoperability** protocols will record data capture mode, equipment used for data processing and analysis, and the shared data format. **Re-usability** will be ensured by keeping full records of data provenance (incl. contributors/version tracking), research documentation (to support replication), by using open-source software (e.g. QGIS, R) where possible, and identifying an appropriate Creative Commons licence for re-use. WP1 will also support each CS produce a *Study initiation package* (**D10.5**), a *Midterm recruitment report* (**D10.6**), and a *Results posting report* (**D10.7**), where appropriate (see *Clinical Studies Annex*). Individual reports will be collated by WP1 into single overarching documents that are ethics-related mandatory deliverables located in WP10. Given that ethical issues in this area tend to focus on the rights of participants, an innovation of RESONATE's IEAB is the inclusion of an environmental ethicist (Poole) who will advise on broader ethical issues surrounding NbT's use of public/natural spaces and potential spill-overs (e.g. the rights of wildlife to be undisturbed). Further, an independent, external expert in EU Data Management law will be recruited by Mth1 (**D10.1**), to verify compliance with all ethical requirements with reference to: a) Humans, especially in relation to the inclusion of vulnerable individuals (e.g. CS9); b) Human cells / tissues (esp. CSs3-6); c) Processing of personal data, including data identifiability and data transfers (all CSs and other activities including participation in the Grand Rounds and Resilience Hubs); and d) Participation of non-EU countries (e.g. CSs1-2 and WP8). In support of Open Science, where appropriate CSs will pre-register their planned research, hypotheses, and data analysis protocols, e.g. through the Open Science Framework (OSF). For CSs where co-creation is an integral part of the process (e.g. CSs 4-6 and 9), more open-ended pre-registrations will be required. Partners will also ensure that published academic work is Open Access, and where possible Gold Open Access, and will be linked to the website even after the project is finished, so that outputs are collated in a single repository for easy accessibility. Open Science is inclusive science and PPI expert (Maguire) will help us ensure that patients and members of the public are partners in the knowledge co-creation and dissemination processes. We are acutely aware that RESONATE will be funded through public resources, and that the public is entitled to share in these processes and has a right to fully access its outcomes. Ultimately, all outcomes will be uploaded to institutional repositories, and/or Oppla or Zenodo where appropriate, and UNIVIE have agreed to continue to support these processes and update the RESONATE website for at least 5 years post-project to ensure continuation and support legacy and impact.

## 2. Impact

RESONATE will contribute to more *resilient, inclusive, healthy, and green rural, coastal, and urban*

**communities** by focusing on the first expected impact in the destination: **Rural, coastal and urban areas are developed in a sustainable, balanced and inclusive manner thanks to a better understanding of the environmental, socio-economic, behavioural, cultural and demographic drivers of change as well as deployment of digital, nature-based, social and community-led innovations.** With a focus on mainstreaming cost-effective NbTs, and how these can be linked to the existing NbS infrastructure, the relationships between our results, outputs, dissemination plan, impact pathways, expected outcomes and impacts are summarised in Fig.3.

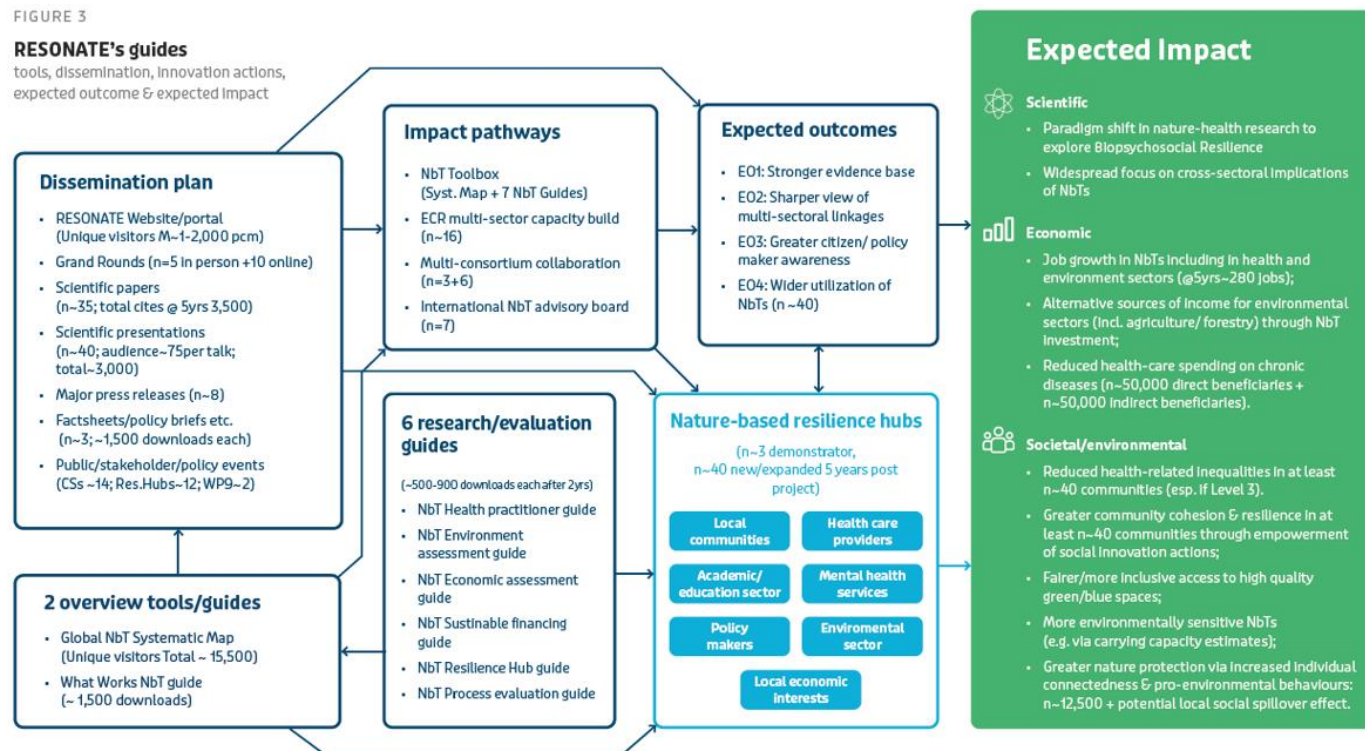
## 2.1 Project’s pathways towards impact

Below we outline the impact we intend to have beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project and the pathways we will establish during the project to increase the probability these impacts will occur. Here, our general objectives (GOs) are mapped to the call’s Expected Outcomes (EOs).

FIGURE 3

### RESONATE’s guides

tools, dissemination, innovation actions, expected outcome & expected impact



**Scientific Impact.** The high-quality evidence that will be produced by RESONATE’s unique and complementary design will achieve lasting scientific impact by contributing to two key changes: 1) a **paradigm shift in NbT research** resulting in new knowledge and evidence of biopsychosocial resilience processes that can causally explain nature-health relationships; and 2) an evidence-based understanding of the **cross-sectoral implications of NbTs** beyond health including equity, environment, economy, and society.

**Pathways:** 1) A paradigm shift will be obtained through our broad set of complementary scientific studies, which will provide evidence on the interrelations between the social-ecological resilience potential of bringing nature closer to people (NbSs), and the biopsychosocial resilience potential of bringing people closer to nature (NbTs). By providing evidence on effectiveness and biopsychosocial resilience pathways, we will have significant impact on the academic community and a high potential for science to policy and practice translation of our results. By signing the Consortium Agreement, all members will agree to continuing to produce scientific and research outputs and communicate and disseminate project results after the project ends. Based on previous EU projects we expect, in addition to our original NBRT paper currently under review, a total of **n~35 peer-reviewed papers**. In addition, we have costed for each institution to present at 2-3 **international academic conferences (n~40)**. In Fig.3 this pathway (*Pathway 1*) is represented by the direct arrow from dissemination to EOs. Our academic outputs will also reach our EOs through our involvement in the proposed multi-consortium collaboration and by being disseminated globally by our IEAB through their ambassadorial role (*Pathway 2 – Impact Pathway Box, Fig. 3*). 2) To increase the knowledge and scientific focus on cross-sectoral implications of NbTs, we have three key mechanisms. First, the **cross-sectoral scenario analysis** (Ts 8.5, 8.6, 8.7) described under WP8 will provide researchers with a working template for how to conduct such complex data integration (**O4.1**). Second, our toolbox of resources for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers (**O4.2**) will provide clear step-by-step guidelines on how to support, monitor, and assess cross-sectoral integration in new and existing NbT programmes. Specifically, the Guides will contain details on NbT health equity



issues (D4.1), environmental impact assessment (D5.1), **economic impact assessment (D6.1)**, sources and mechanisms for finance (D6.2) and process evaluation (D8.1), as well as laying out how the scientific community can help establish SIAs in the NbT field through supporting the co-creation and implementation of Resilience Hubs (D7.2), and an overarching generic ‘What Works’ guide (D8.2) detailing how all the pieces fit together (*Pathway 2 – Toolbox, Fig. 3*). Third, we will promote a cross-sectoral working legacy within the NbT field by supporting a well-funded (€40,000) programme of **beneficiary lab-exchanges** which will enable researchers from specific WPs to undertake visits to other RESONATE partner institutions with different backgrounds and skills sets (e.g. economic vs. process evaluation). These exchanges will help deliver optimally-integrated evaluation and assessment protocols to be applied across multiple Case Studies. Integrated understanding of the requirements of other partners and disciplines is a critical part of RESONATE’s attempt to break down disciplinary silos. These funds are currently distributed equally (8k each) between the five WP partners that we envisage will benefit most from these cross-partner visit opportunities (UNIVIE, AZTI, UNIPD, NBSI, UNEXE) with the aim of funding up to four visits per partner (one per year). If the funds are not used by the currently allocated partner we will transfer them to another partner for these purposes in discussion with the Project Manager.

**Targets/beneficiaries** will primarily be the rapidly growing groups of scientists globally (including RESONATE’s ECR community) researching nature-health relationships. A recent review highlighted the exponential growth in the field with the number of publications rising ten-fold between 2003 (~230 papers) and 2018 (~2300 papers) alongside a significant increase in the number of journals publishing these topics across various disciplines including e.g. epidemiology, public health, psychology, geography, urban planning, forestry, and environmental economics<sup>17</sup>.

**Scale/significance:** Consortium members’ track records means we have high potential to achieve extensive readership/citations; the consortium contains many of the most highly-cited authors in the nature-health and associated fields e.g. >25,000 cites (Hartig, Borja), >20,000 (Fleming), >15,000 (White), >10,000 (Konijnendijk, Van den Berg, Wheeler), >5,000 (Astell-Burt, Corbett, Pahl, Stigsdotter, Van den Bosch, Wells). Based on H2020 BlueHealth (see examples in Table 2.1), and using WP9’s coordination, dissemination, and promotion package we estimate an average citation rate after 5 years of ~100 per paper, total **~3,500 cites in the medium term**. With an estimated average audience of n~75 per scientific presentation (keynotes will be larger, symposia talks smaller), we conservatively predict a **total academic presentation audience of n~3,000**. WP9 will help co-ordinate academic engagement, e.g. by helping organise conference symposia with several talks for greater project impact (T9.5).

**Barriers/mitigation:** An important barrier for academic reach is journal paywalls, which disproportionately limit access for certain sectors of the scientific community (e.g. those in lower income countries). To mitigate this issue, RESONATE adopts open-access approaches with partners including budgets for Gold Open Access publications (T1.9) and by adopting FAIR and open data management principles so that the academic community has access to the data generated during the project for subsequent use (T1.8).

**Economic impact.** RESONATE’s economic/technological impact will depend largely on the number of new NbT programmes the project inspires to be successfully implemented and the number of existing programmes that are inspired to scale-up and/or scale-out their operations.

**Pathways:** We envisage two main pathways to achieving these impacts. 1) The **Global NbT Systematic Map** conducted by WP2 (D2.2) will collate existing peer-reviewed programmes in a single on-line interactive mapping tool, hosted on the RESONATE website from which those interested in starting new, or expanding existing, NbTs will have access to a global repository of best-practice projects from which to draw inspiration and learn about the enablers and barriers to sustained success. The Global NbT Systematic Map will be hosted on the RESONATE website at least 3 years after the project ends (*Pathway 2 – Toolbox Fig.3*). Drawing on previous projects (e.g. H2020 BlueHealth), we predict **~2,000 unique visitors to the website per month** from the second year on, of which ~25% will actively interact with the Systematic Map at least once. Between launch (Mth41) and 24 months post project, this would suggest n~15,500 unique visitors. Although hard to estimate how many of those engaging with the Systematic Map will be inspired to establish new or expand existing NbT programs, even if it were only ~0.25% that would still be n~40 new/expanded initiatives, which is a significant number, given that NbTs are still relatively uncommon. 2) WP6 is devoted to understanding the economic implications of NbTs and will produce two key guideline documents to help new/expanding initiatives better understand and fulfil their economic potential. First the ‘*NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide*’ (D6.1) will develop evidence-based scenarios about what a scaled-up/scaled-out offering of selected NbTs might look like including job creation and local economic impacts, which potential providers can use to create business cases when seeking funding. Second, the ‘*NbT Sustainable Financing Guide*’ (D6.2) will build on the work of the Green4C project for the Green Care sector to conduct a market analysis of the supply and demand potential for NbTs in different sectors (green space management, rural development, and forestry) and analyse the public and private business case for NbTs, again offering practical support for new/existing NbTs to develop clear business cases and understanding of the funding networks and landscape that may be willing to support them. They will also identify financial mechanisms for Resilience Hubs to become permanent (*Pathway*

**Targets/beneficiaries:** The main targets of these two pathways are: a) those wishing to set up new or expand existing NbTs; b) the public/private sector actors interested in supporting them financially; and c) those who may be willing to host them. The Systematic Map will offer those setting up NbTs inspiration and suggestions about what is possible and some of the financial challenges that need to be overcome, and the specific economic impact and sustainable financing guides will offer clear evidence and practical steps for how to fund such programmes. Potential funders may include public health bodies or health insurers who need to know that such programmes can be cost-effective, and NbT hosts including private land owners who need to estimate the returns from various activities on their land (e.g. harvesting forests vs. supporting NbTs) before offering support. Analysis of the UK's Green Gym programme using Social Return on Investment (SROI)<sup>83</sup> approaches, suggested that for every £1 invested, the social value in terms of health, environmental, economic, and social outcomes was £2.38<sup>84</sup>, suggesting that significant returns can be realized if cross-sectoral actors appreciate the mutual co-benefits.

**Scale/significance:** If n~40 new/expanded initiatives are inspired by the Systematic Map and use the guides to help them set up or expand their projects this could still have significant economic impact. Using the Austrian Green Care sector as an example<sup>85</sup>, there were 39 Green Care initiatives running in 2019/2020, each engaging n~250 users per year and employing n~7 staff. Assuming a similar scale in new NbTs and a doubling of capacity of existing ones this suggests that n~40 new/expanded projects might reach n~10,000 new individuals per year and employ 280 new people. Importantly, these jobs will not just be in the health and social care sectors, but will also extend to sectors such as agriculture and forestry given the expertise required to run NbTs on often “working landscapes”<sup>86</sup>. Over five years this would equal n~50,000 clients, resulting in potentially significant economic impact through **reduced health-care spending on chronic diseases**. Once WP6 has conducted the cost-effectiveness analysis to be included in the ‘NbT Economic Impact Assessment Guide’ (D6.1) we will also be able to quantify what these savings could look like. We believe our estimates are conservative because: a) they do not include the potential use of the Economic Guides by NbT practitioners looking to scale-up and scale-out existing programmes who have not engaged with the Systematic Map; and b) an assumption that existing programmes merely double in size may be underestimating the true expansion potential (e.g. CS7 aims to scale-out to multiple locations).

**Barriers/mitigation:** The first barrier to RESONATE's economic impact through these pathways is lack of awareness of the on-line NbT mapping tool and the NbT economic/financing guides. The communication, dissemination, and exploitation strategy is expanded in Section 2.2, but here we note that the mapping tool will be promoted via the five face-to-face and ten online Grand Rounds (T2.4), including ones supported by our IEAB in Canada, East and West USA, and Australia, which between them are estimated to reach n~3,000 researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders. More broadly, a lack of mid- to long-term financing is a barrier for existing NbTs<sup>38</sup>, which is why our Guides will be designed to mitigate the concerns of potential investors, hosts and policy/decision makers by detailing issues such as cost-effectiveness and SROI, as part of outlining the market potential. We recognise that demonstrating cost-effectiveness is no guarantee that projects will be funded. Many Level 1 and Level 2 health promotion and disease prevention initiatives providing significant SROIs are consistently underfunded, in part because policy maker and societal focus tends to be on Level 3 disease treatments and therapies<sup>87</sup>. RESONATE will address this barrier by meeting GO3/EO3 and raising public and policy maker awareness about the economic and other benefits of NbTs in order to make them a more widely acceptable tool in the health and other sectors and stimulate demand among the public (T9.3, T9.4, see Section 2.2).

**Societal/environmental Impact.** Arguably, RESONATE's largest impacts will be societal and environmental. Most of these impacts will be achieved by RESONATE's capacity to make NbTs more widespread and mainstream, in part through greater awareness/acceptance across all sectors of society including health, environment, and finance.

**Pathways:** Some of the societal and environmental impacts will be achieved through the pathways discussed above i.e. the Toolbox incl. the Systematic Map and Guides and cross-sectoral silo-busting lab exchanges between partners. Of most direct relevance here are those Guides with most societal/environmental impact potential including those for health (D4.1) and the environment (D5.1), as well as the *Resilience Hub Guide* (D7.2), and the overarching *What Works Guide* (D8.2). These Guides will together provide methods for monitoring and promoting: a) inclusivity and fairness in access to and use of NbTs for health promotion and disease prevention; b) the empowerment of local communities through the engagement, co-design, and co-creation activities embedded in the Resilience Hubs; and c) environmental sustainability and the need to “do no harm” to the environment or those directly affected by it. In order to achieve societal impact, the guides will need to be well advertised, easily accessible, and easy to follow/use, and RESONATE will adopt a plethora of measures (see 2.2) to ensure this happens (*Pathway 2 - Toolbox*). Lastly, on the local level, the Resilience Hubs (and their broader lessons) will feed directly into the EOs by leading to increased stakeholder engagement in identifying solutions for equitable, sustainable, financially viable and locally acceptable NbTs (*Pathway 3*, represented by the direct arrow from the Hubs to the EOs in Fig. 3). To support this process, we will be working with our demonstrator Hubs to draft Memoranda of Understanding concerning continuation of these

pilot projects beyond the official timeline of the project.

**Targets/beneficiaries:** There are at least four beneficiaries of these activities. 1) The most immediate beneficiaries will be practitioners establishing new, or scaling-up and/or scaling-out existing, NbTs through the provision of guides for assessing core societal (e.g. equity) and environmental (e.g. pro-environmental attitudes) goals, as well as a practical guide on how to establish the Resilience Hubs using local SIA approaches. When set alongside economic evidence to support the business case, stronger evidence of a given programme's broader societal and environmental co-benefits will help them secure more decision-maker support and sustainable funding from a broader set of parties. 2) Arguably the most important beneficiaries will be the NbT end-users themselves, especially those engaging with Level 2 programmes to reduce their risk of various Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), and those with existing conditions engaging with Level 3 programmes to manage and/or reduce their symptoms and traditional health-care use (e.g. medication, doctor visits). As NbTs may be particularly beneficial for under-served members of society<sup>12</sup>, they may help to reduce health inequalities, a key societal goal<sup>88</sup> to be explored and promoted in WP4. Finally, caring for ill relatives also has a toll on the well-being of family members<sup>89</sup>, thus healthier end-users also have positive spillover potential for those closest to them. 3) A third societal beneficiary are members of the local communities where NbTs are hosted, especially those established using a Resilience Hub (or similar) approach. The Hubs are designed to empower local communities to engage with the process of NbT co-creation from the start, giving local actors and stakeholders a voice and promoting procedural justice, key elements of building more resilient local communities that are able to come together in times of challenge. By bringing together those looking to build local social-ecological resilience, e.g. through NbSs, with those looking to promote public health via NbTs, and giving voice to other local actors, the Resilience Hubs will provide a clear forum to promote lasting positive outcomes (for recent examples involving UNIVIE, UNEXE & ISGLOBAL consortium members see<sup>90,91</sup>). 4) The final beneficiary is the environment including other species and in turn people positively affected by environmental protection and/or improvement. WP5 will focus on assessing the environmental impacts of NbTs, both negative and positive, identifying ways to limit the former and promote the latter, with support from IEAB expertise on environmental ethics/justice (Poole<sup>92</sup>). Although CSs 4-8 focus primarily on deriving benefits from the environment, CS9 will also look at activities that potentially benefit the environment, and the broader review of the literature (T5.1) will also help identify potential environmental benefits from NbT programmes that directly benefit environmental goals, e.g. conservation activities<sup>93</sup>. Broader environmental benefits in terms of greater nature connectedness and more pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours will also be examined and quantified by WP5.

**Scale/significance:** Taking the potential n~40 new/expanded NbT projects inspired by the project as an example, carefully designed, inclusive NbTs may help to reduce health inequalities and promote local empowerment and community resilience in at least 40 communities in the medium term. Further, assuming each NbT end-user has at least one person indirectly positively affected by improvements in their health status, the overall impact of improved health from these 40 projects could reach >100,000 individuals in the first five years, with even greater benefits over a longer period, and with greater expansion of the NbT offering. Particular equity benefits might be achievable from the adoption of Level 3 NbTs like those in CSs 7-9 which already target under-served groups and have a "leave no one behind" agenda. Importantly, the scaling-out potential of these types of NbT are being explicitly explored in the project, for instance through CS7's extension of the ReST programme to new Swedish localities, through the monitoring of enablers and barriers to scaling-out potential explored using the process evaluations (Ts8.1-8.3), and through the scaling-up/out analyses conducted in T5.3, T6.4 and T8.7. Finally, if we assume that at least half of the new/extended NbTs use multiple locations (e.g. n~3 local woodland sites) to reduce adaptation and boredom of end-users, this would result in potentially n~80 (20x3 + 20x1) locations where, if carefully designed and managed, significant improvements in local environmental quality and biodiversity could be achieved. This would be especially the case for NbTs that co-design settings for both health promotion and environmental enhancement goals (e.g. CS8) and those which involve active environmental engagement (e.g. CS9). Although hard to quantify in absolute terms, even if only 25% of end-users developed stronger nature connectedness and more pro-environmental attitudes as a result of taking part in these NbTs, that would still result in improvements among some 12,500 individuals in the first five years. Moreover, given that social norms are powerful determinants of pro-environmental behaviours<sup>94</sup>, simultaneous shifts in behaviour among significant numbers within a local community may also inspire others to act more sustainably even if they themselves have not directly been involved in the programme. Again, it is hard to estimate these effects here because the relevant data does not yet exist, but a key WP5 aim is to estimate such impacts.

**Barriers/mitigation:** A significant barrier may be the development of new and the scaling-up and/or scaling out of existing NbTs that do not take a cross-sectoral locally inclusive approach, but instead attempt to implement programmes with minimal local consultation/engagement and focus on specific sectoral goals. Local community resilience requires engagement and collaboration with multiple actors, stakeholders, and groups, and the resilience (i.e. long-term sustainability) of NbTs is no different. A recent systematic review of environmental, health, wellbeing, social and equity effects of urban green space interventions (UGS)<sup>72</sup> found that the most impactful ones were those



with a core co-creation, locally inclusive agenda, and argued that “the true potential of UGS has not been realised as studies have typically under-evaluated UGS interventions by not taking account of their multifunctional nature”. Our cross-sectoral, community-focused Resilience Hubs are deliberately designed to meet this need, and by providing three demonstrator examples (CSs 4-6) and subsequent clear Guidelines on how to set up and manage such Hubs, NbT practitioners will be equipped to mitigate these risks themselves.

## 2.2 Measures to maximise impact - Communication, dissemination, and exploitation

To ensure maximisation of impacts, RESONATE dedicates a specific objective O3.1 to raising public, stakeholder and policy maker awareness (EO3). While recognising that communication, dissemination, and exploitation relate to all Os they are particularly relevant to EO3, which focuses on increasing public, stakeholder, and policy maker awareness of the potential health and well-being benefits of nature, especially through NbTs, via O3.1: Communication/Dissemination and O3.2: Multi-consortium collaboration, as well as O4.2: Exploitation via tools & guides. A full Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (DEP) will be delivered by Mth6 (D9.2) explaining how communication will run throughout the whole project. This will be updated at Mth36 (D9.3) and Mth48 (D9.4). Dissemination will start as soon as results emerge, and exploitation will begin once actionable deliverables are ready. A summary of activities, linked to specific Tasks, across four overlapping stages, is presented in Table 2.1. We will build on our initial visual identity to produce a set of project templates and promotion materials, ensuring a unified style to all DEC activities. Interactive project brochures (e.g. with QR codes) in multiple languages will promote an inclusive approach to meeting GO3/EO3. Although WP9 is the dedicated WP, other WPs will contribute essential sector specific contributions as reflected by person-months allocation to WP9 (>10% of total). Activities will be overseen by a communications team led by WP9 with representatives from selected WPs that will meet twice a year to evaluate the success of project communication activities and adjust activities accordingly. With the signing of the Consortium Agreement all partners will agree to communicate and disseminate project outputs and results well after the project ends to ensure legacy.

**Table 2.1. Dissemination, exploitation, and communication (DEC) activities by stage.**

Activity	Outputs	Target audiences	Expected use and impact
<b>Stage 1: Mth1~11</b>			
Visual identity	Finalised RESONATE visual identity, logo, document & talk templates (+ funding source).	Internal project partners.	All partners use project ‘brand’ & house-style for their outputs and communication.
Website 1.0 (T9.1)	Website launched by Mth5 outlining project structure, aims, and goals. Password protected partner section and Resilience Hub platforms.	All target audiences incl. researchers, practitioners, sectoral stakeholders. Platforms for internal & Resilience Hub use.	N~500 unique visitors per month by Mth11, incl. local stakeholders involved in CSs & Resilience Hubs (~50 per CS/Hub incl. end-users).
DEC Plan (T9.2)	Delivered by Mth6; Living document, reviewed bi-annually by comms sub-group, and updated Mth36 & 48	Project partners, EU project officer.	Lay out DEC activities & partner expectations regarding comms. and protocols.
Resilience Hubs (T4.1, T5.1, T6.1, T7.2, T7.3, T8.1)	3 Resilience Hubs established and CSs 4-6 co-designed with cross-sectoral stakeholder interactive dialogue.	Local NbT stakeholders in Padua, Salzburg, & Barcelona + reps. of WPs3-8.	N~20 active stakeholders (incl. PPI) per Hub with Hub specific website pages for coordination/communication.
Scientific publications/ Presentations (T9.5)	Protocol paper submitted; Hub stakeholder briefs (in 3 languages) summarising approach.	Paper targeting scientific audience; Brief targeting NbT CS/Hub stakeholders.	Based on BlueHealth protocol paper <sup>95</sup> : n~ 12.5k reads; 160 cites @5 years. Brief read by ~100 local Hub actors.
NbT Network (T1.4)	Multi-project working network established with other funded NbT and related projects.	Potential NbT Network partners (n=2 + ~6 others).	Plan to coordinate joint DEC activities for maximum impact avoiding duplication (D1.1).
<b>Stage 2: Mth12~48</b>			
Website 2.0 (T9.1)	First refresh with expanded social media, blog, podcasts.	All target audiences.	N~1000 unique visitors per month (based on BlueHealth).
Grand Rounds (T2.4/T1.6)	5 face-to-face: 2 in Europe and 3 hosted in international partner countries (funded under T1.6) and 10 online webinars.	All target audiences directly/indirectly through streaming/downloads.	Target N~50 per face-to-face meeting (Total~250); Via online webinars (N~200 each). Total reach n~2,250.



Resilience Hubs (T4.1, T5.1, T6.1, T7.2, T7.3, T8.1)	Ongoing two-way communications between Hub actors and project partners to successfully deliver CSs 4-6.	Local N stakeholders in Padua, Salzburg, & Barcelona + reps. of WPs3-8.	Provides inspiration to scale up/out NbTs at CS sites, and provides examples for further dissemination (D7.2).
Social media activities (T9.3/T9.4)	Weekly summaries of major advances on social media posts incl. Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook etc. with a project-specific hashtag.	All target audiences, with dedicated posts for specific audiences (e.g. health sector, forestry etc.) and CS localities.	Linkedin and Twitter pages have at least at least n~1000 followers by Mth18 & n~2000 followers by project end.
Blogs and podcasts (T9.3/T9.4)	20 blogs, 10 podcasts in total focusing on key project findings as well as on telling service user stories ('storytelling approach').	All project target audiences, with focus on policymakers, health professionals, wider public (service users). Local/national audiences across all sectors e.g. Local Health Boards & Local Action Groups of the EU Rural Dev. Prog	Target audience for each blog/podcast n ~400. <u>N.B. Social media/blogs/podcasts begin in Stage 1 &amp; significant increase during stage 2.</u> > 100 attendees per event (+ online Ps) total n~3000. Aim to generate interest in NbTs as workable local/national cross-sectoral initiatives. ~20-40 per event. Ongoing two-way dialogue.
Events (T1.4/T9.3/T9.4)	~14 CS linked events	Local actors and stakeholders e.g.: WHO Europe, EUF, EUSTAFOR, USSE; World Urban Parks, EUPHA, NATURA2000	Clear evidence-based messages targeting policy-level shifts needed to make NbTs mainstream.
<i>Events will continue into Stage 3 (not repeated below due to space)</i>	12 Resilience Hub events (4 per Hub across the lifespan) 2 High-level events bringing all the pieces together (e.g. 'policy breakfasts') run by WP9 + <i>Multi-consortium events</i>	Meetings incl.; EU Green Week; European Public Health Conf.; Healing Power of the Alps.	Based on 2017 BH paper <sup>96</sup> up to 350 cites per paper @5 years. Average presentation audience n~75 (total n~3,000).
Scientific publications/ Presentations (T9.5)	Based on BlueHealth ~24/35 papers submitted. 3 x academic presentations per partner (total n~40).	General public but also high-level policy makers respond to press coverage.	Potential reach n >500,000 per story (multiple past papers of team ranked in AAAS top 50 annual Altmetric scores).
Press releases and popular press stories (T9.3)	2-3 per year of major findings. Work in advance with national and local journalists to craft press stories.		
<b>Stage 3: Mth36~48</b>			
Website 3.0 (T9.1)	Second refresh with focus on Systematic Map and Toolbox Guides for direct download.	All target audiences, esp. cross-sectoral policymakers & funders.	N~2000 unique visitors per month (based on BlueHealth), higher after press releases.
Toolbox Guides (T4.4, T5.4, T6.4, T6.5, T7.3, T8.4, T8.8)	6 x sector specific and 1 x 360° 'What Works' Guide of key findings, giving detailed guidance on how to measure sectoral parameters, identify finance, & set up Hubs.	All key project target audiences. Online Tutorials will help target audience optimise their use of the Guides	Based on BH and 'Nature on Prescription Guide' <sup>97</sup> : n~500-1500 downloads @ 2yrs post launch. Key resources for establishing & scaling-up/scaling out NbTs.
Press releases & stories (T9.3)	Final 2-3 press releases/media stories.	General public, High level policy makers.	Potential reach n >500,000 per story.
Factsheets and policy briefs (T9.3/T9.4)	~4 factsheets & ~4 policy briefs summarising outputs and guides, public facing with primary dissemination online.	High level policy makers from different sectors, as well as e.g., land owners and managers.	Target reach n~500 per factsheet /policy brief based on consortium experience (e.g. EU level).
<b>Stage 4: Mth45~≥108 (Legacy)</b>			
Website 4.0 (T9.1)	Final refresh before official end but regular updating by UNIVIE for 5yrs post project.	All target audiences and potential Toolbox Guide users.	Gradual drop off over first 2yrs (~1000 pcm), yrs3-5 (~500 pcm).
Legacy plan (T9.1, T1.9)	Document outlining partner agreement to FAIR data management, Open Science, and comms. beyond project.	Internal project partners; All future potential users of the data, scientists, NGOs etc.	Partner commitments to project for at least 5yrs, e.g. data accessibility, talks, open access publications, etc.

Scientific publications/ Presentat. (T9.5) NbT Task Force (T1.5)	Final ~10/35 papers submitted. Open access/conference fees paid for by partners after end. Continued collaboration with other funded projects to keep NbT Task Force flourishing	Papers/ Talks targeting scientific audience; NbT stakeholders. NbT Task Force partners.	Total expected cites of all 35 papers @5 years n~3500. Total talk attendance n~3000. Avoid a “cliff-edge” @48Mths and maintain momentum for mainstreaming NbTs.
Funding	Commitment to seeking funding to extend Knowledge Exchange beyond project end.	Potential impact funders e.g. UK Impact Accelerator Accounts.	≥ 5 small-medium impact grants awarded to different partners by 2yrs post project.

**03.1: The role of the Website.** The RESONATE website, delivered initially in Mth5 (D9.1), updated throughout, and with annual refreshes, will be key for maximising impact. It will be developed into a portal and one-stop-shop for evidence-based NbT’s in Europe, with an important global dimension by hosting WP2’s Systematic Map. The website will summarise the aims of the project, team members, activities, how to get involved, a repository of resources including the Toolbox of NbT Guides, factsheets, policy briefs, open access scientific publications, etc., and host the interactive Systematic Map, specific Resilience Hub information for helping to coordinate the three demonstrator projects, as well as talks, podcasts, and blogs summarising activities and progress. A password protected area will provide project partners a location to store and exchange documents not for public dissemination. A key innovation of the website will be the hosting of a Nature-based Therapy forum that helps develop a cross-sectoral NbT community in Europe. The work of other projects such as Green4C, RECETAS, and other forums such as the Togetherness Hub will inform its design. Live links to the project’s social media streams will enhance the website’s dynamic nature. The consortium, and WP9 lead (NBSI), have extensive experience developing highly-rated EU-funded project websites (e.g. <https://bluehealth2020.eu/>; <https://www.greenforcare.eu/>; <https://recetasproject.eu/>) and will ensure it is attractive, end-user focused, and contains an easy to navigate portal where all documents/papers/guides/tools etc. can be downloaded. Based on estimates from previous EU projects (e.g. BlueHealth) we estimate *unique visitors per calendar month* to be ~500pcm in Year 1, ~1,000 pcm in Yr2, ~2,000 pcm in Yrs3-4, ~1,000 pcm first year post and ~500pcm second year post, with peaks of ~4,000 after press releases.

**03.1: Media activities.** Traditional tools will include highly-coordinated press releases of major findings (n=8). Consortium members have extensive experience of mass print/digital media (including radio/television), with many members being the “go to experts” on nature and health in their respective countries. Previous reach analysis suggests messages are potentially reaching ≥500,000 people per release. Major press releases entail considerable planning, including translation and coordination with journal editors and journalists before a paper/report is made public. Accordingly, and to avoid story-fatigue, we plan approximately one major release every six-months from months 12-48. Traditional media activities will be enriched and enhanced by developing a RESONATE social media identity which will feature regular updates from across the consortium, and podcasts and short ‘video abstracts’ of key activities and results for widespread accessibility. With consortium members already having several thousand followers on platforms such as Twitter between them, these activities will significantly contribute to both increasing awareness (GO3/EO3), and public/policy-maker justification for wider NBT implementation (GO4/EO4).

**03.2: Events and cross-project collaboration.** In addition to the presentation of findings at academic conferences, regional meetings, and local and European policy maker events, RESONATE will host and support events that reach higher level policy makers and avoid the kind of “clash of messages” that can occur when three projects funded under the same call are all trying to communicate their specific findings with the same busy high-level targets. To this end, WP1 (Management) will establish close links with the other projects funded under this and related calls through *joint activities, workshops, and integrated communication and dissemination activities*, both within the EU and beyond. Within the EU, we propose a multi-consortium collaboration of ~9 partners, including the three consortia funded under this call, three on-going NbS/NbT projects we lead/are involved in (i.e. Green4C, RECETAS, Go Green Routes), and at least three consortia from related calls (e.g. HORIZON-CL6: 2021-BIODIV-01-05; 2022-BIODIV-01-03; 2021-COMMUNITIES-01-06; and 2022-COMMUNITIES-01-05/02-01). In particular we envisage a collaboration similar to a Network Nature Task Force (<https://networknature.eu/networknature/nature-based-solutions-task-forces>) for NbTs. Realistically, impact will be greater if NbT and NbS projects collaborate and share insights, expertise, and comparative advantage, and coordinate interactions with busy high-level stakeholders/policy-makers (e.g. EU level ‘policy breakfasts’ n~2).

Following discussions with the two other projects funded under the ‘Horizon-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-02: Developing nature-based therapy for health and well-being’ call, i.e. NATURELAB and GreenMe, we can confirm at the Description of Action (DoA) stage that we will align our efforts in this regard. This will be facilitated by having no duplication of research site locations. Together we agreed to include the following text in each of our

DoAs: The coordinators of the three projects agree to coordinate their Communication and Dissemination strategies and stakeholder engagement plans to promote synergies and reduce potential conflicts (e.g. in terms of demands on specific stakeholder groups). To this end the coordinators will meet (in-person or virtually) after the projects have started and at least once annual for the duration of the projects, to update each other on activities and plans. Respective consortium team members with associated responsibilities will be in regular contact with those charged with similar tasks in the other two consortia. Project coordinators are welcome, but not required, to attend the yearly consortium meetings of the other projects, and will receive a timely invitation and respect all confidentiality issues associated with the meeting. Regardless of their presence at these meetings, each project coordinator agrees to provide a summary (video and/or PPT) of the project outcomes (or project outline, at the start) that will be shared at the consortium meetings, ensuring that all the three consortia are well informed and can better foresee and pursue joint initiatives. All events and other joint initiatives will be described in the periodic reports. We have set aside €6k to support these activities and will explore ways in which we, as a group, can fund support structures for NbT researchers and practitioners after the end of this cluster of projects. A report summarising all DEC activities will be submitted at the end of the project in Mth 45 (D9.5).

**04.2: The role of the Toolbox of NbT Guides + Online Tutorials.** The Guides outlined in 2.1 are key deliverables for RESONATE and form an important part of its impact and potential exploitation. When combined into a toolbox they are designed to support interested parties set up new and/or scale-up and scale-out existing NbTs across Europe and beyond (GO4/EO4) and thus help to make NbTs a more mainstream part of health promotion/disease prevention. To support our target audiences use the Guides optimally, individual Tutorials will be produced to accompany each Guide's release following the approach developed by PMU in the EU funded Healing Alps (HEALPS) project. The tutorials will guide viewers through the key steps of the document using RESONATE CSs as worked examples. The Guides/Tutorials will come online between Mths 30-42. Given that website visits during this period are estimated to drop from ~2,000pcm to ~500pcm 2 years post-project we estimate the guides will be accessed by ~30,000 unique site visitors by two-years post project. Again, based on previous projects we expect an average **download rate** of 5% for the high-level guides and factsheets (e.g. "What Works"), 3% for moderate-level guides ("Resilience Hub"), and 1.5% for more technical guides (e.g. "Environmental assessment"). This would equate to: n~1,500 downloads of the What Works Guide/Factsheets, and n~500-900 for the more technical guides. The former estimate is consistent with downloads of UNEXE's high-level 'Handbook for Nature on Prescription' after 2 years<sup>97</sup>. We would expect the majority of those downloading Guides to engage with the Tutorials.

**International External Advisory Board (IEAB).** More details on the members of the IEAB and the expertise they bring to the project are provided in Section 3.2. In addition to their advisory role, IEAB members have agreed to act as international ambassadors for the project and actively communicate, disseminate, and share projects insights and outputs globally among their networks. To ensure they are fully engaged with the project and can experience various aspects directly, and better act as project ambassadors we have set aside funds for them to fully engage with the project in two key ways. First, we will be able to fund each of the 7 members attend each of the four Annual General Meetings, at an approximate cost of €1k per EU-based member and €3k per Non-EU-based member (including travel, hotels, subsistence etc.) per AGM. Second, we have allocated funds for each of the four non-EU IEAB members to host a researcher from one of the EU Beneficiaries to support the running of a locality specific Grand Round (WP2, T2.5) and/or learn more about the successful NbTs run by/with our IEAB members. We envisage each trip/lab-visit will be approximately four weeks in duration (the minimal estimated time needed to organise a Grand Round and learn about an ongoing NbT in one of the host localities) with a cost of each trip of approximately €8k. These funds are currently distributed equally (€8k each) between the four WP partners that we envisage will benefit most from these IEAB visit opportunities (UNIVIE, ISGLOBAL, EHNet, ETIFOR). If the funds are not used by the currently allocated partner we will transfer them to another partner for this purpose in discussion with the Project Manager.

**Intellectual property rights, knowledge management, and protection.** Intellectual property rights will be defined in the Consortium Agreement (CA), jointly with procedures for data and knowledge management and protection. WPs 1 & 10 will coordinate these aspects of the project. The RESONATE consortium will share their own experience, innovation, and intellectual property rights to create new results that they would not be able to develop alone and in the same timeframe, without infringing any intellectual property rights belonging to individual participants. Knowledge management and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will be addressed in full compliance with the rules identified by the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement. A detailed description of the Intellectual Property Rights agreement (IPR) will be part of the Consortium Agreement (CA) signed by all project partners. Mechanisms will be implemented to ensure adequate communication with regard to IPR between the appropriate partners is in place. Background IP (pre-existing knowledge, e.g. the Sensory App. already developed as part of CS8) and sideground IP (knowledge produced by the partners but outside the realms of RESONATE) will remain the property

of the partners introducing it. The CA will be used to identify cases in which background and sideground IP can be made accessible for other partners (e.g., potential use of CS8's App with CS9 clients). Ownership, rights, and access to knowledge produced during the project (foreground IP) will be handled according to the partners' contributions. Examples here include the on-line interactive, Systematic Map (WP) and the concept of Resilience Hubs (WP7). Where several partners have jointly carried out work in which their respective share of the work cannot be ascertained, they will have joint ownership of such foreground IP. New knowledge created after the formal termination of the collaboration will be considered as postground IP. Dispute or conflicts arising from the handling or sharing of IP will be clarified internally by the RESONATE steering committee. Manuscripts, which aim to be open access, will be reviewed by partners to ensure that IP is not disseminated without appropriate protection. European legislation and privacy laws will be adhered to during all project activities, including by international partners. Where needed, additional national-level legislation and private laws will be respected.



**Table 2.2 Key elements of the impact section**

SPECIFIC NEEDS	EXPECTED RESULTS	D & E & C MEASURES
<p><i>What are the specific needs that triggered this project?</i></p> <p>Despite growing interest in Nature-Based Therapies (NbTs) to improve health and well-being, they are yet to become mainstream due to ongoing uncertainties and knowledge gaps related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What counts as an NbT and what is their relationship to NbSs;</li> <li>2. The perceived value/acceptability/linkages of NbTs by and among stakeholders including service users, health professionals, land-owners, managers, &amp; stewards, potential funders, policy makers, and wider society;</li> <li>3. Which types of NbT “work” in terms of providing sustainable improvements for people’s physical and mental health (i.e. efficacy);</li> <li>4. The mechanisms and processes behind why different NbTs might work;</li> <li>5. Whether any potential benefits are equitable across different groups in society (i.e. equity);</li> <li>6. How NbTs relate to other Social Prescribing practices including the referral process and appropriateness of any referrals;</li> <li>7. How to ensure high standards of care/support across NbT provision;</li> <li>8. The environmental impact of growing NbT provision;</li> <li>9. How to sustainably finance NbTs;</li> <li>10. How to bring together the multi-sectoral partners needed for sustainable adoption, implementation, and scaling-up &amp; scaling-out.</li> </ol>	<p><i>What do you expect to generate by the end of the project?</i></p> <p>RESONATE will provide evidence and significantly reduce uncertainty on all these issues by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Better understanding of the synergies and differences between NbTs &amp; NbSs, based on NBRT and the concept of biopsychosocial resilience</li> <li>2. Providing extensive multi-sectoral feedback on NbT value/acceptability;</li> <li>3. Providing robust, and accessible scientific evidence of which NbTs “work”, through a Systematic Map and an online interactive tool for multi-stakeholder use;</li> <li>4. Providing detailed evidence summarising 9 high-quality Case Studies, including information on effectiveness, mechanisms (e.g. biopsychosocial resilience), equity, cost-effectiveness (selected CSs), and environmental impact, including under different climate/societal scenarios (selected CSs);</li> <li>5. Providing a multi-sectoral “Toolbox” of resources for establishing/scaling-up NbTs including specific Guides for: health professionals (incl. insights into social/green prescribing referral processes, link workers, and quality assurances); environmental stakeholders; the finance sector; and those wishing to conduct their own process/outcome evaluations;</li> <li>6. Proving an overarching “What works” Guide summarising the overall messages/processes and user signposts to different elements of the “Toolbox”.</li> <li>7. A best-practice NbT Resilience Hub guide for establishing successful multi-sectoral NbT collaborations based on our three demonstrator NbT Resilience Hubs and exemplar Memoranda of Understanding to promote longer-term legacy.</li> </ol>	<p><i>What dissemination (D), exploitation (E), communication (C) measures will you apply to the results?</i></p> <p>Our results will be communicated/disseminated, and exploited in the following ways with estimates based on previous EU projects of comparable scale:</p> <p><i>Communication/dissemination:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academic papers (n~35) &amp; presentations (n~40 @75 per talk = total audience ~3,000);</li> <li>2. RESONATE website will build up to ~2,000 unique visitors per month during the project;</li> <li>3. Weekly social-media updates and re-tweets of twinned project messages, summary threads of key publications, and higher activity rate around key output releases;</li> <li>4. An estimated ~15,500 unique visitors to the on-line Systematic Map;</li> <li>5. An estimated download of ~1500 What Works Guides, ~900 Resilience Hub guides &amp; ~500 for each practitioner Guide within 12 months of project end;</li> <li>6. Major press releases n~8; and high-level policy-briefs/factsheets n~4 (approx. 1,500 downloads each);</li> <li>7. Public stakeholder/policy events (n~16);</li> </ol> <p><i>Exploitation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Systematic Map will be exploited through the Grand Rounds n~15 which will use the online tool to engage key decision makers with the evidence base;</li> <li>2. We will work closely with the other consortia funded by this call (n=2) and other related projects (n~6) to establish a Network Nature NbT Task Force able to produce greater, more coordinated, joined-up impact;</li> <li>3. Our cross-beneficiary exchanges will help tackle disciplinary silos and improve understanding of research practices and needs within the consortium;</li> <li>4. Our advisory board of international NbT leaders (n=7) will both inform EU practices and in turn spread lessons learned from RESONATE globally.</li> </ol>

TARGET GROUPS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
<p><i>Who will use or further up-take the results of the project? Who will benefit from the results of the project?</i></p>	<p><i>What change do you expect to see after successful dissemination and exploitation of project results to the target group(s)?</i></p>	<p><i>What are the expected wider scientific, economic and societal effects of the project contributing to the expected impacts outlined in the respective destination in the work programme?</i></p>
<p>Mainstreaming of evidence-based NbTs will require the collaboration of four key sectors. Targets for our sector specific Guides plus the overarching What Works Guide will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Health sector:</i> EU-wide medical associations e.g., Standing Committee of European Doctors; EPCF, WHO Healthy Cities Network; National Public Health Institutes, EUPHA, HEAL.</li> <li><i>Environmental sector:</i> Land owners/managers (e.g. European Landowners Organization, EUSTAFOR), planners (e.g. Urban Development Network, ISOCARP C40 Cities), landscape architects (e.g. IFLA Europe), Ecosystem Services Partnership, ALPARC, IUFRO.</li> <li><i>Finance opportunities:</i> e.g. Health Insurers (e.g. IPMI providers), Agricultural and forestry sectors e.g. (EFA, World Urban Parks), Sustainable Alpine Health Tourism (CIPRA); Natural Capital Project.</li> <li><i>Wider society/user groups:</i> Patient groups (e.g. European Patients Forum), community organisations (e.g. Euro. Ass. For Innovation in Local Development); wider public. In addition, we will be targeting:</li> <li><i>Existing NbT researchers and practitioners:</i> e.g. Intelligent Health; Green Gym etc.</li> <li><i>High level policymakers:</i> e.g. WHO (Europe), EEA, National Depts. for Health (e.g. DoH), and for Environment (e.g. DEFRA), European Marine Board, UN-Habit ICLEI.</li> </ol>	<p>The key changes/outcomes we expect to see are a direct result of us meeting our four Expected Outcomes (<i>we collapse EOs 3&amp;5 in the call into EO4 due to overlap</i>).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stronger evidence-base of the causal mechanisms linking equitable, environmentally sustainable NbTs with better health and well-being through greater appreciation of the biopsychosocial resilience processes involved (EO1);</li> <li>A sharper view of the necessary cross-sectoral linkages among key stakeholders due to targeted communications about the processes and actors needed for successful NbTs, gathered via the Systematic Map, IEAB, and Resilience Hubs (EO2);</li> <li>Greater awareness of the health, social justice, and environmental challenges, facilitators, co-benefits and market opportunities of NbTs, among policy makers, health professionals, land owners/managers/stewards, potential funders, and the wider public from our integrated cross-sectoral research programme using a systems-based approach (EO3);</li> <li>Greater Europe-wide utilization of evidence-based equitable/environmentally/economically/socially sustainable NbTs, starting with the scaling-up and scaling-out of ~40 NbT projects within 5 years, ideally using a Resilience Hub based approach (EO4).</li> </ol>	<p>We envisage RESONATE will make a significant contribution to the following impacts:</p> <p><i>Scientific:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A paradigm shift in nature-health research with greater focus on Biopsychosocial Resilience processes;</li> <li>NBT assessment moves beyond a focus on participant health, to also consider multi-sectoral outcomes (incl. equity/sustainability) and estimating future scenarios.</li> </ol> <p><i>Economic:</i></p> <p>n~40 new NbT projects could, over 5 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significantly reduce health-care spending for n~50,000 people with common NCDs + benefits for 50,000 relatives;</li> <li>Create n ~280 new jobs, especially in rural and coastal areas, across multiple sectors incl. health/environment;</li> <li>Provide alternative sources of income for agricultural/forestry/marine etc. sectors.</li> </ol> <p><i>Societal/environmental</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced health-related inequalities in at least n~ 40 communities (esp. if Level 2/3 interventions).</li> <li>Greater community n~40 cohesion through empowerment opportunities offered by the social innovation actions embodied by the Hub approach.</li> <li>Fairer/more inclusive access to high quality green/blue spaces (esp. if Level 1 interventions);</li> <li>More environmentally sensitive NbTs, e.g. via the systematic estimation of carrying capacity;</li> <li>Greater nature protection, indirectly via increased nature connectedness of participants, and directly via pro-conservation activities: n~12,500 + potential local social spillover effect.</li> </ol>

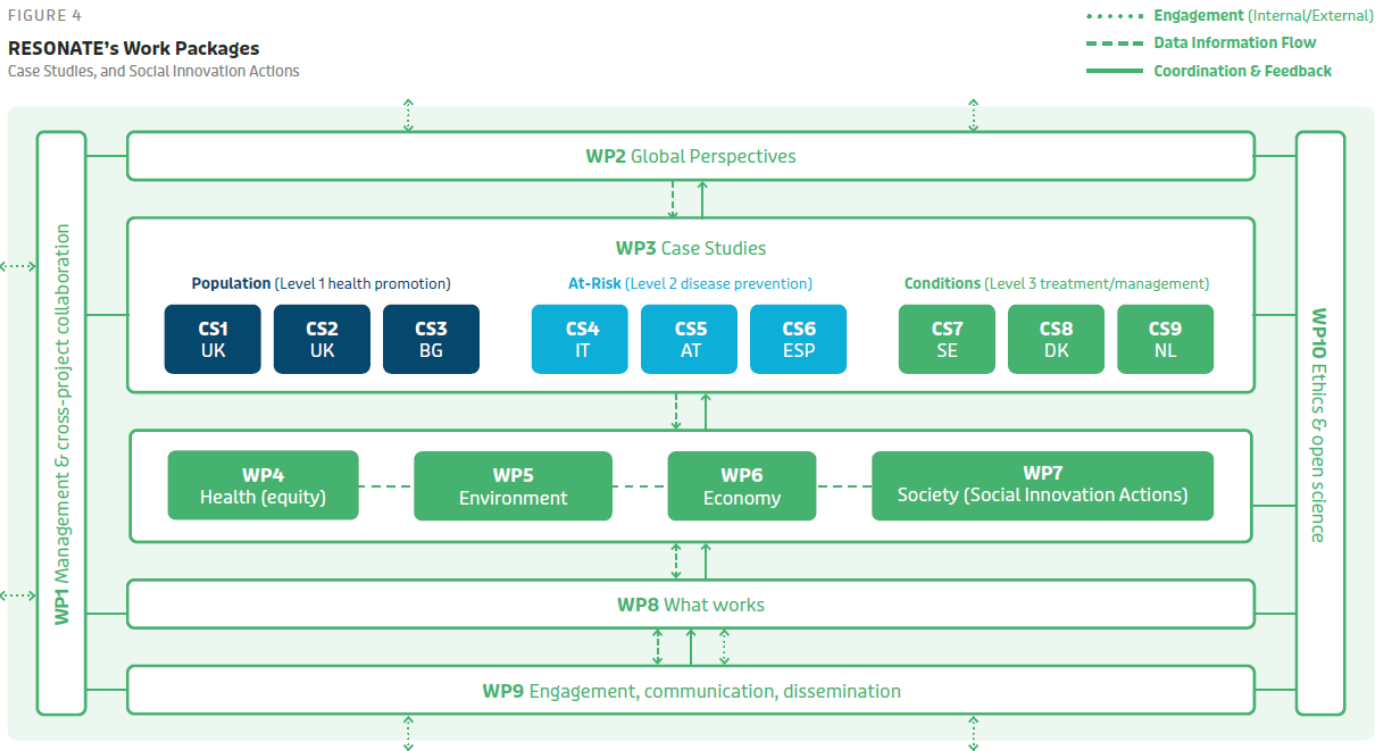


3.1 Work plan and resources

The 10 WPs are described in more detail in Part A. A schematic of how they are integrated is provided in Fig.4. Our starting resource philosophy was that each WP was of equal importance to the successful delivery of the project and therefore should receive equal resources. Since the costs of running WPs vary across country we then weighted the initial allocation of resources by the country’s Purchasing Power Parity. The same starting principle was applied to CS budgets (within WP3) though these were set slightly higher than WPs due to the costs of primary data collection. As CSs 1&2 use secondary data they were allocated resources equivalent of one primary data CS. As the proposal developed, specific tasks emerged that required extra resources over and above this principle for specific WPs and CSs, e.g. the costs of developing and running the Resilience Hubs. These deviations from parity were agreed through consortium consensus. Three institutions (ISGLOBAL, UNEXE, and UNIPD) have higher budgets because they are running both WPs and CSs. UNIVIE’s budget reflects the fact that it is running 2 WPs, and is covering all the costs of the seven IEAB members as well as the independent Ethics Advisor as required under WP10. (Table 3.1b). In terms of Person Months (PMs), all partners will be engaged with management/ethics (WPs1&10 ~9% of all PMs) and communications (WP9 ~11% PMs). A Gantt Chart showing the timetable for Tasks is presented in Fig.5.

FIGURE 4

**RESONATE's Work Packages**  
Case Studies, and Social Innovation Actions





**Table 3.1a: ‘Subcontracting costs’ items**

Partner	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
NBSI	18,000	Commissioning of a web-design company for the website (+ refreshes).
MUP	80,000	Costs of commissioning a survey company to run the data collection for CS3’s longitudinal prospective panel (n=1,500 participants at 1st wave) including incentives needed to maintain participation for the duration of the project. We envisage the survey to be conducted as a face-to face-interview at participant’s home in the 1 <sup>st</sup> wave, with the option for online or over the phone follow-up in waves 2 and 3. Based on recent experience of the MUP PI with a close in size but cross-sectional in design survey in Sofia, it is reasonable to expect that a survey company will initially require 20-25 interviewers to carry out the field work in wave 1. Preliminary quotes collected from several Bulgarian survey companies just prior to the project’s beginning (in 2023) indicate that participant incentives (vouchers) could range from ~ €5-25 per participant at the end of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> wave to ~ €12.5 per participant per wave. However, the choice of a survey company to conduct the field work and final logistics and voucher costs will ultimately be decided on a best cost-result ratio offer through a formal tendering process. The biological data for the sub-sample (n= 250 participants randomly selected out of those participants in the larger survey who during the 1st interview agree to be contacted for further testing at MUP twice between the survey waves) will be collected by 4-5 members of the MUP team (researchers and lab technicians the costs for whose work have been calculated in Direct personnel costs and purchase costs).
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,000</b>	

#### Details on sub-contracting cost details

*NBSI Website:* Within WP9 Task 9.1, a project website will be developed. This task will be commissioned to a qualified subcontractor with proven web design expertise. The total maximum cost for this service is €18,000. The budget includes: 1) initial design and building of the website; and 2) assistance with webpage refreshes especially towards the end of the project (for legacy purposes). NBSI will oversee this work but does not have the required specific web design and development expertise. NBSI will be in charge of regular website updates (e.g. news of events, publications etc.). A tender for work will be produced and at least three quotes sought. For selection of the sub-contract principles of best value of money will be applied, considering the quality of service, best price-quality ratio, and a proven track record of similar tasks. It will be ensured that there is no conflict of interest between the subcontractor and NBSI, nor with other consortium members.

*MUP Longitudinal survey:* Within WP3 T3.2 (data collection), MUP will subcontract a Bulgarian survey company to conduct a population-based interview survey among residents of Plovdiv. We will organize a formal competition for selecting a survey company and subcontract the one that wins the bid by providing the best price-quality ratio, according to predefined requirements on data collection quality. MUP is a medical university and research center that does not have the human resources and logistic capacity to carry out field interviews and collect the necessary data for CS3. Nevertheless, MUP will develop the survey sampling strategy, design the questionnaire, and all relevant procedures and monitoring protocol, which will then be applied by the survey company. The subcontracting costs declared by MUP (€80,000) should cover expenses made by the survey company for organizing and managing the field work, payment to interviewers who will be collecting the data, data validation and quality checks, survey software license, as well as participant incentives (vouchers). Given the anticipated response burden and need to keep participants with the project for 3 waves of data collection spread over 12 months, MUP has planned to provide them with incentives for every wave they take part in. The entire process of providing incentives to participants in the survey will be documented and proof requested from the survey company.

**Table 3.1b: ‘Purchase costs’ items (travel and subsistence, equipment and other goods, works and services)**

UNIVIE	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel & subsistence	96,012	2 staff for 3 x (non-Vienna) Annual Meetings x €850 = €5,100; PI/Project Manager site visits to all partners at least once during 48Mth project x 12

		(UNIPD/ETIFOR on salary trip) x €850 = €10,200; 1 x 4 week visit to IEAB lab to learn about successful international NbT = €8,000; Europe-based IEAB Travel & Subsistence costs for 3 members (total = €3,839 per meeting) x 4 Annual Meetings = €15,356; Non-Europe based IEAB Travel & Subsistence costs for 4 members (total = €11,414 per meeting) x 4 Annual Meetings = €45,656; PI or PM to attend Annual Meetings of GreenMe/NATURELAB (6 meetings) - 1 staff 6 x €850 = €5,100; 6 conference travels x €1,100€ = €6,600€.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	55,907	Launch (1 <sup>st</sup> ) annual meeting costs (incl. all meals) n~40 participants = €5,600; IEAB Member Prop annual consultation fee 4 x €5,000 = €20,000; External ethics advisor 3 days (@ €700 per day) per report x 3 reports = €6,300; Conference registration fees 6 x €466,66 = €2,800; Open Access Publications costs 3 x €2,500 = €7,500; Consumables (incl.) post advertising costs (staff recruitment costs), translation of project materials (4 languages), software licenses (Qualtrics x 1, to produce surveys for other researchers in the field to support T1.4 & T1.5) = €4,464; CFS Audit costs = €9,243.
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,919</b>	
<b>ISGlobal</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	24,800	2 staff for 3 x (non-Barcelona) Annual Meetings x €850 = €5,100; 6 conference travels x €1,100= €6,600; 1person Resilience Hub meeting travel €850 x 6 = €5,100; 1 x 4 week visit to IEAB lab to learn about successful international NbT = €8,000.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	61,549	Running the WP7-associated CS5 Resilience Hub (costs calculated by UNIPD), costs include collecting/preparing data for analysis from CS5 for the Resilience Hub and organization of one in-person 2.5-day workshop for relevant stakeholders n~10-15 (catering, room, consumables) and four half-day stakeholder workshops n~15/20 (venue, catering, speakers, moderation, promotion) = €26,667; Host 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting costs (incl. all meals) n~40 participants = €5,600; Open Access Publications costs 4 x €2,200 = €8,800; Software licences, e.g. EviAtlas and ESRI, for development of map application = €2,000; Technical support with developing the interactive online mapping tool = €3,900; Transport of saliva samples from Barcelona to Paracelsus Medical University laboratory facilities for cortisol analysis = €505; Conference Registration fees 6 x €466,66 = €2,800; Consumables including Saliva sampling kits, Blood pressure monitors, participant costs (e.g. travel reimbursement) n ~ 134, and software (NVIVO x 1) and survey (Qualtrics, x 1) licenses €7,677; CFS; Audit costs = €3,600.
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,349</b>	
<b>AZTI</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	21,400	2persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 6 conference travels x €1,100 = €6,600; 1-week knowledge exchange partner lab visits €2,000 x 4 = €8,000.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	22,100	Conference Registration fees 6 x €466,67 = €2,800; Open Access Publications costs 3 x €3,000 = €9,000; Consumables (incl.), translation (two languages, Italian/ German €1,700, Task 8.6) = €1,700; software licenses (1 x VENSIM Pro = €1,800p.a. x 2 = €3,600 Task 8.7); results communication videos (= €2,500 x2, Task 9.3) = €5,000.
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,500</b>	
<b>ETIFOR</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	18,000	2 staff for 3 x (non-Padua) Annual Meetings x €833 = €5,000; 5 conference travels x €1,000 = €5,000; 1 x 4 week visit to IEAB lab to learn about successful international NbT = €8,000.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500

Other goods, services	23,770	NbT sustainable finance workshop n~15/20 participants - venue rental, catering, incidentals (branding, badges, name plates, promotion & dissemination, etc.) = €2,500; Conference Registration fees 5 x €466,66 = €2,333; Open Access Publications costs 3 x €2,200 = €6,600; Host 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting costs (incl. all meals) n~40 participants = €5,600; Organise National NbT meeting to dissemination findings nationally (n~100 participants) = €2,500; Consumables (incl.) translation, material printing = €4,237.
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,770</b>	
<b>EHNet</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	27,200	2 persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 6 conference travels x €1,100 = €6,600; Impact workshop travel 6 x €967 = €5,800; 1 x 4 week visit to IEAB lab to learn about successful international NbT = €8,000.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	25,200	Equity Impact Assessment workshops n~15/20 participants - venue rental, catering, incidentals (branding, badges, name plates, promotion & dissemination, etc.) €2,500 x 6 = €15,000; 4 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting costs (incl. all meals) n~40 participants = €5,600; Conference Registration fees 6 x €466,66 = €2,800; Consumables (incl.) post advertising on social media to increase visibility (staff recruitment costs) = €180, Translations of background documents for Equity Impact Assessment Workshops: 5 of the 6 workshops will have translated documents in the local language, locations to be decided (5 x €300) = €1,500, software licence (Slido 'engage' plan) = €120.
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,400</b>	
<b>UNIPD</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	58,790	2 staff for 3 x (non-Padua) Annual Meetings x €850 = €5,100; 3 persons x 8 project meetings, including those with other PPS to carry out project activities such as training to align data collection methodology in the 3 Resilience Hubs (2.5 days of full activity, minimum 3 nights/each training) x €708 = €17,000; 3 persons x 12 stakeholder workshops n~15/20 participants (local/regional) (average: 2 days, 1 night; €575/person/workshop = €20,690; 6 conferences travels x €1,333 = €8,000; 1-week knowledge exchange partner lab visits €2,000 x 4 = €8,000.
Equipment	2,520	New -20°C refrigerator needed for saliva sample storage (purchase cost = €3,150; depreciation over 5yrs) = €2,520.
Other goods, services	63,967	Translation of 3 questionnaires into at least 4 languages, 12 x €900 = €10,800; Open Access Publications costs 4 x €2,400 = €9,600; English check by professional native speaker of 4 OA publications (€300/paper) = €1,200; Conference Registration fees 6 x €650 = €3,960; Service of coding expert for online surveys (e.g. conditional questions, filters, survey setting in multiple languages) (2 units, €4,300/unit) = €8,600 (we confirm this is an external service, like translation, not a sub-contract); Case study participant costs (e.g. travel reimbursement) n ~ 134; Software licenses for content analysis x 4 years (1x Nvivo pro, 2 x Nvivo) = €5,867; and support with survey (n ~ 3) programming = €8,850; Oxigen saturation measurement units (6 units, €50/unit) = €300; Pressure measurement units (6 units, €120/unit) = €720; Saliva samples (3 units, €370/unit) = €1,110; Saliva samples shipment from Padova to Paracelsus Medical University laboratory facilities for lab analysis (3 protected shipments for sending biological material) = €630; Consumables including graphical editing, user-friendly visualization, icons for material and WP7 outputs = €6,137; Audit costs = €6,253.
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,277</b>	
<b>NBSI</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	18,000	2 persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 3 conference travels x



		€1,067 = €3,200; 1-week knowledge exchange partner lab visits €2,000 x 4 = €8,000;
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	29,850	Event organisation (venues, catering, speakers etc.) incl.; 2 x high-level events for European and other policy makers and key stakeholders aimed at communicating key project findings, e.g. in Brussels (@ €6,000 each) = €12,000; 2 x other project events (e.g., CS-related, Resilience Hubs) = €2,000; Translation support to partners for translating key products (project brochure, factsheets, policy briefs) = €4,000; Printing of key dissemination products, e.g.: project brochure = €1,500, 4 x factsheets = €3,500, 4 x policy briefs = €4,000, other publications = €1,000; Other consumables for dissemination activities, e.g., rent of studios/equipment for podcasts = €1,850.
Total	47,850	
<b>MUP</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	10,000	2 persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 3 conference travels x €1,067 = €3,200.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	53,500	Test kits/reagents/needles/containers etc. needed for biomarker assessment (e.g. Immunological/inflammation markers incl. TNF-α test kits, IL-6 test kits, IL-10 test kits IgG test kits, IgM test kits, IgA test kits, TBNK test kits, and Biochemical markers incl. Cholesterol kit OSR6116, Triglycerides kit OSR6118, C- Reactive protein (CRP) kit OSR6147, Creatinine kit OSR6178,) for the n~250 biometric sub-cohort at 2 time points = €42,000; Open Access Publications costs 3 x €3000 = €9000; Local dissemination events (venues, catering, speakers etc.) @ €1,250 each x 2 = €2,500.
Total	63,500	
<b>PMU</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	10,000	2 persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 3 conference travels x €1,067 = €3,200.
Equipment	4,000	Data warehousing and management computers = €4,000 (Purchase cost = €4,000, and depreciation over @ 4 years).
Other goods, services	72,333	Allostatic Load ELISA Kits and Immune-Multiplex Kits for all groups (measurement of stress hormones, pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines, triglycerides and glucose) = €28,500; Lab disposable material (pipette tips, cryo tubes etc.) = €4,000; Blood and saliva collection tubes = €3,500; Stakeholder workshop costs for Hub activities n~15/20 (venue, catering, speakers, moderation, promotion) = €2,000 x 4 = €8,000; Translation costs for instructions of how to collect the physiological data in the other two case study sites and to translate back into German any documentation accompanying the physiological metrics that are returned to PMU from the other two case study sites (two languages, Spanish and Italian); English-German translations for the local stakeholders of the resilience hubs. = €5,833; Dry-ice transport = €2,500; Heart rate wrist bands (for field recording of HR, HRV, BP etc.); these will also be used as incentives for study participants n ~ 134 (therefore "other costs" and not "equipment") = €10,000; Publication Costs (Open Access) 2 x €3,000 = €6,000; Software licences needed for Hub activities and project management (e.g. MIRO x 2 = €1,500, NVivo pro x 1 = €2,500) = €4,000.
Total	86,333	
<b>UU</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	20,000	2 persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 6 conference travels x €1,100 = €6,600; Site visits to roll-out locations = €1,200; Travel costs for ReST trainees to UU (6 people, 5 training days each) = €5,400.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500



Other goods, services	59,000	Case study participant costs (e.g. gift certificates) for longitudinal participation (Reimbursement (in gift certificates) = €12 per hour spent with needed assessments. Interventions including follow-ups involve 5.6 hours assessment/participant: (12*5.6)*260 = €17,472. An N = 100 subset also complete a fatigue induction and restoration procedure before and after intervention, total 3.45 hours: (12*3.45)*100 = €4,140. Another N=30 subset complete a 1-hour follow-up interview: 12*30=€360. Finally, all 260 complete an arranged voluntary donation task, gifting up to €25 of earned reimbursements for which they are subsequently compensated up to €25: 50*260=€13 000) = €35,000; Locality specific costs (e.g. venue costs for 4 sites x 5 sessions x 2 intervention types ReST & CMT) = €15,000. Open Access Publications costs 3 x €3,000 = €9,000.
Total	79,000	
<b>UCPH</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	15,000	2 persons x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €6,800; 6 conference travels x €1,100 = €6,600; Regular site visits costs = €1,600.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	63,000	Biometric data capture: Electroencephalogram/Brain waves (4 x EEG Kit - NeuroElectrics Enobio 8) = €25,000; Heart-rate variability (4 x HRV Kit - Shimmer3 EMG) = €10,000; Eye-tracking (5 x Tobii Pro Glasses 2 kit) = €6,500; Software licences: 1 x iMotions Modules – CORE, EEG, ECG, Analysis-Only; 1 x Kubios HRV for scientific research = €11,000; Open Access Publications costs 3 x €2,500 = €7,500; Questionnaire survey costs = €2,000; Ethics application = €1,000.
Total	78,000	
<b>NVM</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	8,000	1 person x 4 annual meetings x €850 = €3,400; 2 conference travels x €1,300 = €2,600; Travel to care farms €83 x 24 = €2,000.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	29,400	Venue hire and meeting costs for 6 x CoP meetings €1,500 each = €9,000; Compensation of Care Farm Branch Organisation SZZ (for collecting data for Case Study 9) for extra work of their support staff at a rate of 480 euro per day including: selection and recruitment of n = 24 matched farms in their network for participation in the research = 24 * 2 hours = €2,880; planning and organisation of 6 x CoP meetings 6 days = €2,880; Development and implementation of online survey for Case Study 9 clients and family to monitor and evaluate clients' progress 5 days = €2,400; costs for attending meetings with research team and CoP meetings including travel = €1,840; Open Access Publications costs 2 x €3,000 = €6,000; Consumables (incl.) farm recruitment promotion materials = €4,400.
Total	37,400	
<b>UNTWE</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	4,000	1 person x 4 annual meetings x €750 = €3,000; 1 conference travels = €1,000.
Equipment	0	No equipment costs ≥ €1,500
Other goods, services	4,900	Conference Registration fees x 1 = €400; Open Access Publication x 1 = €2,500; Consumables (incl.) compensations for material costs to support the interventions designed in the CoPs by care farms (e.g., materials to build a shelter where elderly people can stay and do garden work in winter times and during bad weather) = €2,000.
Total	8,900	

**Table 3.1c: Other cost categories (e.g. internally invoiced goods/services)**

Partner	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
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UU	10,000	Facilities access beyond standard OH provisions @UU: Room-hire €60 x 65 sessions (5 waves, 13 sessions per wave) = €3,900; Data collection waves; Consultation services beyond standard OH provisions @UU: Setup anonymous participant database = €2,100; Data management support = €2,000; Statistical consultation = €2,000.
<b>Total</b>	10,000	

### Other sources of financing

The project involves one associated partner [UNEXE]. The total estimated costs of the associated partners to implement the project tasks amounts to €750,217.50. These are broken down into Personnel costs = €532,420; Purchase Costs (Travel & Subsistence) = €24,575; Purchase Costs (Other goods and services) = €43,179; and Indirect costs = €150,043.50. The costs of AP UNEXE will be financed from UKRI funding.

### 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Below we outline how the consortium is perfectly constructed to meet the call's Expected Outcomes (EO).

**EO1 Stronger evidence base.** Successful collaboration is already evident from the development of NBRT by consortium members during Stage 1. Although significantly enriched by having leading theorists on nature-based resilience (e.g. Hartig, Razani, Van den Berg, Wells), representatives from all partners and several of the IEAB made significant contributions to the theory's development and are co-authors on the paper (currently in revision). The result is a clear, project-wide, shared vision that has brought partners together with each perfectly understanding their role. Partners also have all the required experience, skills, and networks to deliver the CSs (O1.2). Wheeler (UNEXE) and White (UNIVIE) have published four papers exploring longitudinal nature-health relationships using UKHLS's forerunner (CS1) with >2,000 total cites. Corbett (UNEXE) is the PI for the PROTECT panel and thus ideally placed to lead CS2. Dzhambov (MUP) is a leader in understanding how to investigate and test mediation processes in nature-health relationships, and will apply these skills to exploring the potential multiple and interconnected roles of various biopsychosocial resilience processes applying statistical mediation techniques in the nature-health field and the MUP team are qualified to collect the biological samples from a sub-set of the Plovdiv cohort (CS3). The seed ideas for CSs 4-6 were developed by NbT researchers at UNIPD/ETIFOR (forest bathing: Secco, Doimo), PMU (alpine health tourism: Hartl, Pichler), and ISGLOBAL (nature-based social prescriptions: Litt, van den Bosch) based on previous/current programmes (e.g. H2020 - RECETAS; INTERREG - HEALPS), with particular expertise in biological resilience (PMU), psychological resilience (UNIPD), and social resilience (ISGLOBAL). CSs 7-9 are extensions of on-going programmes. Lymeus & Hartig (UU) have developed/refined the ReST programme over several years and it is ripe for scaling-up/out (CS7). Stigsdotter (UCPH) and team have co-created the Move Green garden and associated App to improve access and inclusivity and now is the ideal time to test these infrastructural initiatives (CS8). Finally, van den Berg (NVM) wrote about the "challenges and opportunities of green prescriptions" as early as 2017<sup>18</sup>, and has a long relationship with the Care Farm body where CS9 will take place. She is perfectly positioned to identify how NbT practices could be more integrated with support from Van Rompey (UNTWE).

**EO2 Sharper view of cross-sectoral linkages.** The online interactive Systematic Map will be based on a systematic review of existing NbTs and their cross-sectoral operations. WP2 lead Van den Bosch (ISGLOBAL) is a world lead on nature-health reviews both in the academic literature, including a 2017 review of reviews (> 500 cites)<sup>98</sup>, and high-level policy documents such as WHO Europe's 2016 'Urban green spaces and health: A review of evidence'. The online Systematic Map tool builds upon a similar exercise led by Pahl (UNIVIE) for the United Nations Environmental Programme, which produced an interactive map of global initiatives for marine litter reduction, and will be supported by expertise in GIS-based online interactive tools at UCPH (Karlsson Nyed). RESONATE team members are also perfectly placed to explore cross-sectoral linkages through WPs4-7, and three of the four WP lead organisations are non-academic institutions and thus have closer ties to practitioners, policy makers, and a broad range of societal actors aiding pathways to impact. EHNet is the EU's leading partnership on health promotion, disease prevention, and health equity with partners across Europe including regional health authorities, research institutions, and policy and practice organisations. Their ability to develop our understanding of the European medical profession's attitudes towards NbTs, and their potential to reduce health inequalities (WP4), is unparalleled. AZTI is an independent scientific and technology centre focusing on supporting a healthy, sustainable, and fair society, with a focus on assessing ecosystem services, human impact on the environment, and human-marine interactions, and is thus ideally placed to lead WP5. Given the enormous potential of "blue therapies" (e.g. CS6), expertise in marine settings is critical in ensuring the needs of coastal communities are understood within the project. ETIFOR are an international consultancy supporting public and private organizations adopt innovative NbTs to improve the socio-economic and environmental performance of policies, projects, and investments. As leads

of the Green4C project with its focus on private-public partnerships to provide cost-effective NBSs to growing health issues, they are the ideal partner to lead WP6 with its focus on economic issues and NbT financing. Finally, with multiple backgrounds including forestry, agriculture, and rural development and as partners in the EU's H2020 Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas project, UNIPD are ideally placed to lead WP7's focus on societal awareness and acceptance, with a focus on often neglected rural communities. The UNIPD team developed the idea of the NbT Resilience Hubs specifically for this project based on previous best-practice SIA approaches.

**EO3 Greater citizen & policy-maker awareness.** RESONATE is designed to communicate, disseminate, and exploit its findings and work with related projects to produce symbiotic messages that support each other rather than compete for attention. Our efforts will be led by NBSI (WP9), an institute founded to communicate the science and support city greening to promote human and environmental health. Their innovative 3-30-300 rule (i.e. everyone should be able to see 3 trees from home, live in a neighbourhood with at least 30% vegetation cover, and be no more than 300 meters from the nearest green space) is an example of the public facing message development they excel in. Several partners also have outstanding track-records in relevant fields, with EHNet, for instance, having over two decades of experience communicating to, and raising awareness of health-related policy makers at national and EU levels. This expertise will be supported by consortium members' ability to conduct research that gains public/policy attention and interest. PI White, for instance, has published articles that were ranked 7<sup>th</sup> & 38<sup>th</sup> in the Altmetric Top 100, an annual summary of the 100 articles across all scientific disciplines that received the most public attention and societal engagement. Although led by WP1, the multi-consortium co-ordination of efforts will involve all partners who between them are already involved in several of the most relevant EU projects and have extensive networks.

**EO4 Wider NbT utilisation.** NbT mainstreaming will depend on policy-maker and funders' beliefs that they can be safely/sustainably scaled-up/scaled-out to reach sufficient numbers of people to be worth investment. Estimating these effects depends on understanding the interplay between multiple societal/environmental drivers and the barriers, enablers, and potential unintended side-effects. Both AZTI and ETIFOR are experienced in conducting the required cross-sectoral scenario analyses using tools such as Bayesian Network Analysis and VENSIM and will lead the work on integrating social, environmental, and economic parameters, including future projections, for selected CSs to demonstrate how the necessary scaling-up/scaling-out forecasts can be produced (O4.1). In addition, UNEXE has a track record in investigating the barriers/enablers for nature-based social prescribing<sup>97</sup>, and is currently working on several projects with UK Ministries of health and environment to support scaling-up processes (see Part A). Although the barriers and enablers for expansion may vary across countries, many of the lessons learned from the UK will be explored in our CSs across Europe through UNEXE's expertise in conducting process evaluations of complex health interventions. The public/policy-maker facing guides will benefit from the expertise of all partners who have a considerable track record of producing such documents targeting audiences beyond the academic sphere.

**UK partner.** We have been advised that the status of our UK partner (UNEXE) will change from full beneficiary, at the time of submission, to 'associated partner' at the time of the signing of the Grant Agreement. We will work with the Project Officer to manage any issues arising. UNEXE are key partners because the UKHLS and PROTECT panels (CSs1&2) are the world's largest household and prospective dementia-related panels respectively, and provide unique opportunities to explore intersectionality (analysing the intersections of gender, age, ethnicity etc. requires very large samples). Further, UNEXE's experience of working closely with the UK's nature-based social prescription programme gives them unique insight into policy makers' attitudes and beliefs about NbTs as well as insights into the structural barriers that need to be overcome, such as a lack of trained link-workers who have the knowledge and skills to support doctors' direct patients to the most appropriate opportunities for their needs<sup>38</sup>.

**International Expert Advisory Board (IEAB).** The following EU/international experts in NbTs have agreed to be on our IEAB: Prof. Thomas **Astell-Burt**, Founding Co-Director of the Population Wellbeing and Environment Research Lab, a focal point for NbT research in **Australia**; Dr Melissa **Lem**, director of the **Canadian PaRx** (Prescription for Nature) NbT program; Nicole **Prop**, Managing Director of the long-standing nationwide '**Green Care Austria**' program; Prof. Nooshin **Razani**, director of The Center for Nature and Health (CNH) which has pioneered park prescription programs for childhood resilience in **California**; and Prof. Nancy **Wells**, Cornell University expert on **nature-based resilience**. Between them they are already running some of the most high-profile NbT programmes in Australia, Europe, and North America, and will thus be able to offer extensive insights not only on the global NbT picture (WP2) but also the cross-sectoral collaboration needed for successful, inclusive, sustainable NbTs (WPs3-8). The board is further enriched by: Dr. Kath **Maguire**, an expert in **Patient Public Involvement** and current facilitator of service user workshops on nature based social prescribing in the UK; and Prof. Alexandria **Poole**, an applied **environmental ethicist** who focuses on urban sustainability and developing avenues for social and environmental justice within education, public discourse, and empowering community engagement through applications in policy and technology for socio-ecological well-being. These board members will support us to ensure public, patient, and broader environmental needs and concerns are at the forefront of all project activities. The



locations of each of the annual meetings will be Vienna, Barcelona, Padua & Brussels, with this last one deliberately designed to be close to the high-level policy makers we want to target towards the end of the project.

**Closing statement:** RESONATE will support multiple Horizon Europe goals by contributing to the creation of more resilient, inclusive, and just societies that leave no one behind, whilst ensuring that healthcare “not only benefits people”, but also the planet and society more generally<sup>13</sup>. By working with multi-sectoral stakeholders, practitioners, and innovators across the EU and internationally, we will achieve a shift in the way NbTs are perceived and utilised, with benefits to individual and community resilience that will resonate for decades to come.

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**Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology, and likely impact:****1. Human Participants**

Involvement of human participants within RESONATE is vital to: 1) build a stronger causal evidence-base regarding the relationships between nature and human health/well-being; and, 2) evaluate the efficacy of NbTs for health promotion/disease prevention. Participants involved in RESONATE activities will largely be volunteers engaged in: non-medical social and behavioural science research (interviews, surveys), complex interventions (Randomised Controlled Trials), or Community of Practice (CoP) interventions. To evaluate NbTs across the three levels of health promotion/disease prevention (primary: Level 1; secondary: Level 2; tertiary: Level 3), some studies involve participants with existing medical conditions (e.g. metabolic syndrome, physical disabilities), as well as vulnerable groups (e.g. adults with dementia and developmental challenges). Inclusion/exclusion criteria and sampling methods for each Case Study have already been defined to meet specific RESONATE objectives (See Annex: 'Essential Information for Clinical Studies in Horizon Europe'). The proposed methodologies are not expected to result in discriminatory practices or unfair treatment.

**1.1 Methodologies**

- Secondary analysis of longitudinal datasets will be used to track large samples of general populations over time in order to monitor the links between nature contact, biopsychosocial resilience, mental health/well-being and stressful life events. Data pertaining to these participants have already been captured, with consent for secondary use obtained at the time of original data collection. There is little potential for adverse impacts of these activities, since only analyses of cleaned, anonymised data will be conducted in these studies. Approximate geolocations of participants will be linked to map data providing measures of neighbourhood-level exposure to natural environments. To avoid any risk of disclosure, mapping to geographical data will be undertaken either within the UK Data Service SecureLab digital environment (Case Study 1, UKHLS), or by supplying the data provider with neighbourhood-level nature metrics for secure data linkage who will, in turn, remove personally identifiable information/geographical identifiers from the returned dataset (Case Study 2, PROTECT).
- A primary panel survey will be conducted to assess whether nature contact mitigates the adverse impacts of everyday and environmental stressors on mental health/wellbeing, via high biopsychosocial resilience (Case Study 3). Participants will be recruited and administered by a professional subcontractor complying with EU and national rules. The company will approach a random sample of the Plovdiv residents, excluding minors, in-patients, institutionalized individuals, and those incapable of fully understanding the conditions and implications of their participation in the study. Survey data will be linked to environmental exposures, measured with geographic information systems, after which the working dataset will be pseudonymised with participant identifiers stored separately. The potential for adverse impacts is low, however as with any questionnaire survey, minor psychological distress may be caused by answering personal questions. To mitigate this, information sheets will include the contact details of relevant support organisations. Participants will also have the option to choose not to answer such questions or to discontinue the interview at any point.
- Laboratory testing (see Section 2. Human cells): to provide precise and objective measurements of biological resilience, a randomly drawn sub-sample of survey participants from Case Study 3 will be invited to take part in a subsequent laboratory testing for metabolic, immune, and hormonal biomarkers in blood (and possibly urine; see section 2 for more details).
- Randomised Controlled Trials of NbTs will develop a stronger causal evidence-base and further knowledge of the biopsychosocial mechanisms underlying nature-health associations. Interventions proposed for Case Studies 4-8 are non-invasive and considered to pose little risk to participant safety. NbTs consist of low-intensity physical activity within natural environments and are based upon well-established programmes/protocols (e.g., mindful nature immersion; Restoration skills training, ReST, MoveGreen). Control conditions vary between studies, but constitute low-risk activities (e.g. waiting list control, conventional mindfulness training). Detailed risk assessments for each intervention will be conducted prior to study initiation and interventions will only be delivered by individuals with the appropriate training and qualifications. Data collected across these case studies will include: collection of questionnaire data, non-invasive physiological data (e.g. saliva samples; see Section 2. Human Cells) and semi-structured interviews. Questionnaires will include validated measures of mental health/wellbeing (e.g., SF-12 general health questionnaire), and biopsychosocial resilience metrics (e.g., Brief Resilience Scale) that have been widely used in prior research.
- Community of Practice interventions: a collaborative action approach will be used explore how to integrate biopsychosocial resilience building processes into stakeholders' existing nature-based practices (Case Study 9). Consent for the recording of co-creation meetings and the use of such data (e.g., Chatham House rules) will be

agreed between all parties. After obtaining informed assent (see Section 1.3 Informed consent), the impacts of the interventions will be measured by means of researcher observations of clients with dementia or other cognitive issues participating in co-designed activities, as well as caregivers' completion of questionnaires. Specific consideration will be given to inclusivity, power-dynamics between researchers and stakeholders, and equity within all activities

- Semi-structured interviews: qualitative interviews will be used across Work Packages to obtain in-depth accounts of perceptions of NbTs from key stakeholders (e.g., healthcare professionals, land managers) and case study participants. The potential for adverse impacts is low, however as with any interview, minor psychological distress may be caused by answering some questions, thus appropriate support structures will be put into place prior to data collection. Confidentiality will be addressed by the removal of identifier components, biographical detail amendments, and pseudonyms (applicable to names of individuals, places and organizations, where appropriate).

**1.2 Ethical approval:** the overarching principle of RESONATE is that the interests and welfare of human beings shall prevail over the sole interest of society or science, therefore, where appropriate: 1) detailed risk assessments will be conducted; 2) specific insurance/indemnity arrangements will be implemented; and 3) research protocols will be submitted for consideration, comment, guidance, and approval to Research Ethics Authorities or other national competent authorities in each of the participating countries before any individual study begins.

**1.3 Informed consent:** individuals asked to participate in the project are entitled to choose whether or not to take part. Their decision is voluntary and they should be competent to understand what is involved. Information will be given in both oral (where applicable) and written form, in the native language, by an authorised professional. Information sheets will include details on: 1) the aims, methods and implications of the study; 2) the nature of the participation and any benefits, risks, or discomfort that might ensue; 3) details of how biological samples and data will be collected, protected during the project and whether they will be destroyed or reused afterwards; 4) the voluntary nature of the study (including their right to withdraw participation, samples or data); and, 5) whom they should contact for answers to any questions they may have in relation to the study or to request removal of their data after participation. Prior to participating in a study, all participants will be required to provide written informed consent. Informed consent forms will be developed in accordance with common practice and standard examples, as well as local ethics regulations. In the case of individuals with diminished mental capacity (Case Study 9) assent will be obtained and one of their legal representatives will be required to sign the informed consent form and any observable reluctance or hesitancy by the client themselves (which CS9 staff are trained to notice) will be taken as a lack of consent regardless of consent from legal representatives.

**1.4 Incidental findings:** a policy for incidental findings will be developed, with a particular focus on mental health and physiological measures of resilience (i.e. cardiovascular and metabolic function for CSs 4-6). This will ensure that appropriate measures (e.g. referring the participants to their primary care provider) are taken when necessary. Participants will be informed on how potential incidental findings will be managed during the informed consent process.

## 2. Human Cells

The inclusion of physiological data to measure the biological component of biopsychosocial resilience will contribute to precise and objective measures of intervention effects. This will provide unprecedented knowledge on nature-based interventions' potential to improve health and prevent disease within general populations, as well as high-risk populations (i.e. individuals with metabolic syndrome). To achieve this, metabolic, immune, and hormonal biomarkers will be assessed saliva and blood samples.

- Saliva samples (Case Studies 4-6). The collection of saliva will be conducted using an unstimulated passive drooling method in salivary tubes (SalivaBio Collection Aid, Salimetrics). This method is easy and non-invasive, improving compliance with testing. From the saliva samples we will assess: 1) Neuroendocrine function by analysing cortisol. Since the cortisol value will be incorporated in the full AL-index, we will not need to take diurnal rhythm into account in these studies, but only one sample per occasion is required; 2) Immune function by analysing: saliva immunoglobulin A (sIgA), interleukin 1 and 6 (IL1 and IL6), and C-reactive protein (CRP). Saliva samples will be stored securely in freezers (-20°C) until transport to collaborating partners in Austria. Samples will be analysed at the Paracelsus Medizinische Privatuniversität Salzburg (PMU), Salzburg, Austria to ensure synchronised procedures across the three harmonised case studies. This will prevent any variances occurring due to differences in laboratory protocols. The Salzburg laboratory has longstanding expertise and experience of these kinds of analyses. All samples will be destroyed after completion of the study.

Blood samples (Case Studies 3 & 5). Blood samples will be collected by trained team members at the two Medical



Universities involved in Case Studies 3 & 5 (Meditsinsky University, Plovdiv, MUP, PMU), to test for metabolic (e.g., CBC, Triglycerides, blood glucose, cholesterol), immune (e.g., interleukins, NKTB cells), and hormonal (e.g., cortisol) biomarkers. These tests will be carried out according to the Declaration of Helsinki and other clinical standards, in research-grade, accredited medical facilities, and only after obtaining informed consent. Collection of these bio-samples will require invasive procedures (i.e. the drawing of blood - likely from median cubital vein), which may cause local bruising and pain as with any venepuncture. However, this procedure will be conducted by experienced clinical physicians and lab technicians, and participants will be monitored before, during, and shortly after the procedure, and provided first aid if necessary. All samples will be destroyed after completion of the study. Both the MUP and PMU Principle Investigators, as well as clinical physicians on their teams, have experience and expertise in these procedures.

### 3. Data Protection

Examination of relationships between nature and human health/wellbeing, as well as evaluations regarding the efficacy of NbTs, require the collection and analyses of some personal/sensitive data, including: geolocation (Case Studies 1-3); validated measures of health/wellbeing (Case Studies 1-9) and biological samples (Case Studies 3-6). Adequate measures to ensure personal data protection and confidentiality will be taken, according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and national/local regulations.

The following principles will be applied: lawfulness, fairness, and transparency; purpose limitation; data minimisation (necessary and proportionate for the research objective); accuracy; storage limitation, and integrity and confidentiality.

General procedures across Case Studies/Work Packages include:

- Written consent will include a specific clause on personal data protection informing the participants how their data is treated and stored, the research purpose, the Data Protection Officer (DPO) contact and their rights.
- Pseudonymisation will be implemented as a general standard, meaning that all material obtained in the framework of the project (questionnaires, interviews, saliva samples) will be identified through a code; the name and/or other personal data that could allow the identification of the participant will never be indicated. This unique identifier will link all basic data required for the research. The master key file linking the centre's study numbers with personal identifiers will be maintained in a password protected file with limited access. Whenever possible, anonymisation will be applied.
- Files containing personal data will be stored in encrypted and password-locked files, with limited access to authorised project personnel.
- In the case of tracking participants by geo-localization techniques, the geo-localization data will be stored separately from the other participant's data (health, etc.).
- If applicable, transfers will be done according to current legislation.
- Reported study results will pertain to analyses of aggregate data. No individual's name will be associated with any published or unpublished report. Visualization of participants' residential location will be rendered at a resolution/aspect ratio that does not allow for identification of specific locations.
- Project personnel will be trained on this topic and required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

The partners will assess with the corresponding DPO, whether a Data Protection Impact Assessment is required (Art. 35GDPR), to evaluate the risks and implement mitigation measures. The first Data Management Plan will be delivered within 6 months of project start by WP1 with support of all Partners. As the studies proceed, more elaborated versions will be delivered to the International Expert Advisory Board (IEAB). Fine-tuning of the plan will occur, at least by the mid-term and final review of the project, in order to update it in accordance with the data generated from the studies and potential changes to the initially expected data production and use. Whenever any important changes to the studies occur, a new version of the plan will be created.

### 4. Non-EU Countries

Case Studies 1 and 2, as well as Work Package 8 will be led by partners in the United Kingdom (UK). The ethical standards and guidelines of Horizon Europe will be rigorously applied, regardless of the country in which the research is carried out.

The process evaluation proposed in Work Package 8 will involve the transfer of de-identified personal data from the EU partners responsible for Case Studies (Bulgaria, Italy, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands) to partners at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom. Given the equivalence of the UK's 2018 Data Protection Act and the EU's GDPR, we foresee no issues that would prohibit the sharing of data. However, we will ensure that data transfer is conducted securely and is compliant with EU rules on international data transfers (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/international-dimension-data-protection/rules-international->

data-transfers\_en). The data received will be de-identified, so that no individual will be personally identifiable. Participant codes will allow the link of quantitative and qualitative process evaluation data of individuals, required for Work Package 8 tasks, but this alone would not allow UK partners to personally identify any individual.

### **Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations:**

Research studies in the countries participating in the project will be conducted according to international and national legal and ethical rules and requirements. The consortium is aware and will conform to the International, European, and National legislations in all the various aspects of the research as detailed below. The ethical standards of guidelines of Horizon Europe will be rigorously applied, regardless of the country in which the research is carried out. The partners will adhere to the highest standards of research integrity as described in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

The consortium partners are aware of further relevant guidance, codes, and regulations, including:

- The Nuremberg Code (1946) addressing volunteer consent and proper acting;
- The Revised Declaration of Helsinki in its last version of 2013
- The convention for the protection of human rights and dignity of human being with regard to the application of biology and medicine called the "Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine" (Council of Europe, 1997) and, the additional protocol on the prohibition of cloning human beings (1998); and its additional protocol on biomedical research (2005)
- Recommendation CM/Rec (2016)6 on research on biological materials of human origin was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
- 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.
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990);
- The Royal Decree that establishes the basic requirements for the authorisation and functioning of biobanks with biomedical research purpose and for the processing of human samples and regulating the functioning and organisation of the National Register of Biobanks for Biomedical Research (1716/2011, of 18th November).
- EU Guidelines for Ethics in Social Sciences and Humanities ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020\\_ethics-soc-science-humanities\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020_ethics-soc-science-humanities_en.pdf))
- Ethical and governance guidelines for conducting evaluations of complex interventions e.g. <https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/training-and-capacity-building/evaluation-best-practice-and-guidelines/>.

We have reviewed the guidance available on the web ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm) ; <https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/index.cfm?pg=policy&lib=ethics>

***Ethics committees and approval:*** relevant approvals/authorisations from the national/local Ethics Committees for the research with humans will be obtained prior to any intervention. Relevant documents (e.g., ethical approvals, information sheets, informed consent) will be kept on file and will be provided upon request. The ethical, legal, and social aspects will be closely monitored by Work Package 10, and overseen by an Independent Ethics Advisor to be appointed by end Mth1. The partners involved will monitor that all relevant approvals and certificates are obtained. Where any new substantial ethical issues are raised, e.g. by the Independent Ethics Expert in their Ethics Summary reports or elsewhere across the project, the associated Beneficiaries and Coordinator will inform the granting authority, and will continue to rigorously follow the guidance provided by the European Commission Ethics Self-Assessment Guidelines.

***Security:*** beyond the involvement of non-EU partners (UK), RESONATE will not involve activities or results raising security issues, nor will it use EU-classified information as background material or as results.

## 1 Description of the clinical study

### 1.1 Title, acronym, unique identifier (e.g. EudraCT Number, or identifier from ISCRTN, ClinicalTrials.gov if available) of the clinical study

**Case Study 1.** UKHLS Representative Longitudinal Study: Does Nature Contact Mitigate the Impact of Stressful Life Events on Mental and Physical Health via Enhanced Psychosocial Resilience?

**Case Study 2.** PROTECT Cohort Study: Does Nature Contact Mitigate the Impact of Stressful Societal Level Events on Mental and Physical Health via Enhanced Psychosocial Resilience?

**Case Study 3.** RESONATE Longitudinal Panel Study: Does Nature Contact Mitigate the Impact of Everyday and Environmental Stressors on Mental and Physical Health via Enhanced Biopsychosocial Resilience?

**Case Study 4.** Randomised Controlled Trial Examining the Efficacy of an Urban/Peri-Urban Nature-Based Therapy for Increased Biopsychosocial Resilience Amongst Sedentary Individuals with Metabolic Syndrome.

**Case Study 5.** Randomised Controlled Trial Examining the Efficacy of a Rural Nature-Based Therapy for Increased Biopsychosocial Resilience Amongst Sedentary Individuals with Metabolic Syndrome.

**Case Study 6.** Randomised Controlled Trial Examining the Efficacy of an Urban Coastal Nature-Based Therapy for Increased Biopsychosocial Resilience Amongst Sedentary Individuals with Metabolic Syndrome.

**Case Study 7.** Randomised Controlled Trial Combining Environmental and Skill-Based Approaches to Promoting Psychological Resilience Amongst Individuals with Clinically Elevated Psychological Symptoms.

**Case Study 8.** Randomised Controlled Trial of a Technology Enhanced Nature Immersion for Promoting Biopsychosocial Resilience and Mental Health for People with Mobility Issues.

**Case Study 9.** Feasibility Trial of Enhanced Nature-Based Care in Care Farms for Promoting Psychological Resilience and Well-Being Amongst Clients of Care Farms with Dementia or Other Cognitive and Functional Impairments.

\*No unique identifiers currently available. All Case Studies will be registered at the start of the project.

**Please note.** Full detailed protocols will be developed during the project and submitted to the relevant ethics committees for approval. Case Studies 1-3 use either secondary data or non-intervention data, thus several sections for this template are not applicable. Case Studies 4-6 and 9 involve important co-creation aspects with local stakeholders, service providers, and service users. Therefore, exact information cannot be provided for some sections at this time, but we instead provide generic principles and examples that may be subject to change. More detailed information is provided for Case Studies 7-8 as these are extensions to established nature-based therapy programmes. In short, the length of answers to some sections varies as a function of the type and stage of case study development.

## 1.2 Study rationale

Please provide the overall rationale for conducting the proposed study.

**Overview:** the proposed Case Studies are embedded within the wider RESONATE proposal, which brings together a global consortium of researchers specialising in Nature-based Therapy (NbT) research. The proposed Case Studies span eight countries; urban, rural, and coastal settings; primary (Level 1), secondary (Level 2), and tertiary (Level 3) level health promotion/disease prevention. Using longitudinal cohort designs and Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) and Community of Practice (CoP) interventions, the combined results of the RESONATE Case Studies will: 1) provide further insight into the resilience-building functions of nature contact for health/well-being; 2) strengthen the causal evidence base; 3) increase public/policy makers' and health care professionals' awareness and acceptance of these benefits; 4) help build more resilient individuals, communities, and ecological systems in urban, rural, and coastal settings; and 5) ensure wider utilization of cost-effective nature-based therapies as a form of preventive medicine.

**Case Study 1.** This case study will investigate whether the availability of neighbourhood nature promotes better psychological (i.e. more adaptive coping appraisals) and social resilience (i.e. better relational resources and social

cohesion), which in turn attenuates negative impacts of stressful life events (e.g., divorce, unemployment, bereavement) on health in adulthood. The study will link secondary data from the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) to environmental data surrounding individual's homes (i.e. green/blue space indicators), for the period 2010 to 2019 (current available data with new Waves expected before analysis). Key measures of emotional and social resilience were collected in (Waves 3-6). Analyses will explore individuals either side of these years to explore the relationships between nature exposure and emotional and social resilience prior to Waves 3/6 and then subsequently the associations between stressful events and health/well-being during/after Waves 3/6. Broadly, our hypothesis is that greater nature exposure at T1 will, *ceteris paribus*, be associated with higher resilience at T2, which in turn moderates the relationship between stressful events at T3 and health/well-being outcomes at T4.

**Case Study 2.** This case study will investigate whether the availability of neighbourhood nature and engagement with natural environments more widely promotes better psychological (i.e. better cognitive functioning) and social resilience (i.e. less loneliness) to stressors, attenuating negative impacts of socially stressful events on health/well-being in older adults. Stressful life events considered will include individual (e.g. bereavement, serious illness) and collective (such as 2022 UK cost of living crisis) experiences. The study will link data from the PROTECT cohort to environmental data (i.e. green/blue space indicators) from 2015 (baseline) and will retrospectively link earlier environmental exposures through collection of residential address histories. We will also work with the PROTECT team to collect additional data via an online survey to establish participants' frequency and characteristics of visits to natural environments. The basic hypothesis is similar to CS1 in terms of the exploration of longitudinal patterns.

**Case Study 3.** This case study will use a bespoke prospective longitudinal cohort drawn from a random sample of residents of the city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria to investigate the contributions of different types of nature contact to biopsychosocial resilience and, through that, physical and mental health. More specifically, the study will examine the potential of nature contact to buffer the impact on health/well-being of harmful physical exposures (e.g., noise, air pollution) and stressful everyday hassles.

**Case Studies 4-6.** The proposed studies will examine the effects of NbTs based on the mindful immersion in nature on the biopsychosocial resilience of individuals who are sedentary, low-nature users, and with metabolic syndrome (a combination of at least 3 of 5 risk factors: large waistline, high blood pressure, abnormal blood lipid levels, low HDL cholesterol, and high blood sugar) (secondary prevention) in urban/peri-urban (Case Study 4), rural (Case Study 5) and urban coastal settings (Case Study 6). Thus, the studies will contribute to building a stronger body of evidence regarding target group specific NbTs and will also deliver relevant impact through the explicit development of nature-based, and community-led innovations that will inform guidelines on how to best co-create locally relevant resilience building NbTs.

**Case Study 7.** This study compares nature-based, mindfulness-based, and integrated approaches to promoting resilience in a large, factorial RCT that will disentangle the relative and additive contributions of the environmental and skill-building components to resilience-related processes and outcomes.

**Case Study 8.** People with mobility issues (e.g. those using assistive devices such as walkers or wheelchairs) face significant barriers in terms of accessing nature and have been largely overlooked in the research field of nature and human health relationships. The 'Leave no one behind' agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11.7 explicitly draw attention to the need for improved equitable fair access to urban green spaces for people with physical disabilities in an attempt to reduce existing inequalities. This group is also of particular interest to the current call because, they face many additional stressors in their everyday lives as evidenced by generally poorer health-related quality of life compared to the able-bodied population. To the extent that supportive nature contact can help build biopsychosocial resilience, the benefits may therefore be particularly pertinent for this group. The specific aim of Case Study 8 to test the potential benefits to biopsychosocial resilience and mental health for people with mobility issues of spending time in a bespoke outdoor environment research laboratory 'Move Green Lab.' located within Denmark's largest arboretum and designed to aid nature access for people with mobility issues using the Evidence-Based Health Design in Landscape architecture process model (EBHDL-process model). Specifically, we will explore whether regular visits to the Move Green Lab. (urban forest) using smartphone App designed to guide and support people's sensory experiences enhances mental health and biopsychosocial resilience outcomes for people with mobility issues.

**Case Study 9.** This study will explore how nature-based biopsychosocial resilience building processes can be integrated into the existing practices of a region-wide care farming program in the Netherlands. The main aim is to improve the use of the natural environment for building resilience by means of staff training. This training will be



carried out as a participatory trajectory (or Community of Practice) in which staff of different farms will exchange their knowledge and will collaborate with researchers and other experts to develop, test, and evaluate nature-based daytime activities that are optimally geared towards building the clients' biopsychosocial resilience. For this study, we will focus on care farms offering daytime activities for older people with various forms of dementia in different stages and other cognitive and functional impairments. There is currently no cure available for this condition, but the activities at the farm can help the clients and their caregivers to live well with the condition and as such become more resilient against its negative impacts.

### 1.2.1 Extent and evaluation of current knowledge directly linked to the scientific question(s) to be answered by the clinical study

**Case Studies 1-3.** Epidemiological evidence suggests that different types of contact, with various forms of nature, is good for a range of health and well-being outcomes (Frumkin et al., 2017; Hartig et al., 2014; Twohig-Bennett & Jones, 2018). Yet, the current evidence base is limited by its largely cross-sectional approach. Although analysis of data from UKHLS's predecessor The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) by members of the RESONATE consortium showed that relocations to greener, more natural, or coastal locations, are associated with improved mental health and wellbeing (White, et al., 2013a; 2013b, Alcock, White et al., 2014; 2015; see also Annerstedt (Van den Bosch) et al., 2015), they were unable to explain the mechanisms underlying these associations (Frumkin et al., 2017). Case Studies 1-3 build on this earlier work to use longitudinal cohort designs and several validated measures of resilience to: 1) strengthen the causal evidence base; and, 2) examine a range of biopsychosocial mechanisms with the potential to mediate nature-health associations.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Current evidence suggests that NbTs can have a beneficial impact on mental health and wellbeing (Britton et al., 2020; Lovell et al., 2015). However, high-quality evidence, based on well-controlled trials, is lacking (Annerstedt & Währborg, 2011; Corazon et al., 2019) and the biopsychosocial mechanisms are again insufficiently understood (Frumkin et al., 2017). Furthermore, heterogeneity in terms of intervention protocols and outcomes between studies make it difficult to synthesise and compare causal evidence on the efficacy of NbTs (Hartig et al., 2014; Annerstedt & Währborg, 2011). Using comparable high-quality Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) designs, Case Studies 4-6 will provide essential knowledge regarding the efficiency of NbTs in a high-risk population group suffering from Metabolic Syndrome (MtS). The rationale behind choosing a population with MtS is that this is a group of individuals with a high risk of developing various non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as coronary heart disease and stroke, and are likely to benefit from improved biopsychosocial resilience. MtS is characterised by a cluster of conditions that occur together, such as being overweight, and having high blood pressure, and blood glucose levels. All the parameters may hypothetically be improved by NbT, which could promote physical activity and reduce stress. The results are expected to be beneficial for implementation of nature-based interventions as a preventive approach in a high-risk population, with significant health gains.

**Case Study 7.** NbTs often combine an environmental intervention with more conventionally "psychological", individual-level methods (e.g., talk therapy, skills training) to promote biopsychosocial resilience. Mindfulness training is one such individual-level method that, building on tradition, experience, and emerging theory is being combined with nature exposure to achieve synergies and added benefits in NbT's (Djernis et al., 2019; Kotera et al., 2022). Arguments for the feasibility of such a combination have been put forth by researchers in environmental psychology (Macaulay et al., 2022; Schutte & Malouff, 2018), meditation science (Tang & Posner, 2009; Van Gordon et al., 2018), and NbT fields (Corazon et al., 2012; Lymeyus et al., 2017). Yet, it is still poorly understood how integration of the two approaches may facilitate relevant processes and outcomes beyond those that can be achieved through either component alone (Geiger et al., 2019; Lymeyus, 2022b). The restoration skills training (ReST) course was systematically developed based on current insights in the respective fields (Lymeyus, 2019) and has withstood empirical testing in terms of several theoretical assumptions and resilience-related outcomes (Lymeyus et al., 2018, 2022). The ReST course and surrounding research framework gives unique opportunity to factor out the relative and additive contributions of the setting and skill-building components involved by comparing five weeks of ReST training to formally matched conventional mindfulness-based training conducted indoors, nature contact without mindfulness training in a Nature on Prescription program, and to a passive control condition. This will allow firm conclusions regarding how these components contribute to mechanisms of change and to outcomes directly relevant for the biopsychosocial resilience model.

**Case Study 8.** Despite the many possible health benefits of nature exposure, not all population groups have equal access to them, as illustrated in a review of health inequalities in a British context (Shanahan et al., 2014). One aspect of accessibility addressed by the British review is the distance to the nearest green space, which has been shown to be related to the frequency of visits (e.g., Neuvonen et al., 2007; Schipperijn et al., 2010) and health (Stigsdotter et

al., 2010). Another aspect to consider is the accessibility of the space in relation to the individual's abilities (WHO, 2011). Both the distance to and the accessibility of green spaces may involve potential constraints that might exclude individuals from visiting them. A national Danish survey found that people with mobility disabilities visit green spaces much less frequently than the able-bodied population (Stigsdotter, Corazon & Ekholm 2017). These findings are in line with a nation-wide survey on the use of outdoor environments for leisure conducted in the United States (Williams, Vogelsong & Cordell 2004). Furthermore, people restricted by physical disability generally have greater mental and physical health problems than the able-bodied population (WHO 2011). One may, therefore, assume that the potential health benefits of contact with green spaces could be an important health resource for this population group. However, little is known about what factors lead to the generally low participation of people with mobility disabilities in green space activities. Studies have found that this group has the same preference for green spaces as the able-bodied reference group, shares the same environmental attitudes (Brown, Kaplan & Quaderer 1999; Lovelock, 2010; Moore, Dattilo & Devine 1996), and gains the same health benefits (Zhang et al. 2017). To provide equal access for all and to meet the requirements of the United Nation's Convention on the Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006), it is important to explore the constraints this population group experiences when visiting green spaces and how they can be overcome, but perhaps foremost also to provide guidance on how to use green spaces for a 'new' group of nature visitors.

**Case Study 9.** The concept of care farming provides an innovative approach to dementia care that is being implemented in an increasing number of countries. Several research projects have been carried out that address a wide range of issues related to dementia care provision at care farms with various research methods (e.g. De Boer, Verbeek, Zwakhalen, & Hamers, 2019; De Bruin et al., 2017; Ibsen et al., 2020). Results indicate that contact with nature and animals and time spent outdoors is an important and highly valued element of care farming, in addition to other elements such as (physical) activities, structure, social interactions, healthy eating, and a sense of meaning in life. Participants and their family caregivers experience less stigmatisation because of dementia, since the care farm environment is non-institutional. Instead, people with dementia consider themselves a volunteer or employee rather than a patient with cognitive and functional impairments. Clients feel recognized, understood, and seen as people who can deliver a meaningful contribution. Based on these studies, it can be concluded that care farms have a wide range of resilience-building benefits that promote the health and wellbeing of people with dementia and their family caregivers (De Bruin et al., 2020). It is however, not as yet well understood how the natural outdoor environment of the farms can be optimally used to support these beneficial impacts.

#### 1.2.1.1 Outcomes (efficacy, safety) of completed and number of ongoing clinical studies utilising the same intervention in the same indication (including review of public registers)

**Case Studies 1- 3.** Not applicable. The proposed studies use observational designs examining the associations between respondents' existing contact with nature (e.g. residential access, recreational visits), stressful life events, biopsychosocial resilience measures, and mental health outcomes.

**Case Studies 4-6.** There are currently no ongoing clinical studies using the same intervention in the same indication. The efficacy and safety of similar interventions (i.e. NbTs with a focus on moderate exercise in natural environments, though not participants with MtS) have, however, been shown in a range of completed studies that were conducted by researchers within the RESONATE consortium (e.g. Arnulf Hartl: ISRCTN88277657 – Effects of Winter Exercise and the Healing Climate of Caves on people with Allergies and Asthma; ISRCTN43292449 – Mountain Hiking vs. Nature Connection Therapy Based in Algrund as Climate Therapy for Couples).

**Case Study 7.** Mindfulness training is well-established as a health and well-being intervention for several clinical groups and healthy participants, most prominently exemplified in research and practice by the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction course (MBSR; see Crane et al., 2017). A multitude of evidence reviews have affirmed that conventional mindfulness training promotes several aspects of psychological functioning and health (Cásedas et al., 2020; Khoury et al., 2013; Sedlmeier et al., 2018; Tang et al., 2015). Studies that have assessed undesired experiences and potential harm in connection with conventional mindfulness training have broadly concluded that the training may be challenging for some but not attended by any serious risks when applied appropriately (Aizik-Reeb et al., 2021; Baer et al., 2019, 2021). Members of the consortium have previously compared a five-week conventional mindfulness training course based on the MBSR approach to a formally matched mindfulness- and nature-based ReST course. The studies affirmed that ReST teaches skills relevant for protective resilience (general attention performance) and recovery resilience (cognitive and emotional restoration) while conventional mindfulness training only generated indications of the former (Lymeus et al., 2018). ReST also had lower drop-out and steadier compliance rates than conventional mindfulness training, which was explained by interactions between experiences of setting characteristics and meditation depth during class meetings (Lymeus et al., 2019). In addition to being more restorative



(i.e., less effortful) and appealing, random assignment to the ReST course was, on average, attended by lasting benefits for general aspects of psychological functioning that were not inferior to those of conventional mindfulness training, and was not attended by any elevated or concerning risk of deteriorated psychological functioning (Lymeus et al., 2020, 2022). This case study compares ReST, conventional mindfulness training building on MBSR, and a Nature on Prescription intervention that involves regular nature visits without any particular training. Nature on Prescription is currently being established as a health and wellbeing intervention in several countries, and members of the consortium have contributed to the development of a comprehensive handbook for successful and safe implementation of such interventions (Fullam et al., 2021). The guidelines put forth in the handbook served as a foundation for development of a preliminary Nature on Prescription intervention that was tested in a pilot study. Evaluations of the pilot study (Palm & Stjernberg, 2022; Tóth, 2022) concluded that the intervention is broadly promising and that participant's reports did not indicate any major discomforts or undesired outcomes. Experience and data resulting from the pilot study, together with expertise shared within the consortium, will guide further improvements of the Nature on Prescription intervention in preparation for this study.

**Case Study 8.** Although no ongoing or previous studies have utilised the same App. enhanced intervention, a previous RCT study supports the clinical efficacy of the nature-based therapy programme that underpins the rationale for the App (Stigsdotter et al., 2018; Corazon et al., 2018).

**Case Study 9.** No ongoing or previous studies have utilised this intervention in a care-farm setting for clients with dementia. However, a recent study by our research group has examined the impacts of a participatory staff training to increase the use of the outdoor natural area at nature-based day-care centres (for young children aged 0-4). The training aimed at stimulating staff's interaction skills using the concept of 'attentive presence'. Following this concept, caregivers were stimulated to be fully present on what is happening in the moment, accept what is happening as it is, and have an eye for how the child is captured and guided by affordances in the environment, and support the child in doing so. This study (under review with the Journal of Outdoor and Environmental Education) showed that children at centres that participated in the training program, as compared to centres that did not, showed lower stress levels (including hair cortisol measurements), and increased levels of well-being, involvement, physical activity, and creative play behaviour while in the outdoor area. Although the target population of this study (very young children) is very different from the target population of the current study (older adults with dementia), a key similarity between the two populations is that they have limited capacity for verbal exchanges and thus are unable to answer questionnaires or other self-report measures. Both populations require data-collection to be carried out through in-situ observations, for which we have developed systematic field observation procedures.

### 1.2.2 Level of evidence related to the mechanism of action of the intervention in the planned clinical study population

**Case Studies 1-3.** Epidemiological studies indicate that residential access to green/blue spaces, as well as recreational nature visits are associated with better health and well-being outcomes (White et al., 2021; Martin et al., 2020). However, to date, population-level investigations of these associations have predominantly used a cross-sectional approach, and consideration of the biopsychosocial mechanisms potentially underlying nature-health associations tends to be fragmented and lack a coherent joined-up framework (White et al., 2022, *under review* – i.e. the paper describing the theory developed by consortium members for this proposal). The proposed studies address these limitations by using longitudinal/cohort designs to examine: 1) whether higher levels of nature contact mitigate the adverse impacts of stressors on mental and physical health; and 2) whether/how various biopsychosocial resilience pathways underly these associations.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Preliminary studies suggest a beneficial impact of NbTs on physical health (e.g., chronic-low back pain, allergy and asthma, osteoporosis prevention), improved mental health and well-being (e.g., unipolar depression, stress related disorders, positive emotions), and stress (e.g., cortisol, Bonham-Corcoran et al., 2022). However, the evidence level is limited and no previous studies have analysed the impact of these kind of NbTs on biopsychosocial resilience and health in individuals with MtS in urban/peri-urban (Case Study 4), rural (Case Study 5) and urban coastal (Case Study 6) settings in a coordinated and community co-created fashion.

**Case Study 7.** Much research in environmental psychology has demonstrated that certain spontaneous, transactional qualities in how people tend to relate to natural environmental features (Hartig et al., 1997; Kaplan, 1995) contribute to relatively high preferences and short-term emotional benefits (e.g., Marselle et al., 2016; White et al., 2010), as well as longer-term health benefits of nature contacts (e.g. Hipp et al., 2015). Hence, the restoration processes known to commonly take place in nature settings presumably proceed even without any conscious decision or particular investment by the individual (von Lindern et al., 2022) and nature-based interventions have been reported to

particularly benefit people with low cognitive/emotional resources (e.g., Hartig & Staats, 2006; Wheeler et al., 2015). In contrast, mainstream theories in meditation science hold that mindfulness training for beginners improves psychological resilience by gradually training neural and cognitive-behavioural self-regulation capabilities in regular focused-attention meditation exercises (Chiesa et al., 2011; Fox et al., 2016; Lutz et al., 2008). However, such training requires determination and an investment of cognitive effort (Hasenkamp et al., 2012; Lutz et al., 2015; Malinowski, 2013). Accordingly, people who have weak self-regulation capabilities to begin with – to whom mindfulness training is frequently recommended as a remedy – tend to practice less, drop out more, and benefit less (Banerjee et al., 2018; Crane & Williams, 2010; Lymeus et al., 2017). The outcomes reported under 1.2.1.1 give indications that ReST, which integrates mindfulness training with nature contact, is less effortful and more appealing than conventional mindfulness training because it supports psychological restoration during practice sessions, which in turn promotes deeper meditative experiences and higher initial and long-term commitment to the practice. Given the attrition problems commonly seen with conventional mindfulness training, consortium members compared the relationship between initial cognitive functioning, practice compliance, and achieved cognitive improvements among participants in a conventional mindfulness course versus ReST (Lymeus, 2022a). Participants with more pronounced cognitive problems practiced more if they had been randomly assigned to ReST, which in turn contributed substantially to explaining their improvement in cognitive functioning. Hence, ReST better helped those participants who needed it most. The lower effort required with the ReST approach (Lymeus et al., 2018) and the restoration processes promoted by the natural setting (Lymeus et al., 2019) presumably constitute key mechanisms behind this difference in compliance and outcome patterns compared with conventional mindfulness training. Former ReST participants were also more likely than former participants in the conventional course to keep using the skills they had learned over the following six months (Lymeus et al., 2022).

**Case Study 8.** The results reported under 1.2.1.1 give indications that nature exposure could be beneficial for the mental health issues that people with mobility disability face. However, the evidence level is limited and no previous studies have analysed impact of visits with an App with sensory awareness exercises tailored to a particular nature environment that is specifically designed to be accessible and health promoting for people with mobility disabilities.

**Case Study 9.** In general, there is substantial support for the beneficial effects of contact with nature for older adults with dementia and other cognitive and functional impairments (Uwajeh, Polay, & Iyendo, 2018; Whear et al., 2014). The effectiveness of Communities of Practices as a co-creative participatory approach to stimulate innovation in healthcare and public health and other domains (eg., education, community building) is also well-established (Li et al., 2009; Wenger, 1998). However, the combination of these two approaches for optimizing the beneficial effects of contact with nature at care-farms is new and innovative, thus has not been empirically studied.

### 1.3 Objective(s) of the clinical study


Please differentiate between primary and secondary objective(s)

**Case Study 1.** The primary objective is to investigate whether residential and occupational exposure to natural environments attenuates adverse mental and physical health trajectories associated with personally stressful life events. The secondary objective is to examine whether these associations are mediated by higher psychological and/or social resilience, specifically higher self-efficacy and neighbourhood cohesion (the most relevant metrics that already exist in this secondary dataset following preliminary data availability screening).

**Case Study 2.** The primary objective is to investigate whether exposure to natural environments (incl. residential exposure, recreational nature visits) attenuates adverse mental and physical health trajectories associated with societal level stressors (e.g. Covid-19 lockdowns, cost of living challenges) on an older population. The secondary objective is to examine whether these associations are mediated by better psychological and/or social resilience, specifically higher executive function and lower loneliness (again the most relevant metrics existing in this secondary dataset following preliminary data availability screening).

**Case Study 3.** The primary research questions to be answered include: 1) the frequency, duration, and form of habitual exposure to green/blue spaces and, in general, contact with nature; 2) the contribution of nature contact to different types of biopsychosocial resilience and, through that, mental/physical health. In addition, the underlying pathways linking nature contact, resilience, and mental health, including the potential of nature contact to buffer the impact on mental health of harmful physical exposures (e.g., noise, air pollution) and stressful everyday events and hassles will be explored.

**Case Studies 4-6.** The primary objective of these clinical studies is to analyse the impact of a series of short, initially staff guided, and then outdoor-activity-mapping-App-supported, self-directed mindful immersions in nature on

biopsychosocial resilience in a sedentary population with  and low nature use prior to the study. Primary outcomes to measure biopsychosocial resilience include: 1) quality of life (incl. SF-12), and 2) chronic stress. The secondary objective is to provide data on environmental, social, and economical aspects of the intervention to contribute to Social Innovation Actions and to establish NbTs as secondary prevention measures in health care. Of note we are not creating a new technology App. support system here but will use off the shelf products that can already be used to map out routes in advance and which can be uploaded for participants to route follow e.g. <https://www.outdooractive.com/>.

**Case Study 7.** Restoration skills training (ReST), which integrates mindfulness training with restorative nature experience, is promising as an appealing and accessible health intervention. However, it needs to be studied with high quality RCT methods that explore its scaling-out potential and roll out fidelity, in order to gain wider acceptance. We seek to determine whether the integrated method yields broader and stronger outcomes than each component intervention alone, and can be disseminated as an intervention to enhance resilience.

**Case Study 8.** The primary objective is to examine the impact of regular visits to the Move Green Lab., supported by a nature-based App, on the biopsychosocial resilience and mental health of participants with mobility disabilities/issues. The secondary objectives are to: 1) analyse and investigate if the App. is supporting the nature experiences by using eye-tracking technology with a sub-sample of willing participants; 2) analyse the possibility of the landscape by using landscape analyses, systematic observations, qualitative interviews with participants, and eye-tracking technology in order to gain insight into how to improve future designs for these groups concerning nature accessibility.

**Case Study 9.** The primary objective is to evaluate the impacts of a participatory staff training program aimed at strengthening the use of the natural outdoor areas at care-farms for improving clients' well-being while engaging in nature-based activities. The secondary objective is to compare the nature-based biopsychosocial resilience (as measured by the validated outcome measures of the RESONATE program) of clients at farms who participated in the program to clients who did not, and to identify factors that may moderate the impacts of the training, such as the characteristics of the outdoor area, quality of the interaction between care givers and care clients, etc.

#### 1.4 Characteristics of the study population (size, age group, sex distribution, inclusion and exclusion criteria; all items with justification)

**Case Study 1.** The UK Household Longitudinal survey (UKHLS) is a nationally representative annual longitudinal panel survey, based on a clustered-stratified probability sample of 40,000 UK households. Data is currently available from 2009 to 2019 (Waves 1-10) with possible further waves released before analysis will begin. With measures pertaining to emotional and social processes included in different survey waves, we will analyse these two potential mediators separately, over somewhat different time-frames. Analyses for emotional resilience will be restricted to participants over the age of 18, who completed the General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSF) in 2013/14 (Wave 5) ( $N = 37,112$ ). Analyses for social resilience will be restricted to participants who completed the two social items of interest (i.e. number of close friends and neighbourhood social cohesion scale) in 2014/15 (Wave 6) ( $N = 36,000$ ). Should data on the two proposed mediators become available for later survey waves this will also be analysed. Intersectionality will be explored thorough interaction terms across multiple socio-demographics, including gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, and stratified where appropriate.

**Case Study 2.** PROTECT included ~14,000 UK participants at baseline (2015); by April 2020 there were 24,030 enrolled members of the cohort. Inclusion criteria for PROTECT enrolment were: 1) living in the UK; 2) age 40+; 3) regular access to a computer and the Internet; and 4) no pre-existing diagnosis of dementia. Overall the PROTECT cohort has an average age of approximately 62 years, and around 70% of participants are female (Huntley et al., 2018). As with CS 1, intersectionality will be explored thorough interaction terms across multiple socio-demographics, including gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, and stratified where appropriate.

**Case Study 3.** The sample will comprise 1,500 residents of Plovdiv, Bulgaria at baseline. The gender and ethnic profile of the sample will closely resemble that of the general population of Plovdiv. Eligible participants will include non-institutionalized adults (18-65 years) resident in Plovdiv or Plovdiv province for a minimum of 1 year, who are fluent in Bulgarian, mobile enough to be able to leave their home independently, and capable of understanding the study objectives and conditions and voluntarily choose to take part in the study. To be included, participants will also have to indicate their intention to stay with the cohort during follow-up, for which they will receive financial incentives. We will exclude minors and those over the age of 65 years, in-patients, institutionalized individuals, those not using their dwelling as a main residence in the past 1 year, and those incapable of fully understanding the

conditions and implications of their participation in the study of people unable to give informed consent. Excluding children and elderly individuals is expected to ensure relative homogeneity in the opportunities for nature use, mobility patterns, and health status not severely contaminated by co-morbidities.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Based on preliminary power analysis and attrition rates from the most comparable previous study (Pichler et al., 2022) the studies will each include 134 participants (N = 67 intervention group; N = 67 waitlist control group). We will include people with MtS to analyse the effect of NbTs in a Level 2 disease prevention context. Age group: 40-65yrs, the highest working age risk group for MtS. Sex distribution: We will use stratification in the randomisation procedure to obtain gender balance to better understand potential gender-related effect differences. Inclusion criteria: 1) clinically diagnosed with MtS (ICD-10: E88.81) according to abnormal values for 3/5 of the following factors: waist circumference, blood pressure, triglyceride levels, HDL-cholesterol, fasting glucose; 2) aged 40-65; 3) sedentary behaviour (assessed with the International Physical Activity Questionnaire – Short Form IPAQ-SF); 4) ability to participate in moderate hiking tours (assessed via Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire, PAR-Q); 5) low nature users; 6) ownership of a smartphone. Exclusion criteria will be finalised during the Hub development phase but are likely to include: an already highly active lifestyle, uncontrolled metabolic disease and/or hypertension, immunologically mediated chronic conditions or immunodeficiency, severe respiratory diseases, acute or untreated psychiatric disorders, orthopaedic contraindications for hiking, and moderate to severe allergies that can be triggered in nature visits (that could cause discomfort or hamper benefits).

**Case Study 7.** Participants will be drawn from the general population of university students: a group designated by the Public Health Agency of Sweden (2018) as a vulnerable occupational group where existing preventive and treatment options are insufficient and whose uncertain completion of a higher education jeopardizes the major personal and societal investments made in hope of a bright and sustainable future. We will recruit through posters on university campuses and relevant social media platforms as well as through collaboration with the student health services and primary care providers and stratify the incoming eligible sample by psychological health status (based on established cut-off scores on the clinically validated Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (Alfonsson et al., 2017; Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995)). Thus, the sample will comprise 50% individuals with clinical-level symptoms of psychological distress and 50% individuals with mild or no symptoms. We will also seek balanced gender representation by oversampling males from the female-dominated population. The sample will be stratified by health status and gender before they are randomly and equally distributed between the intervention conditions. **Inclusion criteria:** Being enrolled in courses for at least 75% of full time during the study period and being <40 years old (i.e., representing typical university students); not having any major health issues beside psychological distress as assessed at enrolment, nor having any ongoing treatments (i.e., personal factors that could interfere with participation and outcomes); being motivated to participate in a health intervention and able to plan for participating in accordance with the given intervention schedule (i.e., able and likely to engage properly with the interventions). **Exclusion criteria:** Current severe mental illness, suicidal ideation or self-harm, or any current or previous symptoms of psychosis or bipolarity (i.e., in need of other treatment; see Baer et al., 2019); moderate to severe allergies that can be triggered in nature visits (that could cause discomfort or hamper benefits); recently (<3 months) started taking any new medication or adjusted an ongoing medication regimen that could reasonably affect their psychological health (because it could introduce extraneous variation in the data); previous participation in mindfulness training courses or a nature on prescription intervention (because it could limit potential effects; minor experience in similar practices such as yoga or using mindfulness apps is acceptable); known scheduling conflicts that will cause them to miss more than one of the scheduled intervention meetings.

**Case Study 8.** 110 adults (+18yrs, all adult groups relevant) will be recruited (N = 55 intervention condition visit with App; N = 55 waiting controls) to achieve sufficient power (Cohen, 1988). Sex distribution: All genders are included, but the distribution will be random (non-gender specific intervention). Inclusion criteria: ICF 2017: d4500 (walking short distances; walking for less than a kilometre, such as walking around rooms or hallways, within a building or for short distances outside); All educational levels, all religious affiliations, all types of marital status, all types of households, all types of employment and income (general inclusion of participants). Exclusion criteria: Do not understand Danish (App in Danish); Cognitive limitations (must be able to communicate with the participants); Drug or alcohol abuse (may bias the results); Participation in mindfulness program or similar during time of intervention (may bias the results).

**Case Study 9.** This study takes a two-step approach: first, staff of care farms (as the primary target group) will follow a training programme to potentially enhance their interaction skills with clients in the natural environment, and develop and test new activities to practice these skills. Second, the impacts of the training program on the adult clients with dementia and other cognitive and functional disabilities (the target study population) will be measured by means of observations and questionnaires (supported by caregivers). It is not possible beforehand to specify the



characteristics of the target study population, as this will depend on the characteristics of the farms that will sign up for participation, and the presence of clients on the days of observation. As noted by De Bruin et al. (2020), care farms in the Netherlands do not intend to attract a distinctive client group. Compared to people with dementia attending adult day services centres affiliated to residential homes or nursing homes, clients of care farms are relatively young (on average about 71rs vs. 85yrs) and more often male. It can be expected that this client composition will be reflected in the study population. In general, all clients at farms participating in the study who are able to go out and participate in nature activities will be eligible for inclusion, there are no exclusion criteria except for not being able to participate in these activities. In a similar vein, all staff members of care farms that sign up for the training programme are eligible for participation in the study.

#### 1.4.1 Details on sample size and power calculation

**Case Study 1.** Non-applicable – this study involves the analysis of a secondary dataset. Common heuristics to determine sufficient sample size for structural Equation Models indicate that: sample size should exceed 200 (Loehlin, 1992); there should be at least 15 cases per measured variable or predictor (Stevens, 2002; Siddiqui, 2013) and a minimum of 5 cases per parameter estimate (Bentler & Chu, 1987). Thus, with an analytical sample of approximately 36,000+ respondents we anticipate no issues with a lack of power.

**Case Study 2.** Non-applicable – this study involves the analysis of a secondary dataset. Common heuristics to determine sufficient sample size for structural Equation Models indicate that: sample size should exceed 200 (Loehlin, 1992); there should be at least 15 cases per measured variable or predictor (Stevens, 2002; Siddiqui, 2013) and a minimum of 5 cases per parameter estimate (Bentler & Chu, 1987). Thus, with an analytical sample of approximately 14,000+ respondents we anticipate that the study will be sufficiently powered.

**Case Study 3.** The total sample will comprise 1,500 residents of Plovdiv recruited at baseline, with the intent to keep as many of the initial sample in the cohort by the end of follow-up (in 12 months) by providing incentives. Conventional rules of thumb based on anticipated model parameters typically suggest that up to 1,000 subjects are required for estimating the parameters and detecting misspecifications of a structural equation model with bootstrap generated standard errors for indirect effects and continuous data (Kyriazos, 2018). Furthermore, a preliminary simulation based on anticipated small effect (0.1), statistical power of .8, alpha level of .05, 3 latent variables, and 25 observed variables, taken as a ballpark of the structural equation model complexity in this study, indicated a minimum sample size of 823 for model structure and minimum sample size of 1,258 to detect effect (Soper, 2022, Westland, 2010). Another Monte Carlo simulation including one exposure, one outcome, and either two serial or three parallel mediator observed variables, and assuming small correlations (0.1) between these variables, suggested that with 1,500 participants, statistical power for the regression path parameters would exceed .8 (Schoemann, Boulton & Short, 2017). Thus, with an analytical sample size of about 1,500 respondents for the main analysis we anticipate that the study will be sufficiently powered. Moreover, that sample size is expected to ensure sufficient variability in the data to enable complex tests of associations between various forms of exposure to nature and self-reported and measured health parameters. A subsample of 250 participants will undergo laboratory testing for biomarkers of resilience. These participants will be randomly drawn from all participants who at the time of the first interview consent to have their blood (and possibly urine) samples collected. With a sample size of 250, simpler mediation analysis with no latent constructs /only observed scores/ also appears justified according to heuristic and preliminary simulation results for single mediation models with repeated measurements (Kyriazos, 2018; Schoemann, Boulton & Short, 2017).

**Case Studies 4-6.** The number of participants was defined as calculated sample size + 25 % (calculated drop out and loss-to-follow-up). The sample size was calculated with data from a previous study conducted by project partner 10 (Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg, Institute of Ecomedicine - ISRCTN43292449). The study compared two types of nature-based therapies (mountain hiking vs. forest therapy) in a population presenting the following demographics: age 50–60rs, body mass index  $\geq 25$ – $\leq 30$ , sedentary lifestyle (International Physical Activity Questionnaire Short Form  $< 3.00$  METmin/week) and the ability to participate in moderate hiking tours (Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire). Sample size was calculated with a bootstrap simulation (using the R-GNU software environment, General Public License, R Foundation for Statistical Computing); F1-LD-F1 models from the nparLD package (Nonparametric Longitudinal Data Analysis) were applied. The initial seed for the variate generator was set at 1 and the re-sampling process was fixed to 1000 repetitions for each sample size. The percentage of significant results was used as an estimator of power. Following the results, we expect a power of 0.87 with a sample size of 50 per study arm. With an assumed drop out and loss-to-follow up of 25%, recruitment rate is set to 67 per study arm, i.e. in total 134 study subjects.

**Case Study 7.** Building on previous studies comparing ReST to conventional mindfulness training and on a pilot study completed during spring 2022 comparing ReST to Nature on Prescription, we consider that the study should be powered (given  $(1-\beta) > .80$ , and  $\alpha < .05$ ) to detect effects of  $f \approx .175$  ( $\eta^2 \approx .03$ ) in two-factor interactions (e.g., intervention type x health status, intervention type x gender) in ANCOVA analyses targeting the primary outcome (psychological distress, assessed with DASS-21) and secondary outcomes. This will be achieved by a total intention-to-treat sample of 260 individuals (i.e., 130 per health status category, 65 per intervention condition including the passive control condition). A random subset of 100 participants will also be asked to complete a fatigue induction and restoration paradigm before and after the interventions. The size of the subset sample was determined based on analyses with mixed ANOVA for four groups and six measurement points (before fatigue induction, after fatigue induction, after restoration; repeated before and after intervention), assumptions of relatively high correlations (.70) among repeated measures (as observed in pilot studies using similar methods), and small effects ( $f \approx .10$ ). This yields power of  $(1-\beta) > .80$  at  $\alpha < .05$ .

**Case Study 8.** Building on a previous study (Stigsdotter *et al.* 2018) and a power analysis we propose to recruit 110 individuals in a two-arm RCT with a 6-month follow-up (assuming a 30% attenuation rate). The power analysis relates to a repeated measures ANOVA (based on  $(1-\beta) > .80$ , and  $\alpha < .05$ ) with an effect size of  $f=0.25$ . The intervention group ( $n = 55$ ) will be supported by an enabler to visit the Move Green lab for at least 2hrs a week for five consecutive weeks (plus baseline measures one week before intervention starts), vs. waiting-control.

**Case Study 9.** We aim to include 24 farms. Staff of 12 farms will participate in the training. After the training, the well-being of their clients while being outdoors will be observed with the 19-item Greater Cincinnati Chapter Well-Being Observation Tool (GCCWB, Kinney & Rentz, 2005) as the main outcome measure. Scores on this measure will be compared to clients of 12 matched farms whose staff did not participate in the training programme. Based on previous research, we expect to be able to observe about 8 clients per farm, which would result in 96 clients per condition. An a-priori power analysis indicates that 30 clients per condition would be sufficient to detect a significant difference of 16 points in observed wellbeing on the GCCWB with a standard deviation of 22, with  $\alpha = .05$  and a power of 80%. Thus, we anticipate that this study will be sufficiently powered.

#### 1.5 Design of the clinical study (controlled / uncontrolled; randomised; open / blinded; parallel group / cross over / other; please justify the appropriateness of the selected design)

**Case Study 1.** The analysis is a moderated mediation analysis of nationally representative longitudinal panel survey data. Data on exposure to the natural environment (e.g. neighbourhood greenspace, coastal proximity), stressful life events (e.g. divorce), and mental health outcomes (General Health Questionnaire, life satisfaction) are available at different time points for the same individuals. Regression and/or Structural Equation Models will be used to examine whether individuals' nature exposure attenuates the impact of stressful life events on mental health trajectories, and whether these associations are mediated by psychological and social resilience.

**Case Study 2.** The analysis is a moderated mediation analysis of nationally representative longitudinal panel survey data. Data on exposure to the natural environment (e.g. residential, recreational nature visits), socially stressful events (e.g. Covid-19 lockdowns, cost of living crisis), and mental health outcomes (depression, anxiety) are available at different time points for the same individuals. Regression and/or Structural Equation Models will be used to examine whether individuals' nature exposure attenuates the impact of socially stressful events on mental health trajectories, and whether these associations are mediated by psychological and social resilience.

**Case Study 3.** The study will use a prospective panel design. We will define different neighbourhood typologies based on distances to green spaces and major traffic lines, and will then draw a random sample of residents from each, to ensure sufficient sub-samples for different urban exposures. Survey data on residential environment, stressors, and mental/physical health will be collected at 3 time points, six months apart. Biophysical resilience markers, will be collected at two time points from a sub-set of participants (months 14-17 and 20-23, respectively).

**Case Studies 4-6.** Stratified randomised controlled waiting-list trials. We will follow established methods and protocols for conducting RCTs. The randomisation is done to measure marginal difference in outcomes between the groups and to balance known and unknown factors, efficiently reducing the risk of confounding and eliminating observer bias and selection effects. This will improve causal inference, which will contribute to strengthened evidence level. The waiting-list control group serves as an untreated comparison to determine if the treatment had any effect. A waiting-list control group was selected for these Case Studies primarily because the intervention arms will already vary to some extent as a function of the co-creation processes that will take place in each setting, and thus we did not want to add additional heterogeneity to the design by also having different co-created control groups



which would render case study synthesis even harder. CS7, which is further advanced in terms of societal readiness is able to explore multiple control conditions and thus, to some extent, tease out issues such as is nature mindfulness better than nature alone or mindfulness alone.

**Case Study 7.** The study is a controlled (factorial 4-armed), randomized, open, parallel group trial. The 4 intervention conditions cover the 4 possible combinations of nature contact vs. no nature contact and mindfulness training vs. no mindfulness training and hence involves 3 active conditions (ReST, Nature on Prescription, conventional mindfulness training) and one passive condition (wait-list control). The interventions and other aspects of study participation will be given in addition to any ongoing care that participants take part in and so will not replace any regular treatment. Participants will be randomly assigned with stratification by health status (moderate vs. mild to none) and gender (female vs. male) to one of the four interventions. These design aspects will ensure the ability to disentangle effects of the environment and the training in mindfulness skills, as well as allowing us to explore emerging trends by health status and gender where appropriate. The design will be non-blinded, which is common in psychological RCT's where participant blinding is normally impossible and assessor-blinding difficult to achieve. However, the interventions will be delivered by hired and trained instructors without previous affiliation to the project or knowledge of the hypotheses. Data collection and interventions will be done in four waves where all participants will complete interventions over the course of 12 months. Primary and several secondary outcomes will be assessed shortly before and after the five-week interventions, one month after the interventions, and six months after the interventions. A random subset of 100 participants will also be asked to go through a fatigue induction and restoration paradigm with assessments of physiological and psychological indices of stress before and after the interventions, in order to evaluate the effects of the interventions on protective (i.e., resistance to fatigue induction) and recovery resilience (i.e., restoration efficiency).

**Case Study 8.** A randomised controlled two-armed trial with waiting-control group. Several options for the control group were discussed (e.g. visits without the enhancing App) but a waiting-control was selected for several reasons. First, since the App has not previously been used systematically, there was no data upon which to base power calculations about the relative potential benefits of visits with and without the App. The present study will begin to provide such data by producing results that can be compared to previous trials in the same location without the App, which can then be used at a later stage to design an adequately powered study to compare visits with and without the App. Further, we also have to recognise the practicalities involved in working with this target population. Based on previous studies between two to four individuals will be involved in supporting and testing each visiting individual for each visit. Attempting to support two groups of people with physical limitations at the site over the same time period would be extremely logistically challenging within the time frame and budget. The waiting control group will still be monitored at the same time points, but not on-site, and receive access to the visit enhancing App. and instructions after the end of the intervention period if there is evidence that the experiences were positive.

**Case Study 9.** This is a comparative study with a matched design. Farms and clients will not be randomly allocated, and staff will not be blind to the intervention (as they will themselves be involved in co-creation). Matching of the farms will be done in a very careful manner, based on environmental and organizational characteristics, which will be collected before the start of the training program through a questionnaire sent out to the farms. Additionally, researchers will evaluate the farms' characteristics using pre-defined checklists to further establish the comparability of the farms in the two conditions.

#### 1.6 Type of intervention (medicinal product / advanced therapy medicinal product / medical device / in vitro diagnostic medical device / surgical or other invasive procedure / other medical intervention, including, e.g., counselling)

**Case Study 1.** The 'intervention' in this study will be respondents' residential exposure to green and blue spaces (i.e. the proportion of private and public greenspace within their immediate neighbourhood i.e. their Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA), and proximity to the coast based on population-weighted LSOA centroids). Geographical measures of neighbourhood green/blue space will be linked to existing UKHLS data using GIS within the UK Data Service's SecureLab.

**Case Study 2.** The 'intervention' in this study will be respondents' residential exposure to green and blue spaces (as for CS1) and self-report recreational nature visits (based on items used for the England wide People and Nature Survey (PANS)). Geographical measures will be supplied to the PROTECT team to be linked anonymously with the PROTECT data. To prevent identification of individuals, geographical identifiers (i.e. LSOA codes) will be removed from the returned dataset.

**Case Study 3.** Data on the ‘intervention’ (i.e. residential environment, objective greenspace quantity/quality and experienced recreational nature use), as well as data pertaining everyday stressors (e.g. financial, relationship, job worries, traffic noise/air pollution), and mental/physical health (e.g. PHQ-9; GAD-7) will be collected in a field survey.

**Case Studies 4-6.** These studies constitute complex interventions and will be standardised as much as possible to enable comparisons between study sites (i.e. urban/peri-urban settings [Case Study 4]; rural mountainous settings [Case Study 5]; urban coastal settings [Case Study 6]). The intervention is a five week long mindful immersion in nature treatment. Based on previous studies by the teams, but depending on co-creation results, the intervention will involve approximately three semi-structured 40-minute walks per week, 15 sessions in total. The initial sessions will be led by a guide, with later sessions supported through established on-line Apps that help people navigate selected nature routes (e.g. <https://www.outdooractive.com/>), with the final decision on the number of in-person vs. self-directed walks determined through the co-creation processes in each location. Walk locations will be determined through the co-creation, but for each case study it will be centrally located and accessible by public transport. Trainers will support participants during the first few walks (number to be determined during the co-creation process) and for the remaining sessions the treatment will be self-guided using a set of newly mapped out walks (designed for this study) added to existing nature walk mobile phone applications (e.g. <https://www.outdooractive.com/>) with a range of different walks offered to avoid repetitiveness and provide a sense of self agency. The intervention on each walk consists of five subsequent stages: (1) a 10 minute walk along a nature path/trail; (2) an aural/olfactory mindfulness procedure (being still with eyes closed and remain alert to sounds/smells); (3) 10 minutes continued walk along the path/trail; (4) five minutes’ tactile mindfulness procedure (touching natural elements along the path, such as plants, water, sand, stones); (5) a 10 minute walk back to the start point. Again, these will be the seed ideas to discuss in the Social Innovation Action Nature-based Therapy Resilience Hubs in each location so may be adjusted depending on local conditions and norms, to avoid asking people to do something that would make them feel uncomfortable etc.

**Case Study 7.** Each of the active interventions spans five weeks and build on existing protocols. The interventions will be led by qualified and specifically trained instructors without any direct knowledge of the study hypotheses or affiliation with the research project (to explore scaling up/out potential). The interventions and other aspects of study participation will be given in addition to any ongoing care that participants take part in and so will not replace any regular treatment. The ReST condition involves one 90-minute group meeting every week, with <12 participants and an instructor present. These meetings take place in an accessible natural setting and involve motivational and educational talks and conversations, practical training in guided exercises that serve to direct and cultivate mindfulness in relation to the setting, and personalized advice on how to establish a regular meditation habit consisting of 20-minute daily practice with given exercises. The Conventional Mindfulness Training condition, like ReST, involves weekly 90-minute group meetings with <12 participants and an instructor present. The meetings take place indoors and involve similar contents as ReST but with talks, conversations, guided exercises and personalized advice that build on views and practices represented in the established Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program. As in ReST, the participants will be advised to practice 20-minutes daily with conventional mindfulness exercises. Nature on Prescription participants will attend weekly online meetings with <12 participants and an instructor. These meetings will be 30 minutes long and participants will be advised to participate via their mobile phones from a natural location. As in ReST and Conventional Mindfulness Training, the meetings will involve motivational and educational talks and conversations and personalized advice on how to establish a regular habit of visiting nature. Following the meeting, participants will be instructed to spend an additional 60 minutes in nature, engaging in calm activities according to their own preference. They will also be asked to spend 20 minutes daily in natural settings. Participants who are randomly assigned to the waiting list control condition will not be informed that other participants commence with interventions immediately. Instead, they will be informed that they can choose any of the three interventions (ReST, Conventional Mindfulness Training, Nature on Prescription) freely once they have completed a five-week baseline assessment period and, after that, another month’s hiatus. Hence, they will commence with the intervention once they, and the participants in the active conditions, have completed the 1-month follow-up. A separate analysis will be conducted on these choice preferences to see which treatment is a priori most popular among different types of individuals, with implications for future offerings.

**Case Study 8.** The intervention consists of spending time in a specifically design mobility inclusive nature garden supported by a mobile phone App designed to enhance the experience. The Move Green Lab. consists of an accessible trail leading the participant to a variety of nature experiences with the App tailored to specific places and experiences along the trail and consisting of sound files with five sensory awareness exercises focusing on five senses (Presence in body and mind, Sight and sense of hearing, Sense of feeling, Body and balance sense and sense of smell).

**Case Study 9.** This intervention can be classified as a ‘non-medical intervention among a clinical population’. Staff

at the care farms will be inspired by researchers and other experts to become more attentively present during their interactions with clients in the outdoor environment. In this way staff can support clients' intrinsic motivation to seek out and connect with the natural world through the affordances it offers e.g. being captured by natural sounds, textures, smells, animals etc. As such, the study aligns with Case Studies 4-8 which also contain elements of supporting people be more mindful of nature. The major difference is that whereas other Case Studies attempt to guide people directly to attend more to nature, here our aim is to encourage staff to support clients to become immersed in the nature attentive activities that they spontaneously engage in, and let them have time and space to do this freely, but safely. In doing so, the project builds on previous work of our group with pre-school children who were also stimulated by staff to spontaneously engage with nature in a mindful fashion. The precise way in which staff bring this into practice involves a process of co-creation in is in a Community of Practice intervention, and thus in a sense staff of care farms are the target group of this intervention. However, clients of the farms will participate in the activities designed by their staff throughout (and after) the six-month intervention period. Ultimately, the intervention from the client's perspective is standard care vs. care that is designed to give them more support for spontaneously occurring mindfulness of the natural world.

### 1.7 Description and timing of study procedures

Please provide an overview, preferably in a tabular format, about the schedule of study procedures. Please give a simple statement on how long individual patients or healthy volunteers participate in the clinical study.

**Case Study 1.** This not a typical clinical study: the secondary data we are analysing is derived solely from the UKHLS. There is no schedule of study procedures that affects participants, since their data have all been collected, anonymised, and published prior to beginning the study. The UKHLS has been conducted since 2009 and is still ongoing. Participants of that (much larger) household panel survey typically participate for several years. Some participants have been merged into the UKHLS from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), which was conducted between 1991 and 2008. Participants are free to leave the UKHLS at any time, but approximately 95% of participants continue to participate from one wave to the next. The aim of UKHLS—as with any household survey—is to retain participants over a long period of time, giving a long-term perspective on the lives of people in the UK. The focus on surveying entire households means that in 2019 UKHLS including over 18,500 two-generation and 2,700 three-generation families taking part in the Study.

**Case Study 2.** This is not a typical clinical study: the secondary data we are analysing is derived solely from the PROTECT cohort, augmented with additional data to be collected by the PROTECT team in collaboration with the UNEXE research team regarding residential nature exposure from neighbourhood data. There is no schedule of study procedures that affects participants, since data have primarily been collected, anonymised, and published prior to beginning the study. Additional data to be collected for the purposes of this study will be added to the main PROTECT datasets. Participants are free to withdraw from the cohort at any time, but most are involved for a period of several years.

**Case Study 3.** Participants will stay with the study for about 12 months. The study timeline is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Timeline for Case Study 3.

Procedures	Month
Development of conceptual models, Development of questionnaire, sampling framework, participant records, and training for sampling and field work	M 1-6
Ethics documentation preparation, submission, and approval	M 5-10
Tender process for survey company and biomarkers kits/reagents	M 1-8
Questionnaire survey Wave 1 - data collection, validation, and curation	M 11-13
First Biomarker tests in subsample – bio-samples collection, analysis, data curation	M 14-17
Questionnaire survey Wave 2 - data collection, validation and curation	M 17-19
Second Biomarker tests in subsample – bio-samples collection, analysis, data curation	M 20-23
Questionnaire survey Wave 3 - data collection, validation, and curation	M 23-25
Creating GIS datasets and linkage to survey data	M 13-28
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 14-36

**Case Studies 4-6.** No recruitment or other aspects of the study will be initiated until ethical approval is obtained. We will collect outcome data in both the treatment and the wait-list control group at baseline, post-intervention, and five

weeks after intervention to evaluate long-term effects. For ethical reasons, the waiting-list control group will receive the same intervention following conclusion of the active treatment group trial and a reduced set of outcome measurements will be obtained for their benefit. Baseline data, including demographic information (e.g. date of birth, gender, ethnicity) will be documented at Eligibility screen 2 (t-1, see table 2). Data on potential confounders will be collected (e.g. diet, living environment, household income, pets, activities, smoking, health status, and medication). If significant baseline differences between the groups occur in spite of the randomisation, these variables will be included in subsequent models for sensitivity analyses. To assess results of the interventions in terms of biopsychosocial resilience, a broad set of outcome data will be collected through self-reports, anthropometric measures, and saliva sampling, necessary to evaluate biopsychosocial resilience processes (see Table 2 and Fig.1 for proposed seed design to be discussed in the local Resilience Hubs). Our primary outcomes are health-related quality of life and allostatic load. Secondary outcomes relate to nature connectedness, self-satisfaction, cardiorespiratory fitness, and physical activity. The proposed self-report tests cover diverse dimensions of psychosocial resilience, meet key psychometric standards, provide normative data, and are sensitive to measuring change over time. The proposed metrics will be discussed as part of the Resilience Hub exercise in each location and possible changes to the secondary outcome set may occur, e.g. where local stakeholders think an alternative more locally relevant one is available, though we will require the primary outcomes to remain the same across study to ensure later synthesis. Metabolic indicators of triglycerides and fasting glucose will only be measured in CS5 (Salzburg) given the expertise needed to collect and analyse these data. All data will be collected by trained assistants.

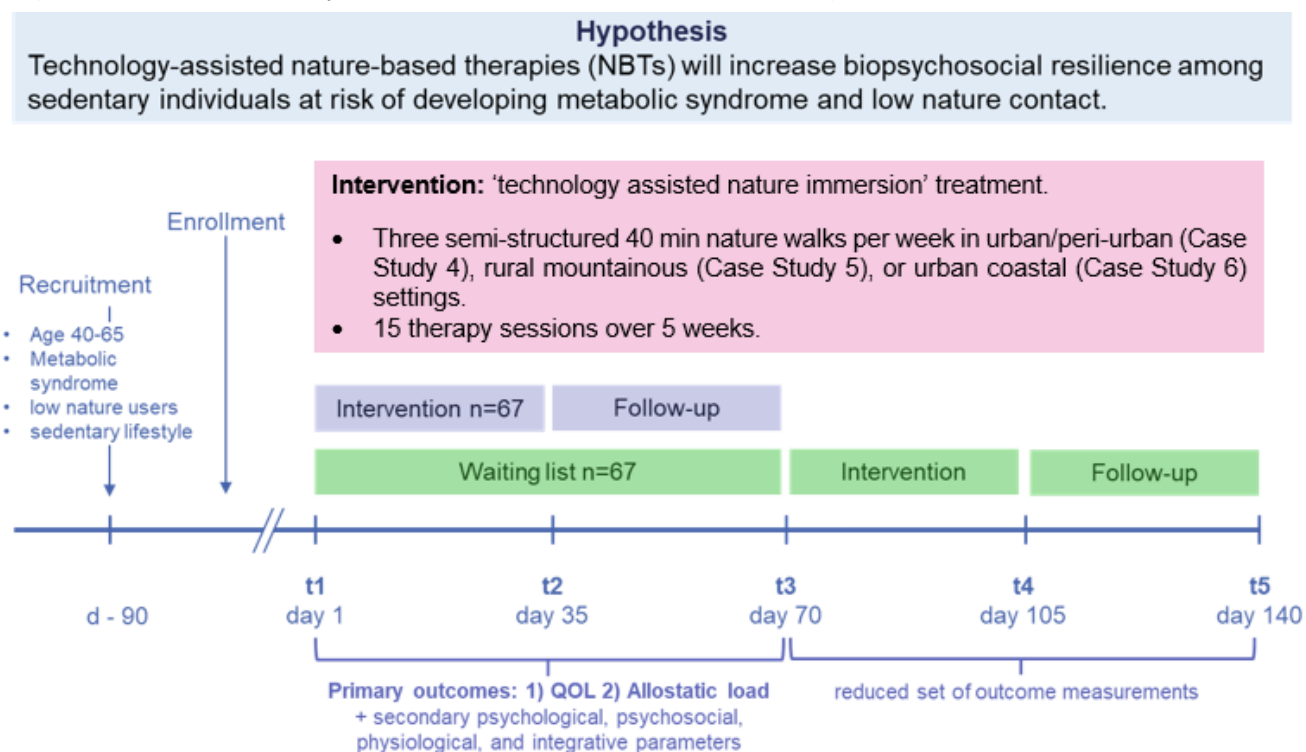
Table 2: Proposed participant timeline for CSs 4-6 showing time schedule of enrolment, interventions, and assessments of participants to be discussed at the local Hub events.

TIMEPOINT	STUDY PERIOD								
	Enrolment		Allocation	Post-allocation					
	T <sub>-2</sub>	T <sub>-1</sub>		T <sub>0</sub>	T <sub>1</sub> Day 1	T <sub>2</sub> Day 35	T <sub>3</sub> Day 70	T <sub>4</sub> Day 105	T <sub>5</sub> Day 140
<b>ENROLMENT</b>									
<b>Eligibility screen—step 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment via established contacts with health care centres and clinics for MtS patients etc.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doctor’s diagnosed Metabolic Syndrome (MtS)</li> <li>○ Sedentary lifestyle</li> <li>○ Age 40-65</li> <li>○ Low nature users (&lt; 30 min/week)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	X								
<b>Eligibility screen—step 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical history</li> <li>• Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)</li> <li>• Physical Activity (IPAQ-SF)</li> <li>• Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q)</li> <li>• Baseline data</li> </ul>		X							
Informed consent		X							
Group allocation			X						
<b>INTERVENTION</b>									
Nature immersion therapy (IG)				●————→					
Waiting-list control group (CG)							●————→		
<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>									
<b>Primary Outcome 1</b> Quality of life (QOL)	IG				X	X	X		



					Associated with document Ref	Ares(2023)3112135	03/05/2023		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short Form Health Survey (SF-12) <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Euro Quality of Life Questionnaire (EQ-5D) <sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<b>CG</b>				X	X	X	X	X
<b>Primary Outcome 2</b> <b>Allostatic Load Index</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>IG</b>				X	X	X		
	<b>CG</b>				X	X	X		
<b>Secondary Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHQ-9<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Positive and negative experiences (SPANE)<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Nature Relatedness (NRS)<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Physical activity (IPAQ-SF)<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• Cardiorespiratory fitness<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>	<b>IG</b>				X	X	X		
	<b>CG</b>				X	X	X	X	X
<b>Integrative Outcomes</b> <sup>10</sup>	<b>IG</b>				X	X			
	<b>CG</b>				X	X	X	X	X

Note. <sup>1</sup> The SF12 covers health-related quality of life across the two main dimensions of physical and mental health, as well as a total score (Wirtz et al., 2018); <sup>2</sup>The EQ5D consists of two parts—a descriptive self-assessment in five dimensions, resulting in a health profile index (EQ-5DIndex), and a visual analog scale (EQ-5D-VAS) on which the respondent estimates their current state of health in a range of 0 (worst possible health status) to 100 (best possible health status) (Ludwig et al., 2018); <sup>3</sup> Allostatic load index: (a) neuroendocrine; (b) immune; (c) cardiovascular; and (d) metabolic systems. In C6 following parameters will be measured: a) neuroendocrine [Cortisol from Saliva (Adrenal glucocorticoid and indicator of HPA-axis activity) – from saliva and DHEA-S from Saliva (Adrenal hormone and functional HPA-axis antagonist) – from saliva]; b immune: [IL-17 (Proinflammatory cytokine associated with chronic stress, endothelial dysfunction and hypertension) – from saliva; IL-6 (Proinflammatory cytokine related to sleep disorders, low-grade chronic inflammation, psychosocial factors and stress) – from saliva; IL-10 from Saliva (Antiinflammatory Cytokine, Induced by physical exercise and exposure to microbial biodiversity in nature) – from saliva; CRP from Saliva (Marker of Microinflammation and general cardiovascular health) – from saliva]; cardiovascular: [Heart rate, Heart rate variability, Blood pressure] and d) metabolic [Anthropometric: waist circumference, height & weight; Triglycerides – from blood; cholesterol (HDL, LDL) – from blood; Fasting Glucose – from blood]. The results of the measurements will be combined into an AL-index in accordance with standard methods; <sup>4</sup>The PHQ-9 is a self-administered version of the PRIME-MD diagnostic instrument for common mental disorders which scores each of the nine DSM-IV criteria for depression as "0" (not at all) to "3" (nearly every day) (Kroenke et al. 2001); <sup>5</sup> The Scale of Positive and Negative Experience (SPANE) is an instrument that assesses subjective feelings of well-being and ill-being (Corno et al., 2016); <sup>6</sup>Nature Relatedness Scale 6: The NRS6 assesses closeness to nature over 6 items, which are rated on a scale of 1 = "do not agree" up to 5 = "agree fully", with higher values indicating a higher closeness to nature (Nisbett et al., 2009); <sup>7</sup> Satisfaction with Life Scale (SLWS): The SLWS is a one-dimensional questionnaire for recording life satisfaction. It consists of five items, which are answered on a seven-level Likert scale, with total scores ranging from 5 (lowest satisfaction) to 35 (highest satisfaction). <sup>8</sup> The International Physical Activity Questionnaire Short Form (IPAQ-SF) (Lee et al., 2011b) is a cost-effective method to assess physical activity; <sup>9</sup> Cardiorespiratory fitness will be assessed by the "Chester step test". During Chester step test, participants are asked to step on and off a low step at a defined rate, which is set by a metronome. Every two minutes, the heart rate and exertion level are recorded. The test continues until the participant reaches 80% of her/his maximum predicted heart rate (Buckley et al., 2004); <sup>10</sup> Integrative outcomes will be defined by a co-design process with WP4 (health), WP5 (environmental), WP6 (economy), and WP7 (society). The timeline for collection of these data will be identified during the course of the project. Some suggestions for tools to use are Health Equity Audit (HEA), Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA), Social Acceptance Survey (SAS), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Quality-adjusted life year (QALY, derived from the EQ5D/SF-12) for economic assessments.



**Case Study 7.** An overview of the study timeline is outlined in Table 3. Participants in the active conditions will complete the intervention during 5 weeks, with assessments of outcomes shortly before and after, and then participate in follow-up assessments one month and six months after the end of the intervention. Participants in the waitlist control condition will complete assessments on three occasions: before and after a 5-week period corresponding to the intervention time and then again one month later.

Table 3. Overview of study procedure for Case Study 7.

Procedures	Month
Preparations: trial registration, recruitment and training of instructors, any needed addendums to existing ethical approval, initiate participant recruitment	M 1-6
Continuous participant recruitment	M 7-18
Wave 1 (N ≈ 65) and 2 (N ≈ 65): initiate data collection and complete interventions	M 7-12
Wave 3 (N ≈ 65) and 4 (N ≈ 65): initiate data collection and complete interventions	M 13-18
Wave 1 and 2 complete final follow-up assessments	
Wave 3 and 4 complete final follow-up assessments	M 18-24
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 18-30
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 31-48

**Case Study 8.** The overall structure of the intervention is presented in Table 4. Intervention participants will visit the Move Green Lab, for five 2 hour visits, once a week for a period of five weeks. The data collection for the control group will follow the same timelines as those outlined for the intervention group.

Table 4. Overview of study procedure for Case Study 8.

Procedures	Month
Preparations: ethics applications, protocols, trial registration, staff training, technical equipment, questionnaires, interviews and observations	M 1-6
Participant recruitment	M 6-10
Intervention vs. control	M 7-18
Follow up	M 9-24
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 19-30
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 31-48



**Case Study 9.** A timeline of procedures are outlined in Table 5.

Table 5. Overview of procedures for Case Study 9.

Procedures	Month
Development of protocols and procedures for the training, including scientific and practical details such as hiring the venues and inviting experts to give a talk	M 1-3
Recruitment of matched intervention and control farms for participation in the study, including the development of brochures and other information	M 3-7
Kick-off meetings to inform farms participating in the CoP program	M 7-11
CoP-1 meetings	M 11-15
<i>Staff experimenting with the activities in practice</i>	M 12-16
CoP-2 meetings	M 16-20
<i>Staff experimenting with the activities in practice</i>	M 17-21
Visits of researchers to care farms in the experimental groups to do observations of the clients and collect in-situ data of the environmental and process quality of the farms	M 21-26
Collection of post-intervention data on resilience of clients at intervention and control farms, through staff surveys and questionnaires for caregivers administered through the standard quality monitoring system of the care farm organisation	M 8-26
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 26-M30
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 31-M48

## 2 Preparedness status

### 2.1 Development of the clinical study protocol

Please describe how the below aspects have been or will be addressed in developing the clinical study protocol (if applicable):

#### 2.1.1 Scientific advice from regulatory and health technology assessment bodies

**Case Studies 1-9.** See Section 2.2.2 for details about the IEAB that will oversee and support this.

#### Clinical efficacy, safety, and methodological guidelines (including guidelines on statistics)

**All Case Studies** will be pre-registered and reporting will adhere to the CONSORT-statement, including CONSORT flow chart (CONSORT, 2019).

**Case studies 1-2.** Clinical efficacy and safety are not applicable, as these studies involve the analysis of secondary datasets. Detailed study protocols, pertaining to linkage of secondary data to the environmental variables and the planned analyses will be pre-registered on an open access domain (e.g. Open Science Framework). Descriptive statistics will include Means and Standard Deviations for each mental health outcome for specific survey waves, as a function of green/blue space indicators and stressful life events. A series of multi-level regressions models will be used to estimate the associations between nature contact measures (e.g. neighbourhood greenspace, proximity to coast) and mental health outcomes. Models will be stratified according to the presence/absence of stressful life events. Using a stepwise procedure, time, nature contact indicators and their interaction terms will be specified as fixed effects; and time, nested within people, will be added as a random effect. In order to examine potential mediation effects, proposed mediators (i.e. measures of psychosocial resilience) will be entered into the multi-level models within the final step. If the inclusion of these variables reduces the strength of nature-welling associations, mediation effects will be formally tested using multi-level Structural Equation Modelling. We recognise the need to ensure that all outputs from the analyses are non-disclosive. The majority of outputs from the work, whether internal reports or publications, will involve summary statistics (means, standard deviations), regression coefficients. These are generally non-disclosive by their nature. Tabulation of frequencies (especially cross-tabulation of 2+ variables) presents a greater risk of disclosure. To mitigate the risk of disclosure, any frequency tabulations would be constrained to the total sample. Tabulations that result in cell values  $\leq 5$  will be re-categorised, or values will be suppressed.

**Case Study 3.** The study protocol will be reviewed by the Institutional Ethics Committee at the Medical University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and only after receiving an approval will we initiate data collection. Survey participants will be recruited by a professional survey company complying with GDPR, applicable international, and local regulations.

Participants' personal data (socio-demographics, self-reported health status, psychological self-assessments, residential and workplace locations) will be obtained and used according to international, EU, and national data protection laws, and the raw data allowing identification of subjects will not leave the local team. After linking these survey data to environmental exposures, measured with geographic information systems, the working dataset will be pseudonymised and participant identifiers will be stored separately. The pseudonymized data itself will be stored securely by the research team and will only be reported in scientific publications and events in an aggregated format, precluding identification of subjects. Visualization of participants' residential location will be rendered in scientific publications at a resolution/aspect ratio that does not allow for identification of specific locations. Bio-sample collection and handling will be carried out according to the Declaration of Helsinki and other clinical standards, in research-grade, accredited medical facilities, and only after obtaining informed consent.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Clinical efficacy will be determined by appropriate power and statistical testing. Trialling three matched studies helps support efficacy assessment across setting. Safety will be ensured by extensive evaluation of the site and no intervention will start until ethical approval has been obtained. Design: Stratified randomised, controlled waiting-list trial. Randomisation: The randomisation of participants to treatment or control will be done to measure marginal difference in outcomes between the groups and to balance known and unknown factors. The randomisation method will be detailed in a User's Reference Manual. A randomisation list will be generated, including participant ID codes, random assignments, and participants will be allocated based on randomisation codes. The randomisation of participants to the treatment and control groups will be performed independently within gender category strata. Information of the randomisation codes will be locked in a database until interim or final analyses are required (to be revealed only to the PIs and associated statisticians). An RCT design is rare in this field and will offer a unique potential for unbiased results and for drawing credible causal conclusions. Statistical analyses: A detailed statistical analysis plan will be drafted for the protocol. We will test group differences in pre-versus post-intervention outcomes following an intention-to-treat (ITT) principle, comparing pre-post changes of the treatment and control groups. ITT analyses attempt to include all participants according to the group to which they were randomly allocated including those who do not complete all aspects of the study, as long as they can at least be contacted at the trial end. ITT analysis is a cornerstone of RCT analysis strategies, though missing data and high attrition can complicate statistical approaches. As well as in-house statisticians in all institutions we have additional statistical expertise at UNIVIE (Voracek) to support these potentially complex analytical issues. Standard descriptive statistics will be used to analyse baseline values and to compare before-after factors in both arms. Summary statistics, will be produced to assess normality and potential need for data transformation. Associations and typical model assumptions will be examined and correlations between the various outcome data will be tested with linear mixed-effect models. We will adjust for multiple testing, e.g. Benjamini-Hochberg. Tests of the group differences in pre-versus post-intervention temporal change for continuous, count, or binary (or ordinal) outcomes will be made using random effects, linear, log-linear, or logistic models, respectively. Models will include random effects for temporal and spatial correlations and fixed effects for: (1) intervention group; (2) time effects characterizing changes between pre- and post-intervention; and (3) interaction between the intervention group and the pre- and post-intervention temporal effects, representing the group contrast. This will identify if the intervention has had an effect or not. If any baseline variables are significantly different between the groups, secondary analysis will be conducted including these variables to adjust for any residual confounding not prevented by the randomisation. Missing data sensitivity analyses will be conducted as appropriate.

**Case Study 7.** Clinical efficacy will be determined by appropriate power and statistical testing. Safety will be ensured by providing participants with any needed information and guidance about how to carry out study procedures without unnecessary discomfort or risk. Safety will further be considered in terms of undesired outcomes as part of the evaluation. Design: Controlled (factorial 4-armed), randomized, open, parallel group trial. Interventions and data collection will be conducted in four consecutive waves. Randomisation: Eligible participants who provide informed consent will be stratified by gender (2 levels) and symptom severity classification (2 levels) and assigned a participant ID code. Participant codes within each stratum will be evenly split between the four conditions using a random list generator. Participants will then receive a detailed schedule for when and where to appear for intervention and measurement procedures. Information of the randomisation codes will be stored on a password-protected server by the UU PI. A detailed statistical analysis plan will be drafted for the protocol. Analyses: The basic purpose is to compare outcomes achieved over time between intervention conditions, depending on participant's initial symptom severity classifications and their experiences of and compliance with the given intervention. We will test group differences in pre-versus post-intervention temporal change following ITT approaches, comparing pre- to post- and pre- to follow-up-changes of the conditions. Data will be screened with regard to statistical properties and, where appropriate, curated and transformed before analysis (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). Where appropriate, missing data issues will be handled with multiple imputation. Main outcome evaluations will apply ANOVA family approaches,

variously targeting repeated assessments (e.g., before, directly after, and one month after intervention) and summary variables (e.g., deltas representing change) and controlling for possible initial group differences where appropriate (Clifton & Clifton, 2019; Vickers & Altman, 2001). Group-level analyses of average outcomes will be complemented with analyses of individual-level change using logistic regression or simple Chi-square methods to compare categorical classifications building on a reliable change index (Christensen & Mendoza, 1986; Jacobson & Truax, 1991). The reliable change index builds on statistical procedures for inference regarding the confidence with which a given participant can be assumed to have experienced true change in a measured construct, weighing in their observed change in scores and the reliability of the assessment method. This approach serves to identify what proportions of participants in different groups actually improved or deteriorated substantively in the respective outcomes. Hypothesised mechanisms of change (e.g., compliance patterns) will be evaluated with conditional process analyses (Hayes et al., 2017) that yield robust statistical inferences concerning complex causal patterns using bootstrapping methods.

**Case Study 8.** The study protocol will be reviewed and approved by the Danish National Committee on Health Research Ethics. The study design, methods and statistical considerations have been based on discussions within the research group, who have completed several projects and pilot studies with similar interventions and assessment methods, and with experienced colleagues within and outside of the consortium. Our ‘a priori’ assumptions regarding clinical efficacy and safety of the interventions are well founded in previous results obtained by the research group (Stigsdotter et al, 2017; 2018a; 2018b; Corazon et al., 2018). The interventions and other aspects of study participation will be given in addition to ongoing regular care that participants take part in. Completion of the project will yield further data on these matters that are integral to the motivations for conducting the study.

**Case Study 9.** This study will follow the safety and other guidelines as provided by the quality framework of the Dutch national care farm organisation. These guidelines include adherence to Dutch law and regulations, such as the Care Complaints and Disputes Act (Wkkgz), the health and safety law, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the Employee Participation of Healthcare Institutions Act (Wmcz). Only farms that follow these guidelines will be included. The data from this study follow a hierarchical structure, with clients nested in care farms, and therefore will be analysed with mixed model techniques. Differences between control and intervention farms in observational and other post-intervention data will be analysed with client characteristics (age, gender, and other relevant variables) as covariates, and with separate two-way analyses to test for moderating effects of these characteristics. If relevant, location characteristics (such as size or naturalness) will also be included as covariates to increase comparability of the control and intervention locations. In addition to these quantitative analyses, qualitative data on client functioning collected as part of the training will be analysed using content analysis and grounded theory techniques. In analysing the results, we will follow APA guidelines.

### 2.1.2 Involvement of citizens / patients, carers in drawing up the clinical study protocol

**Case Studies 1-3.** Not applicable.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Each study involves co-creation aspects with local stakeholders, service providers, and service users.

**Case Study 7.** The ReST intervention has been developed iteratively over 10 years building on clinical experience, quantitative outcome assessments, and quantitative and verbal feedback obtained from >60 individuals who have completed the course (see Lymeus, 2019). The conventional mindfulness training intervention will build on the established and widely used Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program that has been previously used in studies by the research group and that has been extensively researched with regard to clinical efficacy as well as safety in the wider research community (see Baer et al., 2019; Sedlmeier et al., 2018). A preliminary version of the Nature on Prescription intervention was developed building on existing best practice guidelines for such interventions and tested with 17 individuals in a pilot study completed in spring 2022 (Palm & Stjernberg, 2022; Tóth, 2022). Quantitative and verbal feedback from these participants will be used to further improve the Nature on Prescription intervention during the preparations for the project.

**Case Study 8.** In addition to many years spent developing the crucial intervention site at the Move Green lab. the App is based on over 13 years experiences of developing nature-based health promoting interventions/therapy programmes. The researcher/psychologist responsible for the development of the App has developed several nature-based therapy programs and activity manuals for different patient groups for several research projects and for municipalities. Over the years we have had an active dialogue with the practitioners and taken their experiences into account for developing the App. An RCT study has confirmed the clinical efficacy of the nature-based therapy

**Case Study 9.** The staff training program involves a co-creation process with staff of care farms, researchers, experts, and other stakeholders. As such co-creation is an integral part of the study. The protocol for the intervention will be developed in close collaboration with the regional branch organisation of the care farms who will facilitate this research project and ensure that it is supported by caregivers, local municipalities, and the Dutch national care farm organisation. There are direct lines of communication between the researchers and all the stakeholders involved in this study, and there is strong support from all parties to facilitate and support this study.

Regulatory intelligence to ensure timely regulatory approval and ethics clearance of the clinical study in all jurisdictions where its implementation is planned

Please provide information on the following regulatory and ethics aspects:

2.1.3 How the consortium will ensure access to regulatory expertise necessary to get advice on, and management of, regulatory affairs activities in all concerned jurisdictions?

**Case Studies 1-9.** The RESONATE consortium has significant experience running similar case studies and are well informed regarding the relevant regulatory frameworks, recommendations, and ethical guidelines that are applicable within the jurisdictions covered. Where appropriate: 1) detailed risk assessments will be conducted; 2) specific insurance/indemnity arrangements will be implemented; and 3) research protocols will be submitted for consideration, comment, guidance, and approval to Research Ethics Authorities or other national competent authorities in each participating country before any individual study begins. See Section 2.2.2 for details about the IEAB that will oversee and support this.

2.1.4 How the consortium will ensure access to ethics expertise necessary to get advice on current proceedings and documentation requirements of all concerned ethics committees?

**All Case Studies** are aware of and will conform to the International, European, and National legislations in all the various aspects of the research. The ethical standards of guidelines of Horizon Europe will be rigorously applied

**Case Study 1.** A single ethics application will be made to the University of Exeter Medical School Research Ethics Committee. Applications for similar analyses have been made successfully by the researchers leading this work previously.

**Case Study 2.** A single ethics application will be made to the University of Exeter Medical School Research Ethics Committee. Applications for similar analyses have been made successfully by the researchers leading this work previously.

**Case Study 3.** A single ethics application will be made to Meditsinsky Universitet, Plovdiv.

**Case Study 4.** The Ethics Committee of Psychology of Padua (<http://ethos.psy.unipd.it/it/>) is a well-established committee which give recommendations and approve the projects upon verifying that everything is in accordance with the national and international ethical and data protection regulations. The Padua Ethics Committee will follow the implementation of the study by giving its approval to each protocol (including Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form) that will be developed through the study.

**Case Study 5.** The study protocol will be submitted to the Ethics Committee of the Federal State of Salzburg [www.salzburg.gv.at/ethikkommission](http://www.salzburg.gv.at/ethikkommission). This ethics committee is well established and will approve, if the study protocol is in accordance with national and international ethical and data protection regulations. The Salzburg Ethics Committee will follow the implementation of the study by giving its approval to every protocol (including patient information sheet and informed consent form). Furthermore, the study protocol will be presented to the ethics committee of the Paracelsus Medical University (Ethikkommission pmu.ac.at), that will additionally assess, if all aspects of the study follow national and international regulations (in particular: Declaration of Helsinki, ICH-GDP Guideline for Good Clinical Practice, University regulations, data protection). Registration to an international trial register will then be carried out prospectively based on the local ethics committee vote.

**Case Study 6.** ISGlobal- Campus Mar is bond to the PS-Mar Ethics Committee (Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Municipal Health Care Service), created and accredited for the first time on November 11th, 1993 by the General Direction of Health Resources of the Department of Health of the Government of Catalonia, in accordance with the Order of 26 October 1992. According to the new Spanish legislation, the committee has been accredited as a Drug Research Ethics Committee in February 2018. The PS-Mar CEIC evaluates all research protocols in humans



conducted by ISGlobal-Campus Mar researchers. According to Spanish regulations, our local Ethics Committee will follow the implementation of the study by giving its approval to every protocol (including Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form) that will be developed through the study. All ISGlobal researchers are self-regulated by the Code of Good Scientific Practice ([http://www.prbb.org/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/3/en/eng\\_a4.pdf](http://www.prbb.org/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3/en/eng_a4.pdf)). Research studies in Spain are regulated by both international and national legal and ethical rules and all national legal and ethical requirements will be fulfilled.

**Case Study 7.** In accordance with the UU team's practice, ethical approval has already been obtained from the Swedish Ethical Review Authority for the basic design of this study during the Stage 1 submission process (Diary number: 2021-06675-01, January 2022). The study does not, however, currently have another source of funding, and will not be processed unless RESONATE is successful. Any modifications to the approved study protocol, as necessitated in further stages of project preparations, will be subject to ethical review as addendums to the already approved application.

**Case Study 8.** Ethical approval will be sought from the Danish National Committee on Health Research Ethics. CPHU brings expertise in data management to the RESONATE project through Dr. Karlsson Nyed a named researcher on the grant.

**Case Study 9.** Ethical approval will be handled by the University of Twente (BMS Ethics Committee). The committee will decide whether this study will need medical-ethical approval (or a waiver to get such approval), or whether an ethical review of non-medical research is applicable. Depending on their professional assessment, we will apply for the necessary ethical approvals. Based on previous experience, we expect this study will not require medical-ethical approval, because it does not involve a medical intervention, and the clients and farms are not randomly assigned to the intervention. In cases of medical research, The University of Twente cooperates with the accredited MREC Research Ethics Committee in the region Arnhem-Nijmegen (CMO A/N) and facilitates and supports researchers to submit there. This procedure can also be used for advice on WMO applicability.

2.2 [How the scientific and operational governance of the clinical study will be ensured?](#)

2.2.1 [Please give details about the sponsor\(s\) \(name, type of entity, seat or country of residence\).](#)

**Case Studies 1-9.** European Commission's Horizon Europe programme, no other sponsors involved.

2.2.2 [Please describe the composition, the role and the functioning of the planned board\(s\), governing bodies.](#)

**Case Studies 1-9.** RESONATE's scientific International Expert Advisory Board (IEAB) includes several of the most high-profile NbT researchers and practitioners globally. The EAB consists of Prof. Thomas Astell-Burt, Founding Co-Director of the Population Wellbeing and Environment Research Lab, a focal point for NBT research in Australia; Dr Melissa Lem, director of the Canadian PaRx (Prescription for Nature) NBT program; Nicole Prop, Managing Director of the nationwide 'Green Care Austria' program; Prof. Nooshin Razani, director of The Center for Nature and Health (CNH), which has pioneered park prescription programs for childhood resilience in California; Prof. Nancy Wells, Cornell University expert on nature-based resilience; Dr Kath Maguire, who has specific expertise in Public Patient Involvement for complex interventions, including nature-based social prescribing; and environmental ethics expert Dr Alexandria Poole.

#### [Operational feasibility](#)

2.3 [Please describe how the availability of the intervention\(s\) \(including comparators\) is secured throughout the entire implementation phase \(give details on manufacturing, packaging / labelling operations, storage, logistical, import/export issues, etc.\)](#)

**Case Studies 1-3.** Not applicable.

**Case Studies 4-6.** These interventions are expected to largely take place on public space. However, precise locations will be determined through planned co-creation activities (e.g. Resilience Hubs) in consultation with local land owners/managers.

**Case Study 7.** The interventions will be provided by independent instructors who will be hired and trained to deliver interventions as part of the project. Having already trained 10 licensed clinical psychologists to deliver ReST and 3 to deliver Nature on Prescription, we have reason to expect that sufficient numbers of instructors cannot be recruited for the project. Regarding conventional mindfulness training, we have connections with several licensed psychologists with relevant training and so expect recruitment of such instructors will be fully manageable.

**Case Study 8.** Each intervention day a minimum of 2 researchers and a maximum of 4 are present, to make sure the intervention runs as planned. We will purchase some cell phones where the App. is already uploaded, and use as back up if the participants' phones do not work. At the first meeting (indoors), researchers will assist the participants to upload the App. and they will present the App. and how it works. The intervention will take place on public space co-designed by the team for specific use of these groups in an inclusive fashion and will be freely available.

**Case Study 9.** This intervention will be carried out by the principal researchers together with hired assistants with whom we have worked with before and who will be trained to deliver the intervention according to detailed instructions. We will develop protocols for all aspects of the intervention including data handling to support future replication/scaling-out etc..

#### 2.4 Please describe how the study population will be recruited

Please give details on the recruitment strategy, monitoring of progress and potential mitigation measures

**Case Study 1.** Not applicable – the study population has already been recruited as part of the UKHLS, based on a clustered-stratified probability sample of 40,000 UK households. This research only uses secondary data that was already collected as part of an extensive and long-running nationwide survey (UKHLS). Participants were selected based on their address (residential households). Households were selected using a random stratified sampling strategy in an effort to ensure representativeness of the UK population. Specifically, the sample from which data will be obtained for the purposes of this research is the Understanding Society General Population Sample, which is a stratified, clustered, equal probability sample of residential addresses drawn to a uniform design throughout the whole of the UK. The Northern Ireland sample is not clustered. Householders were informed of their selection by letter and invited to respond by providing their consent. If one householder consented, other members of the household could refuse to participate. Once selected, questionnaires were administered by trained interviewers at the households in question.

**Case Study 2.** Not applicable– the study population has already been recruited as part of the PROTECT study (see Huntley et al., 2018).

**Case Study 3.** The sample will consist of randomly selected, non-institutionalized adult volunteers from Plovdiv province, Bulgaria, who will give informed consent to take part in the study and for their personal data to be used for scientific research. We do not plan to deliberately involve vulnerable populations. Participants will be recruited by a professional survey company complying with GDPR, applicable international, and local regulations. Participants will be invited to take part in the survey voluntarily and will receive information sheets before giving their consent in informed consent forms. The company will approach a random sample of the residents of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, living in pre-specified neighbourhood types, primarily defined by access (distance) to urban green spaces. In the first wave of the survey, participants will be recruited at their home address, while for waves 2 and 3, there will be an option to follow them up with online or phone interviews. The research team will request that the survey company use tablets to collect the data, so that we can monitor in real time the progress on data collection. We will also ask for quality control checks (e.g., double checking 10% of the work of each interviewer and 20% of the entire sample).

**Case study 4.** The Resilience Hub stakeholder group will be key in actively recruiting participants from local public and private health centres, companies, and public bodies, as well as university employees etc. and recognised social media channels of the research group. Recruitment will be supported by an online screening process with previously defined successful methodology that follows a two-stage process: 1) Screen for Doctor diagnosed MtS, Sedentary lifestyle, Age 40-65yrs; and if still eligible 2) Screen for Medical history, Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), Physical Activity (IPAQ-SF), Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q) and Low nature users (< 30 min/week). Recruitment will continue until a sufficient sample size is achieved (134 participants (67 intervention group; 67 wait-list control), with an assumed attrition rate of 25%. Every eligible individual will be offered to participate. Randomisation of participants to treatment or wait-list control will follow recruitment of eligible participants.

**Case Study 5.** The study population will be recruited within the patient pool of the Paracelsus 10,000 study, an epidemiological study with 10,000 participants in an age range of 40-69 years investigating the state of health of the Salzburg population. In parallel, the recruitment will utilize the established “Study participants wanted” WWW and Social Media channels of the University Clinics. Recruitment stages and targets are the same as for CS4.

**Case Study 6.** Recruitment strategies are planned in collaboration with project managers at ISGlobal with experience of recruitment of clinical populations. We will contact a number of public and private health care centres, including general practices and hospitals, and a specialised Endocrinology clinic (Hospital Clínic Endocrinología,



<https://www.clinicbarcelona.org/servicio/endocrinologia-y-nutricion/rescribenos>), across Barcelona. We will also address centres for nutrition and diets to distribute the survey among their clients (e.g. NaturHouse <https://centros.naturhouse.es/listado-centros?provincia=BARCELONA>). We will use tools such as EUSurvey <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/welcome>) for a standardised approach to recruit participants that fulfil all inclusion criteria. In addition, we will post the survey on researcher linked social media channels to optimise recruitment. Recruitment stages and targets are the same as for CS4.

**Case Study 7.** We will sample university students in two or more Swedish cities, feasible locations including Uppsala, Örebro, Västerås/Enköping, Gävle, and Stockholm, depending on the availability of suitable intervention providers in the respective areas. Recruitment will use flyers posted in campus buildings, health care providers (including student health services), and other relevant locations as well as on relevant social media pages. The flyers will advertise a study that involves taking part in a five-week health intervention. They will also describe in general terms the inclusion and exclusion criteria. People who express interest in the study will be sent detailed participant information via email. If they remain interested, they can sign up for an online enrolment interview. The enrolment interview will involve verbal information about the study and opportunity to receive responses to any questions and a diagnostic survey (DSM-5 Self-Rated Level 1 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measure, Adult; American Psychiatric Association, 2013) through which individuals who are unsuitable for participation due to health reasons can be excluded and guided to contact an appropriate health service. Following the checks on eligibility, presumptive participants who provide written informed consent will be randomly assigned to a condition and provided with a separate information sheet to remind them of when and how they are meant to participate in the given intervention. Every week during the five-week intervention period and then in connection with every follow-up assessment, participants will be asked to indicate how they have been feeling in the last week (“much worse”, “a bit worse”, “about the same”, “a bit better”, “much better”) compared to the week before. This serves to monitor their development and will, on indication of “much worse” or two occasions of responding “a bit worse”, prompt a researcher to contact them personally and discuss whether they have a need for professional help outside the scope of the study. If so, contact information and suitable advice will be given.

**Case Study 8.** We have access to the Disabled People's Organisations Denmark's (DPOD) members' e-mail addresses. DPOD is an umbrella organisation consisting of 35-member organisations and have a total of 340,000 members. We have positive experience of inviting (by e-mail) the members to information meetings, where we can explain the project in more detail and answer questions. Further, The Danish association of Youth With Disabilities (SUMH) which is an umbrella organization led by and working for young people with disabilities strongly support participating in research projects. If necessary, we can also recruit participants by advertising in relevant papers (those advertisements must be approved by the National Committee on Health Research Ethics before being published). During the five-week intervention period each participant has a designated researcher that meets them at each intervention day and sends them reminders for the next intervention day. Participants are included in the project due to their physical functional limitations, not any mental diagnosis and therefore monitoring their progress is not necessary.

**Case Study 9.** Recruitment strategies are planned in collaboration with Stichting Zorgboeren Zuid (SZZ), the regional care farm organization in the province of Brabant. The principal researcher also has a direct connection with the national federation of care farms. This would offer additional opportunities for recruiting in other regions. A key challenge lies in recruiting (matching) farms for the control group, who will not participate in the training. However, there is much commitment of the farms in participating in scientific research that will provide evidence-based data on their effectiveness

2.4.1 How many clinical sites will contribute to the recruitment of the study population in which countries? Are these clinical sites part of an established clinical trial network? Please also describe the selection criteria of the clinical sites.

**Case Studies 1-3.** Not applicable – no clinical sites will contribute to recruitment.

**Case Studies 4-6.** The number of clinics to approach will be determined during the final development of the study protocol.

**Case Study 7.** One clinical site (the research group at Uppsala University, Sweden) will be involved in the recruitment of participants and collection of data. Interventions will be delivered by instructors and within facilities and locations selected and monitored by the research group, as determined by the availability of suitable instructors. Feasible university cities other than Uppsala include Örebro, Västerås/Enköping, Gävle, and Stockholm.

**Case Study 8.** One clinical site (the Nature, Health & Design research group at University of Copenhagen, Denmark) will be involved in the recruitment of participants and collection of data. The App. has been developed by psychologists of the research group, and they (and others like physiotherapists) will be present at the site during intervention. The Move Green Lab. has been designed by landscape architects within the research group.

**Case Study 9.** The sample will include 24 care farms in the Netherlands who are not yet part of an established clinical network. We will follow a stepwise approach, in which, first we will select the intervention farms willing to invest time and effort in this study (for a small financial compensation to staff members for their participation). Then, after selecting these farms, we will create a control group of farms that match the intervention farms in terms of size, population, vision etc. as best as possible.

2.4.2 Will recruitment of the study population be of a competitive nature between the clinical sites? (Please describe how underperformance of individual clinical sites in recruitment will be managed.)

**Case Studies 1-3.** Not applicable

**Case Studies 4-9.** No

2.4.3 What evidence supports the ability of the individual clinical sites to recruit the required number of study participants within the planned timeline (e.g. documented performance in previous clinical studies of similar complexity targeting very similar study population)?

**Case Studies 1-3.** Not applicable

**Case Studies 4-6.** Previous successful collaborations and NbT studies.

**Case Study 7.** The research group has worked with very similar intervention studies in the same organizational contexts for 10 years. Our experience is that recruitment efforts in connection with waves of data collection for such studies generally attract initial interest from 50-120 individuals within one month. Circa 50-80% of these have been interviewed and circa 25% excluded based on the interview. In this project, we expect the inflow of expressions of interest to be fully sufficient given that recruitment will be continuous during months 7-18 of the project and will involve health care providers (rather than only campus and online flyers as in our previous studies), that we will have ample resources for conducting interviews, and that exclusion for mental health reasons will only affect severely ill individuals (rather than moderately to severely ill as in our previous studies). We have also built extensive experience in efficient recruitment procedures and so will be able to take appropriate and timely measures to boost incoming expressions of interest if needed.

**Case Study 8.** The research group has previously worked with a pilot project for the Move Green project targeting the same type of participants. Our experience is that the e-mails sent to the DPOD's members list resulted in a large number of potential participants showed up at our meetings, where most of the participants were recruited. Today we also have an active network with many of DPOD's under organisations.

**Case Study 9.** Long-term collaboration with the care-farming organisation in the Netherlands, e.g. by the principal researcher giving advice and keynote speeches at symposia of the organisation, and preliminary discussions with the overarching organisation, for this proposal, suggests we will have no issues with recruiting 12 intervention and 12 control farms.

2.5 Please describe what additional supply (e.g. an electronic device for remote data capture, a specific instrument for administering the investigational product, etc.) is necessary to carry out the required study procedures and how this supply will be made available to the clinical sites

**Case Studies 1-2.** Not applicable

**Case Study 3.** Facilities and equipment for the collection and analyses of blood samples are already available to the research group.

**Case Studies 4-6.** The interventions will not take place at any clinical sites. We will use an existing smartphone application (e.g. <https://www.outdooractive.com/>) to help people navigate a set route, installed on the participants' private smartphones. The required clinical equipment (Sphygmomanometers, Pulsoxymeters, optical HR/HRV sensors) is available at all study sites. The Saliva samples for these Case Studies are analysed together in the immunological laboratory of the Paracelsus Medical University to ensure maximum comparability of the molecular

parameters of the allostatic load. Although both PMU and ISG already have ready access to a 20 °C freezer to keep the saliva samples in until ready to send/analyse, there are no such facilities in or near the buildings used by the UNIPD team who have therefore the purchase of one to their equipment budget.

**Case Study 7.** We have all technical equipment that is necessary readily available within the research group. In addition to technical platforms for online data capture (i.e., access and relevant program code for data capture using the online service PsyToolKit in combination with video monitoring), a subset of 100 participants will also be asked to complete a fatigue induction and restoration paradigm on-site. This procedure involves continuous test performance and ambulatory heart rate monitoring using existing equipment (weather proof laptop computers, Bittium Faros 180 devices).

**Case Study 8.** The following technical equipment; eye-tracking, portable EEG and ECG, will be purchased from IMOTION. Further, computer (for eye-tracking) and cell phones will be purchased through the university. The researchers attending the intervention will bring it to the site.

**Case Study 9.** No additional supplies are necessary.

## 2.6 Please provide plans on data management aspects (data standards, type of data capture, verification of data, central data collection, cleaning, analysis, reporting, security)

**Case Study 1.** Secondary data have already been collected and cleaned. There is no way to identify any individuals in the dataset, or their address. In order to prevent data being misused in such a way that anonymity might be compromised, the named applicant has formally agreed to follow all relevant procedures to safeguard against such disclosure.

**Case Study 2.** Most data have already been collected and cleaned. Additional data will be collected and managed by the PROTECT study team in a manner consistent with existing data collection. Access to Personal Identifying Information will not be provided to the RESONATE research team, with postcode-level linkage to environmental data carried out through an anonymised process. In order to prevent data being misused in such a way that anonymity might be compromised, the named applicant has formally agreed to follow all relevant procedures to safeguard against such disclosure.

**Case Study 3.** Storage, processing, and exchange of personal data by the local team will be done in a secure environment, with limited access only by the PI and analysts directly responsible for processing the data. In case residential geolocation data has to be exchanged with other partners in the consortium (e.g., for enrichment with geographic data), the geocodes will be anonymized (e.g., via data scrambling) to prevent participant identification. The data may be stored beyond the life of the project conditional on obtaining informed consent from the study participants. After linking these survey data to environmental exposures, measured with geographic information systems, the working dataset will be pseudonymised and participant identifiers will be stored separately. The pseudonymized data itself will be stored securely by the research team.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Trained assistants will be responsible for rigorous data collection procedures. We will develop proper anonymization procedures, which will include removal of personal data from outcome data and secure storage of encrypted data. Adequate measures to ensure personal data protection and confidentiality will be taken, according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. National regulations on personal data protection will be implemented to guarantee the highest standards in personal data management. The following principles will be applied when processing personal data: lawfulness, fairness, and transparency; purpose limitation; data minimization (necessary and proportionate for the research objective); accuracy; storage limitation, and integrity and confidentiality (overseen by WP10). General procedures in the research protocol to safeguard the privacy of study participants include: 1) Written consent will be obtained from all the participants in the study to use their personal data; 2) Consent forms include a specific clause on personal data protection informing the study participants how their data is going to be treated and stored, the research purpose, the DPO contact and their rights; 3) Pseudonymization will be implemented as a general standard, meaning that all material obtained in the framework of the project (questionnaires, physical measurements, and saliva) will be identified through a code, the name and/or other personal data that could allow the identification of the participant will never be indicated. This unique identifier will link all basic data required for the study. The master key file linking the centre's study numbers with personal identifiers will be maintained in a password protected file with limited access; 4) All files containing personal data will be stored in encrypted and password-locked files. Access to these files will be limited to authorized project personnel; 5) Only researchers linked to the project will have access to personal data; and, 6) Personal data will not be transferred, except in cases considered by law. If it is

necessary to transfer personal data, participants will be properly informed in the consent form and measures to ensure personal data protection will be implemented. Transfer will be done according to the current legislation. All project personnel will be trained in the importance of confidentiality of individual records and required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Every person involved in the study implementation (hiking guides, co-workers involved etc.) will sign a non-disclosure agreement before the start of the study, which is countersigned by the Case Study's PI. Confidentiality relates to all circumstances that become known through the participation in the study, in particular information about study participants, employees and other cooperation partners regarding economic, operational, technical, tax, and personal circumstances, as well as about internal matters of any kind. Saliva probes from these case studies will be sent for analysis to the Paracelsus Medical University. The probes will only be labelled with identification numbers (ID), so the analysis will be completely anonymous. PMU is used to such sample transfers and will support and guide the UNIPD and ISGlobal teams on how best to do this.

**Case Study 7.** A detailed data management plan will be completed within the preparation phase of the project (Month1-6). All data will be obtained, stored and analysed under pseudonym code. All data handling procedures will be done in accordance with the guidelines and using the physical and virtual infrastructure provided by UU, which in turn comply with the applicable national and EU regulations. Any data that can be made anonymously available to the wider research community will be made available in the time and form suitable for the given data type, reflecting FAIR principles. Representatives of the Swedish National Data Service will be consulted as needed regarding data security and availability issues.

**Case study 8.** A detailed data management plan will be completed within the preparation phase of the project (month1-4). All data will be obtained, stored, and analysed under pseudonym code. All data handling procedures will be done in accordance with the guidelines and using the physical and virtual infrastructure provided by the University of Copenhagen, which in turn comply with the applicable national and EU regulations. Any data that can be made anonymously available to the wider research community will be made available in the time and form suitable for the given data type, reflecting FAIR principles, and as long as a written contract has been signed.

**Case Study 9.** A detailed data management plan will be completed within the preparation phase of the project (Month1-6). The primary researcher will carry out the data collection with trained assistants. We will develop proper anonymization procedures, which will include removal of personal data from outcome data and secure storage of encrypted data. Written consent will be obtained from all the participants in the study to use their personal data. Consent forms include a specific clause on personal data protection informing the study participants how their data is going to be treated and stored, the research purpose, the DPO contact, and their rights. All files containing personal data will be stored in encrypted and password-locked files. Access to these files will be limited to authorized project personnel. Only researchers linked to the project will have access to personal data, and these data will not be transferred, except in the cases considered by law. If it is necessary to transfer personal data, this information will be included in the information sheet/consent form and measures to ensure personal data protection will be implemented. Transfer will be done according to the current legislation.

2.7 Please give details on how reporting obligations (regarding study initiation, safety of study participants, ethical concerns, quality issues, integrity of data, study results) to regulatory bodies/ethics committees will be met.

**Case Study 1.** We will apply all appropriate methods and standards specified in the Microdata Handling and Security Guide to Good Practice and ONS Statistical Disclosure Control in all tables and summaries produced from the data requested in this application. All conditions specified in the End User Licenses pertaining to the data will be adhered to. Given the high degree of aggregation at which we would present summaries of the data and the large numbers of individuals included in our analyses, risk of any kind of disclosure is very low. In any case, methods described in the ONS Statistical Disclosure Control documentation will be adhered to in ensuring that outputs in no way compromise anonymity of participants. In the unlikely event that an "unsafe" geographical cell were identified in preparation of summary tables, appropriate combination, suppression, or re-aggregation methods would be applied to ensure that confidentiality is protected. All members of the research team working on these data are experienced in working with confidential data sets and in ensuring that no outputs are in any way disclosive using the means described in ONS guidance. We consider the protection of survey participant responses paramount. In order that total confidentiality of the data is assured, all data will be stored and analysed on a secure server. No data containing individual respondent details will be stored or manipulated locally on laptop or desktop machines, and only aggregated (and hence anonymised and checked for potential low cell counts etc.) data will be transferred to such machines for the preparation of summaries for journal articles etc. The Understanding Society study itself is conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act. This means that personal information (as defined by the Data Protection Act) are kept strictly confidential by the UK Data Service and will not be included in any data set obtained by the researchers



**Case Study 2.** We will apply all appropriate methods and standards specified in the Microdata Handling and Security Guide to Good Practice and ONS Statistical Disclosure Control in all tables and summaries produced from the data requested in this application. All conditions specified by the PROTECT study team pertaining to analysis of the data will be adhered to. Given the high degree of aggregation at which we would present summaries of the data and the large numbers of individuals included in our analyses, risk of any kind of disclosure is very low. In any case, methods described in the ONS Statistical Disclosure Control documentation will be adhered to in ensuring that outputs in no way compromise anonymity of participants. In the unlikely event that an “unsafe” geographical cell were identified in preparation of summary tables, appropriate combination, suppression or re-aggregation methods would be applied so as to ensure that confidentiality is protected. All members of the research team working on these data are experienced in working with confidential data sets and in ensuring that no outputs are in any way disclosive using the means described in ONS guidance. We consider the protection of survey participant responses paramount. Even though data to be analysed will be de-identified, in order that total confidentiality of the data is assured, all data will be stored and analysed on a secure server. No data containing individual respondent details will be stored or manipulated locally on laptop or desktop machines, and only aggregated (and hence anonymised and checked for potential low cell counts etc.) data will be transferred to such machines for the preparation of summaries for journal articles etc.

**Case Study 3.** Data will only be reported in scientific publications and events in an aggregated format, precluding identification of subjects. Visualization of participants’ residential location will be rendered in scientific publications at a resolution/aspect ratio that does not allow for identification of specific locations.

**Case Studies 4-6.** Reported study results will pertain to analyses of aggregate data. No individual’s name will be associated with any published or unpublished report of this study. For further details, please see section 2.6.

**Case Study 7.** The project will be completed in accordance with the protocol and schedule already approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority (Diary number: 2021-06675-01, January 2022). The Authority will be consulted without delay in case of any substantive changes to the protocol or interventions or any unforeseen concerns regarding the safety or integrity of the interventions or data collection and management procedures. The Swedish National Data Service and the Uppsala University representative for data security will be consulted as needed regarding any arising concerns in the management of data.

**Case Study 8.** The project will be completed in accordance with the protocol which is to be sent and approved by the National Committee on Health Research Ethics. The committee will be consulted without delay in case of any substantive changes to the protocol or interventions or any unforeseen concerns regarding the safety or integrity of the interventions or data collection and management procedures. The representative for data security at the University of Copenhagen will be consulted as needed regarding any arising concerns in the management of data.

**Case Study 9.** See section 2.6

2.8 Please list all items of the sponsor’s responsibilities (e.g. monitoring clinical sites, meeting regulatory obligations, data management, etc.) that will be supported by entities that are not part of the sponsor’s organisation. Please describe how the sponsor will ensure oversight of these activities.

**Case Studies 1-9.** As of regulations by the European Commission, no other sponsors are involved.

2.9 What are the plans for major study milestones and what evidence supports its feasibility?  
Please describe a realistic plan (based on prior experience) detailing the time necessary for (i) compiling the required regulatory and ethics submission package, (ii) receipt of regulatory and ethics approval, (iii) initiation of clinical site(s), (iv) completion of recruitment of the study population, (v) final assessment of all study participants, (vi) analysis/ reporting of study results.

**Case Study 1.** Key study milestones include: (i) Two weeks for preparing the ethics submission package and getting it peer-reviewed; (ii) two months for ethics approval; (iii-v) all participants are already recruited and data collected, cleaned etc; and (vi) two years for analysis and reporting.

**Case Study 2.** Study milestones include: (i) Two weeks for preparing the ethics submission package and getting it peer-reviewed; (ii) two months for ethics approval; (iii-v) 3 months for additional data collection and cleaning; and (vi) two years for analysis and reporting.

Table 7. Key milestones for Case Study 3

Procedures	Month
Development of conceptual models, Development of questionnaire, sampling framework, participant records and training for sampling and field work	M 1-6
Ethics documentation preparation, submission and approval	M 5-10
Tender process for survey company and biomarkers kits/reagents	M 1-8
Questionnaire survey Wave 1 - data collection, validation and curation	M 11-13
First Biomarker tests in subsample - biosamples collection, analysis and data curation	M 14-17
Questionnaire survey Wave 2 - data collection, validation and curation	M 17-19
Second Biomarker tests in subsample - biosamples collection, analysis and data curation	M 20-23
Questionnaire survey Wave 3 - data collection, validation and curation	M 23-25
Creating GIS datasets and linkage to survey data	M 13-25
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 14-30
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 31-48

Case Studies 4-6. Key milestones are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Key milestones for Case Studies 4, 5 & 6.

Procedures	Month
Study co-creation and ethics documentation preparation, submission, and approval	M 1-12
Participant recruitment and screening for incl. and excl. criteria	M 12-15
Randomisation and set-up of data management	M 12-15
Pilot testing of intervention and data collection	M 16-18
Intervention and data collection and storage	M 18-24
Shipping and analysis of saliva samples in Austrian laboratory	M 19-24
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 25-33
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 33-48

Case Study 7. Key milestones are provided in Table 9.

Table 9. Key milestones for Case Study 7.

Procedures	Month
Development of study protocol and intervention protocols, securing ethical approval	Completed during 2022
Trial registration and any needed addendum to ethical approval	M 1-6
Recruitment and training of instructors	M 1-6
Recruitment of participants (continuous) and completion of interventions (in 4 waves)	M 7-18
Data collection in connection with intervention waves and subsequent follow-up	M 7-24
Last wave of interventions completed	M 18
6-month follow-up of last study wave completed	M 24
Data curation, analysis, and interpretation	M 18-30
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 31-48

Case Study 8. Key milestones are outlined in Table 10.

Table 10. Key milestones for Case Study 8.

Procedures	Month
Ethics documentation preparation, protocol, submission, and approval	M 1-4
Trial registration and any needed addendum to ethical approval obtained	M 6
Participant recruitment and screening for incl. and excl. criteria	M 6-10
Intervention completed (visitors with vs. without App.)	M 18
Follow-ups completed	M 24



**Case Study 9.** Key milestones are given in Table 11.

Table 11. Key milestones for Case Study 8.

Procedures	Month
Development of protocols and procedures for the training, including scientific and practical details such as hiring the venues and inviting experts to give a talk	M 1-6
Recruitment of matched intervention and control farms for participation in the study, including the development of brochures and other information.	M 2-8
Kick-off meeting to inform farms participating in the CoP program	M 9
CoP-1 meetings	M 10-13
<i>Staff experimenting with the activities in practice</i>	M 10-15
CoP-2 meetings	M 12-15
<i>Staff experimenting with the activities in practice</i>	M 12-17
CoP- 3 meetings	M 14-17
<i>Staff experimenting with the activities in practice</i>	M 14-19
Closing meetings with staff evaluations	M 16-19
Visits of researchers to care farms to do observations of the clients and collect in-situ data of the environmental and process quality of the farms	M 17-22
Collection of post-intervention data on resilience of clients at intervention and control farms, through staff surveys and questionnaires for caregivers administered through the standard quality monitoring system of the care farm organisation	M 17-22
Data analysis and write-up	M 23-30
Publication, dissemination, implementation	M 31-48

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**ANNEX 2****ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION**

Forms of funding	Estimated eligible <sup>1</sup> costs (per budget category)									Estimated EU contribution <sup>2</sup>				
	Direct costs						Indirect costs			Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum grant amount <sup>6</sup>
	A. Personnel costs		B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories	E. Indirect costs <sup>3</sup>	Funding rate % <sup>4</sup>		Maximum EU contribution <sup>5</sup>	Requested EU contribution		
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)	A.2 Natural persons under direct contract	A.3 Seconded persons	A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs				
Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs <sup>7</sup>	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs <sup>8</sup>	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d2	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + c1 + c2 + c3)					
1 - UNIVIE	596 755.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	96 012.00	0.00	55 907.00	0.00	187 168.50	935 842.50	100	935 842.50	935 842.25	935 842.25
2 - ISGLOBAL	416 531.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24 800.00	0.00	61 549.00	0.00	125 720.00	628 600.00	100	628 600.00	628 600.00	628 600.00
3 - AZTI	198 525.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21 500.00	0.00	22 000.00	0.00	60 506.25	302 531.25	100	302 531.25	302 531.25	302 531.25
4 - ETIFOR	246 880.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	0.00	23 770.00	0.00	72 162.50	360 812.50	100	360 812.50	360 812.50	360 812.50
5 - EHNet	227 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27 200.00	0.00	25 200.00	0.00	69 975.00	349 875.00	100	349 875.00	349 875.00	349 875.00
6 - UNIPD	383 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58 790.00	2 520.00	63 967.00	0.00	127 069.25	635 346.25	100	635 346.25	635 346.25	635 346.25
7 - NBSI	235 875.00	0.00	0.00	18 000.00	18 000.00	0.00	29 850.00	0.00	70 931.25	372 656.25	100	372 656.25	372 656.25	372 656.25
8 - MUP	109 600.00	0.00	0.00	80 000.00	10 000.00	0.00	53 500.00	0.00	43 275.00	296 375.00	100	296 375.00	296 375.00	296 375.00
9 - PMU	237 120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10 000.00	4 000.00	72 333.00	0.00	80 863.25	404 316.25	100	404 316.25	404 316.25	404 316.25
10 - UU	254 136.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20 000.00	0.00	59 000.00	10 000.00	83 284.00	426 420.00	100	426 420.00	426 420.00	426 420.00
11 - UCPH	282 218.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15 000.00	0.00	63 000.00	0.00	90 054.50	450 272.50	100	450 272.50	450 272.50	450 272.50
12 - NVM	188 400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8 000.00	0.00	29 400.00	0.00	56 450.00	282 250.00	100	282 250.00	282 250.00	282 250.00
13 - UNTWE	0.00	98 600.00	0.00	0.00	4 000.00	0.00	4 900.00	0.00	26 875.00	134 375.00	100	134 375.00	134 375.00	134 375.00
14 - UNEXE														
<b>Σ consortium</b>	<b>3 376 540.00</b>	<b>98 600.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>98 000.00</b>	<b>331 302.00</b>	<b>6 520.00</b>	<b>564 376.00</b>	<b>10 000.00</b>	<b>1 094 334.50</b>	<b>5 579 672.50</b>		<b>5 579 672.50</b>	<b>5 579 672.25</b>	<b>5 579 672.25</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

<sup>2</sup> The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement; see Article 7).

<sup>3</sup> Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s)/reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

<sup>4</sup> See Data Sheet for the funding rate(s).

<sup>5</sup> This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.

<sup>6</sup> The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

<sup>7</sup> See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

<sup>8</sup> See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

## **ANNEX 2a**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary** (Decision C(2020) 7115<sup>1</sup>)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}  
multiplied by  
{country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see [Portal Reference Documents](#)).

#### **HE and Euratom Research Infrastructure actions**<sup>2</sup>

Type: unit costs

Units<sup>3</sup>: see (for each access provider and installation) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

Amount per unit<sup>\*</sup>: see (for each access provider and installation) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

\* Amount calculated as follows:

For trans-national access:

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

For virtual access:

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

#### **Euratom staff mobility costs**<sup>8</sup>

##### **Monthly living allowance**

Type: unit costs

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<sup>1</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

<sup>2</sup> [Decision](#) of 19 April 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for the costs of providing trans-national and virtual access in Research Infrastructure actions under the Horizon Europe Programme (2021-2027) and the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025).

<sup>3</sup> Unit of access (e.g. beam hours, weeks of access, sample analysis) fixed by the access provider in proposal.

<sup>4</sup> In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

<sup>5</sup> In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

<sup>6</sup> In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

<sup>7</sup> In exceptional and duly justified cases, the granting authority may agree to a different reference period.

<sup>8</sup> [Decision](#) of 15 March 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for mobility in co-fund actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025).

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit\*: see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

\* Amount calculated as follows from 1 January 2021:

{**EUR 4 300** multiplied by country-specific correction coefficient\*\* of the country where the staff member is seconded}<sup>9</sup>

\*\*Country-specific correction coefficients as from 1 January 2021<sup>10</sup>

EU-Member States<sup>11</sup>

Country / Place	Coefficient (%)
Bulgaria	59,1
Czech Rep.	85,2
Denmark	131,3
Germany	101,9
Bonn	95,8
Karlsruhe	98
Munich	113,9
Estonia	82,3
Ireland	129
Greece	81,4
Spain	94,2
France	120,5
Croatia	75,8
Italy	95
Varese	90,7
Cyprus	78,2
Latvia	77,5
Lithuania	76,6
Hungary	71,9
Malta	94,7
Netherlands	113,9
Austria	107,9
Poland	70,9
Portugal	91,1
Romania	66,6
Slovenia	86,1

<sup>9</sup> Unit costs for living allowances are calculated by using a method of calculation similar to that applied for the secondment to the European Commission of seconded national experts (SNEs).

<sup>10</sup> ⚠ For the financial statements, the amount must be adjusted according to the actual place of secondment. The revised coefficients were adopted in the Decision authorising the use of unit costs for the Fusion Programme co-fund action under the Research and training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community 2021-2025. They are based on the 2020 Annual update of the remuneration and pensions of the officials and other servants of the European Union and the correction coefficients applied thereto (OJ C 428, 11.12.2020) to ensure purchasing power parity. The revised coefficient are applied as from 1 January 2021 through an amendment to the grant agreement.

<sup>11</sup> No correction coefficient shall be applicable in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Slovakia	80,6
Finland	118,4
Sweden	124,3

#### Third countries

Country/place	Coefficient (%)
China	82,2
India	72,3
Japan	111,8
Russia	92,7
South Korea	92,3
Switzerland	129,2
Ukraine	82,3
United Kingdom	97,6
United States	101,4 (New-York) 90,5 (Washington)

#### Mobility allowance

Type: Unit costs

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit: **EUR 600** per person-month; see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

#### Family allowance

Type: unit costs

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit: **EUR 660** per person-month; see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

#### Education allowance

Type: Unit costs

Units: months spent by the seconded staff member(s) on research and training in fission and fusion activities (person-month)

Amount per unit\*: see (for each beneficiary/affiliated entity and secondment) the unit cost table in Annex 2b

\*Amount calculated as follows from 1 January 2021:  
{**EUR 283.82** x number of dependent children<sup>12</sup>}

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<sup>12</sup> For the estimated budget (Annex 2): an average should be used. (⚠ For the financial statements, the number of children (and months) must be adjusted according to the actual family status at the moment the secondment starts.)

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**FUNDACION PRIVADA INSTITUTO DE SALUD GLOBAL BARCELONA (ISGLOBAL),**  
PIC 951414122, established in C ROSSELLO 132 PLANTA 05, BARCELONA 08036, Spain,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)**  
(‘EU executive agency’ or ‘granting authority’), under the powers delegated by the European  
Commission (‘European Commission’),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,  
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in  
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary



**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**FUNDACION AZTI - AZTI FUNDAZIOA (AZTI)**, PIC 999514385, established in TXATXARRAMENDI UGARTEA Z/G, SUKARRIETA 48395, Spain,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**ETIFOR SRL (ETIFOR)**, PIC 950498442, established in PIAZZA ALCIDE DE GASPERI 41, PADOVA 35131, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**EUROHEALTHNET ASBL (EHNet)**, PIC 998095857, established in RUE ROYALE 146, BRUXELLES 1000, Belgium,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA (UNIPD)**, PIC 999995602, established in VIA 8 FEBBRAIO 2, PADOVA 35122, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**NBS INSTITUTE AB (SVB) (NBSI)**, PIC 897348650, established in SODRA FORSTADSGATAN 22, MALMO 211 43, Sweden,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary



**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**MEDITCINSKY UNIVERSITET-PLOVDIV (MUP)**, PIC 997876346, established in VASIL APRILOV BOULEVARD 15A, Plovdiv 4002, Bulgaria,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**PARACELSUS MEDIZINISCHE PRIVATUNIVERSITAT SALZBURG - PRIVATSTIFTUNG (PMU)**, PIC 998417703, established in STRUBERGASSE 21, SALZBURG 5020, Austria,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**UPPSALA UNIVERSITET (UU)**, PIC 999985029, established in VON KRAEMERS ALLE 4, UPPSALA 751 05, Sweden,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**KOBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET (UCPH)**, PIC 999991043, established in NORREGADE 10, KOBENHAVN 1165, Denmark,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**VAN DEN BERG AGEETA ELIZABETH (NVM)**, PIC 888318532, established in KRUIZEMUNTSTRAAT 94, APELDOORN 7322 MA, Netherlands,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

**ANNEX 3**

**ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE (UNTWE)**, PIC 999900833, established in DRIENERLOLAAN 5, ENSCHEDE 7522 NB, Netherlands,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101081420 — RESONATE** ('the Agreement')

**between UNIVERSITAT WIEN (UNIVIE) and the European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary



ANNEX 4 HORIZON EUROPE MGA — MULTI + MONO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

Eligible <sup>1</sup> costs (per budget category)																	EU contribution <sup>2</sup>				Revenues
Direct costs															Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Total requested EU contribution	Income generated by the action
A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories						E. Indirect costs <sup>2</sup>	Funding rate % <sup>3</sup>	Maximum EU contribution <sup>4</sup>		Requested EU contribution				
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs <sup>5</sup>	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	/ Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	/ Unit costs <sup>5</sup>	/ Unit costs <sup>5</sup>	/ Actual costs	/ Unit costs <sup>5</sup>	/ Actual costs	/ Actual costs	Flat-rate costs <sup>6</sup>	U	g = f*U%	h	m	n
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	/ d1a	d2	/ d3	/ d4	/ d5	/ d6	/ d7	/ d8	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1 + c2 + c3 + d1a + d2 + d3 + d4 + d5 + d6 + d7 + d8)					
XX - [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]																					

The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:  
 The information provided is complete, reliable and true.  
 The costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).  
 The costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 19, 20 and 25).  
 For the last reporting period: that all the revenues have been declared (see Article 22).

<sup>1</sup> Please declare all eligible costs and contributions, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Only amounts that were declared in your individual financial statements can be taken into account later on, in order to replace costs/contributions that are found to be ineligible.

<sup>2</sup> See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).  
<sup>3</sup> If you have also received an EU operating grant during this reporting period, you cannot claim indirect costs - unless you can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please contact us immediately via the Funding & Tenders Portal for details.  
<sup>4</sup> See Data Sheet for the reimbursement rate(s).  
<sup>5</sup> This is the theoretical amount of EU contribution to costs that the system calculates automatically (by multiplying the reimbursement rates by the costs declared). The amount you request (in the column 'requested EU contribution') may be less.  
<sup>6</sup> See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).  
<sup>7</sup> See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

## **SPECIFIC RULES**

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)**

#### **Sensitive information with security recommendation**

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

#### **EU classified information**

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444<sup>1</sup> and its implementing rules — until it is declassified.

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

Action tasks involving EU classified information may be subcontracted only with prior explicit written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission).

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

### **ETHICS (— ARTICLE 14)**

#### **Ethics and research integrity**

The beneficiaries must carry out the action in compliance with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity)

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

and

- applicable EU, international and national law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

No funding can be granted, within or outside the EU, for activities that are prohibited in all Member States. No funding can be granted in a Member State for an activity which is forbidden in that Member State.

The beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of persons, the right to non-discrimination, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the activities under the action have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the activities under the action do not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such modifications heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed)
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer, or
- lead to the destruction of human embryos (for example, for obtaining stem cells).

Activities involving research on human embryos or human embryonic stem cells may be carried out only if:

- they are set out in Annex 1 or
- the coordinator has obtained explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

In addition, the beneficiaries must respect the fundamental principle of research integrity — as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>2</sup>.

This implies compliance with the following principles:

- reliability in ensuring the quality of research reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources
- honesty in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair and unbiased way

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<sup>2</sup> European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies).

- respect for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment
- accountability for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts

and means that beneficiaries must ensure that persons carrying out research tasks follow the good research practices including ensuring, where possible, openness, reproducibility and traceability and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the Code.

Activities raising ethical issues must comply with the additional requirements formulated by the ethics panels (including after checks, reviews or audits; see Article 25).

Before starting an action task raising ethical issues, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities.

The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary, which shows that the documents cover the action tasks in question and includes the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned (if any).

## **VALUES (— ARTICLE 14)**

### **Gender mainstreaming**

The beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

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

### **Definitions**

Access rights — Rights to use results or background.

Dissemination — The public disclosure of the results by appropriate means, other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results, including by scientific publications in any medium.

Exploit(ation) — The use of results in further research and innovation activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including among other things, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities.

Fair and reasonable conditions — Appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for access, for example the actual or potential value of the results or background to which access is requested and/or the scope, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.

FAIR principles — ‘findability’, ‘accessibility’, ‘interoperability’ and ‘reusability’.

Open access — Online access to research outputs provided free of charge to the end-user.

Open science — An approach to the scientific process based on open cooperative work, tools and diffusing knowledge.

Research data management — The process within the research lifecycle that includes the organisation, storage, preservation, security, quality assurance, allocation of persistent identifiers (PIDs) and rules and procedures for sharing of data including licensing.

Research outputs — Results to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered results and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols, models, workflows and electronic notebooks.

### **Scope of the obligations**

For this section, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ do not include affiliated entities (if any).

### **Agreement on background**

The beneficiaries must identify in a written agreement the background as needed for implementing the action or for exploiting its results.

Where the call conditions restrict control due to strategic interests reasons, background that is subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions and that impact the exploitation of the results (i.e. would make the exploitation of the results subject to control or restrictions) must not be used and must be explicitly excluded from it in the agreement on background — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

### **Ownership of results**

Results are owned by the beneficiaries that generate them.

However, two or more beneficiaries own results jointly if:

- they have jointly generated them and
- it is not possible to:
  - establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary, or
  - separate them for the purpose of applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection.

The joint owners must agree — in writing — on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership (**‘joint ownership agreement’**), to ensure compliance with their obligations under this Agreement.

Unless otherwise agreed in the joint ownership agreement or consortium agreement, each joint owner may grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly-owned results (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:

- at least 45 days advance notice and
- fair and reasonable compensation.

The joint owners may agree — in writing — to apply another regime than joint ownership.

If third parties (including employees and other personnel) may claim rights to the results, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that those rights can be exercised in a manner compatible with its obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must indicate the owner(s) of the results (results ownership list) in the final periodic report.

### **Protection of results**

Beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must adequately protect their results — for an appropriate period and with appropriate territorial coverage — if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation, the legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries and any other legitimate interests.

### **Exploitation of results**

Beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — use their best efforts to exploit their results directly or to have them exploited indirectly by another entity, in particular through transfer or licensing.

If, despite a beneficiary's best efforts, the results are not exploited within one year after the end of the action, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the granting authority) use the Horizon Results Platform to find interested parties to exploit the results.

If results are incorporated in a standard, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority or unless it is impossible) ask the standardisation body to include the funding statement (see Article 17) in (information related to) the standard.

### **Additional exploitation obligations**

Where the call conditions impose additional exploitation obligations (including obligations linked to the restriction of participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons), the beneficiaries must comply with them — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Where the call conditions impose additional exploitation obligations in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must (if requested by the granting authority) grant for a limited period of time specified in the request, non-exclusive licences — under fair and reasonable conditions — to their results to legal entities that need the results to address the public emergency and commit to rapidly and broadly exploit the resulting products and services at fair and reasonable conditions. This provision applies up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).



### Additional information obligation relating to standards

Where the call conditions impose additional information obligations relating to possible standardisation, the beneficiaries must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — inform the granting authority, if the results could reasonably be expected to contribute to European or international standards.

### **Transfer and licensing of results**

#### Transfer of ownership

The beneficiaries may transfer ownership of their results, provided this does not affect compliance with their obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their obligations under the Agreement regarding their results are passed on to the new owner and that this new owner has the obligation to pass them on in any subsequent transfer.

Moreover, they must inform the other beneficiaries with access rights of the transfer at least 45 days in advance (or less if agreed in writing), unless agreed otherwise in writing for specifically identified third parties including affiliated entities or unless impossible under the applicable law. This notification must include sufficient information on the new owner to enable the beneficiaries concerned to assess the effects on their access rights. The beneficiaries may object within 30 days of receiving notification (or less if agreed in writing), if they can show that the transfer would adversely affect their access rights. In this case, the transfer may not take place until agreement has been reached between the beneficiaries concerned.

#### Granting licences

The beneficiaries may grant licences to their results (or otherwise give the right to exploit them), including on an exclusive basis, provided this does not affect compliance with their obligations.

Exclusive licences for results may be granted only if all the other beneficiaries concerned have waived their access rights.

#### Granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing — Horizon Europe actions

Where the call conditions in Horizon Europe actions provide for the right to object to transfers or licensing, the granting authority may — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — object to a transfer of ownership or the exclusive licensing of results, if:

- the beneficiaries which generated the results have received funding under the grant
- it is to a legal entity established in a non-EU country not associated with Horizon Europe, and
- the granting authority considers that the transfer or licence is not in line with EU interests.

Beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant an exclusive licence must formally notify the granting authority before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner or licensee and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or licence on EU interests, in particular regarding competitiveness as well as consistency with ethical principles and security considerations.

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the granting authority decides to object to a transfer or exclusive licence, it must formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information it has requested).

No transfer or licensing may take place in the following cases:

- pending the granting authority decision, within the period set out above
- if the granting authority objects
- until the conditions are complied with, if the granting authority objection comes with conditions.

A beneficiary may formally notify a request to waive the right to object regarding intended transfers or grants to a specifically identified third party, if measures safeguarding EU interests are in place. If the granting authority agrees, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

#### *Granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing — Euratom actions*

Where the call conditions in Euratom actions provide for the right to object to transfers or licensing, the granting authority may — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — object to a transfer of ownership or the exclusive or non-exclusive licensing of results, if:

- the beneficiaries which generated the results have received funding under the grant
- it is to a legal entity established in a non-EU country not associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2021-2025 and
- the granting authority considers that the transfer or licence is not in line with the EU interests.

Beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant a licence must formally notify the granting authority before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the results, the new owner or licensee and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or licence on EU interests, in particular regarding competitiveness as well as consistency with

ethical principles and security considerations (including the defence interests of the EU Member States under Article 24 of the Euratom Treaty).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the granting authority decides to object to a transfer or licence, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

No transfer or licensing may take place in the following cases:

- pending the granting authority decision, within the period set out above
- if the granting authority objects
- until the conditions are complied with, if the granting authority objection comes with conditions.

A beneficiary may formally notify a request to waive the right to object regarding intended transfers or grants to a specifically identified third party, if measures safeguarding EU interests are in place. If the granting authority agrees, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

*Limitations to transfers and licensing due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons of the EU and its Member States*

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons, the beneficiaries may not transfer ownership of their results or grant licences to third parties which are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless they have requested and received prior approval by the granting authority.

The request must:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or license on the strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States.

The granting authority may request additional information.

**Access rights to results and background**

*Exercise of access rights — Waiving of access rights — No sub-licensing*

Requests to exercise access rights and the waiver of access rights must be in writing.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing with the beneficiary granting access, access rights do not include the right to sub-license.

If a beneficiary is no longer involved in the action, this does not affect its obligations to grant access.

If a beneficiary defaults on its obligations, the beneficiaries may agree that that beneficiary no longer has access rights.

#### Access rights for implementing the action

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — on a royalty-free basis — to background needed to implement their own tasks under the action, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement —:

- informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions, or
- agreed with the other beneficiaries that access would not be on a royalty-free basis.

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — on a royalty-free basis — to results needed for implementing their own tasks under the action.

#### Access rights for exploiting the results

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — under fair and reasonable conditions — to results needed for exploiting their results.

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — under fair and reasonable conditions — to background needed for exploiting their results, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement — informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions.

Requests for access must be made — unless agreed otherwise in writing — up to one year after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

#### Access rights for entities under the same control

Unless agreed otherwise in writing by the beneficiaries, access to results and, subject to the restrictions referred to above (if any), background must also be granted — under fair and reasonable conditions — to entities that:

- are established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country
- are under the direct or indirect control of another beneficiary, or under the same direct or indirect control as that beneficiary, or directly or indirectly controlling that beneficiary and
- need the access to exploit the results of that beneficiary.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing, such requests for access must be made by the entity directly to the beneficiary concerned.

Requests for access must be made — unless agreed otherwise in writing — up to one year after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

#### Access rights for the granting authority, EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies and national authorities to results for policy purposes — Horizon Europe actions

In Horizon Europe actions, the beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for developing, implementing and monitoring EU policies or programmes. Such access rights do not extend to beneficiaries' background.

Such access rights are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

For actions under the cluster 'Civil Security for Society', such access rights also extend to national authorities of EU Member States for developing, implementing and monitoring their policies or programmes in this area. In this case, access is subject to a bilateral agreement to define specific conditions ensuring that:

- the access rights will be used only for the intended purpose and
- appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place.

Moreover, the requesting national authority or EU institution, body, office or agency (including the granting authority) must inform all other national authorities of such a request.

*Access rights for the granting authority, Euratom institutions, funding bodies or the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy — Euratom actions*

In Euratom actions, the beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, Euratom institutions, funding bodies or the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy for developing, implementing and monitoring Euratom policies and programmes or for compliance with obligations assumed through international cooperation with non-EU countries and international organisations.

Such access rights include the right to authorise third parties to use the results in public procurement and the right to sub-license and are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

*Additional access rights*

Where the call conditions impose additional access rights, the beneficiaries must comply with them.

**COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION, OPEN SCIENCE AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)**

**Dissemination**

*Dissemination of results*

The beneficiaries must disseminate their results as soon as feasible, in a publicly available format, subject to any restrictions due to the protection of intellectual property, security rules or legitimate interests.

A beneficiary that intends to disseminate its results must give at least 15 days advance notice to the other beneficiaries (unless agreed otherwise), together with sufficient information on the results it will disseminate.

Any other beneficiary may object within (unless agreed otherwise) 15 days of receiving notification, if it can show that its legitimate interests in relation to the results or background would be significantly harmed. In such cases, the results may not be disseminated unless appropriate steps are taken to safeguard those interests.

#### Additional dissemination obligations

Where the call conditions impose additional dissemination obligations, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

### **Open Science**

#### Open science: open access to scientific publications

The beneficiaries must ensure open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to their results. In particular, they must ensure that:

- at the latest at the time of publication, a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication, is deposited in a trusted repository for scientific publications
- immediate open access is provided to the deposited publication via the repository, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) or a licence with equivalent rights; for monographs and other long-text formats, the licence may exclude commercial uses and derivative works (e.g. CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND) and
- information is given via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the scientific publication.

Beneficiaries (or authors) must retain sufficient intellectual property rights to comply with the open access requirements.

Metadata of deposited publications must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent, in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: publication (author(s), title, date of publication, publication venue); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the publication, the authors involved in the action and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the publication.

Only publication fees in full open access venues for peer-reviewed scientific publications are eligible for reimbursement.

#### Open science: research data management

The beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly, in line with the FAIR principles and by taking all of the following actions:

- establish a data management plan ('DMP') (and regularly update it)



- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, deposit the data in a trusted repository; if required in the call conditions, this repository must be federated in the EOSC in compliance with EOSC requirements
- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, ensure open access — via the repository — to the deposited data, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public License (CC BY) or Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or a licence with equivalent rights, following the principle ‘as open as possible as closed as necessary’, unless providing open access would in particular:
  - be against the beneficiary’s legitimate interests, including regarding commercial exploitation, or
  - be contrary to any other constraints, in particular the EU competitive interests or the beneficiary’s obligations under this Agreement; if open access is not provided (to some or all data), this must be justified in the DMP
- provide information via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data.

Metadata of deposited data must be open under a Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent (to the extent legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded), in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: datasets (description, date of deposit, author(s), venue and embargo); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the dataset, the authors involved in the action, and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for related publications and other research outputs.

#### Open science: additional practices

Where the call conditions impose additional obligations regarding open science practices, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

Where the call conditions impose additional obligations regarding the validation of scientific publications, the beneficiaries must provide (digital or physical) access to data or other results needed for validation of the conclusions of scientific publications, to the extent that their legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded (and unless they already provided the (open) access at publication).

Where the call conditions impose additional open science obligations in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must (if requested by the granting authority) immediately deposit any research output in a repository and provide open access to it under a CC BY licence, a Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent. As an exception, if the access would be against the beneficiaries’ legitimate interests, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses — under fair and reasonable conditions — to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency and commit to rapidly and broadly exploit the resulting products and services at fair and reasonable conditions. This provision applies up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

#### **Plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**

Unless excluded by the call conditions, the beneficiaries must provide and regularly update a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities.

## **SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)**

### **Implementation in case of restrictions due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States**

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, the beneficiaries must ensure that none of the entities that participate as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

The beneficiaries must moreover ensure that any cooperation with entities established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) does not affect the strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States.

### **Recruitment and working conditions for researchers**

The beneficiaries must take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>3</sup>, in particular regarding:

- working conditions
- transparent recruitment processes based on merit, and
- career development.

The beneficiaries must ensure that researchers and all participants involved in the action are aware of them.

### **Specific rules for access to research infrastructure activities**

#### **Definitions**

Research Infrastructures — Facilities that provide resources and services for the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. This definition includes the associated human resources, and it covers major equipment or sets of instruments; knowledge-related facilities such as collections, archives or scientific data infrastructures; computing systems, communication networks, and any other infrastructure, of a unique nature and open to external users, essential to achieve excellence in research and innovation. Where relevant, they may be used beyond research, for example

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

for education or public services, and they may be ‘single-sited’, ‘virtual’ or ‘distributed’<sup>4</sup>:

When implementing access to research infrastructure activities, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- for transnational access:

- access which must be provided:

The access must be free of charge, transnational access to research infrastructure or installations for selected user-groups.

The access must include the logistical, technological and scientific support and the specific training that is usually provided to external researchers using the infrastructure. Transnational access can be either in person (hands-on), provided to selected users that visit the installation to make use of it, or remote, through the provision to selected user-groups of remote scientific services (e.g. provision of reference materials or samples, remote access to a high-performance computing facility).

- categories of users that may have access:

Transnational access must be provided to selected user-groups, i.e. teams of one or more researchers (users).

The majority of the users must work in a country other than the country(ies) where the installation is located (unless access is provided by an international organisation, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), an ERIC or similar legal entity).

Only user groups that are allowed to disseminate the results they have generated under the action may benefit from the access (unless the users are working for SMEs).

Access for user groups with a majority of users not working in a EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country is limited to 20% of the total amount of units of access provided under the grant (unless a higher percentage is foreseen in Annex 1).

- procedure and criteria for selecting user groups:

The user groups must request access by submitting (in writing) a description of the work that they wish to carry out and the names, nationalities and home institutions of the users.

The user groups must be selected by (one or more) selection panels set up by the consortium.

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<sup>4</sup> See Article 2(1) of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme Regulation 2021/695.

The selection panels must be composed of international experts in the field, at least half of them independent from the consortium (unless otherwise specified in Annex 1).

The selection panels must assess all proposals received and recommend a short-list of the user groups that should benefit from access.

The selection panels must base their selection on scientific merit, taking into account that priority should be given to user groups composed of users who:

- have not previously used the installation and
- are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exist.

It will apply the principles of transparency, fairness and impartiality.

Where the call conditions impose additional rules for the selection of user groups, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

- other conditions:

The beneficiaries must request written approval from the granting authority for the selection of user groups requiring visits to the installations exceeding 3 months (unless such visits are foreseen in Annex 1).

In addition, the beneficiaries must:

- advertise widely, including on a their websites, the access offered under the Agreement
- promote equal opportunities in advertising the access and take into account the gender dimension when defining the support provided to users
- ensure that users comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement
- ensure that its obligations under Articles 12, 13, 17 and 33 also apply to the users
- keep records of the names, nationalities, and home institutions of users, as well as the nature and quantity of access provided to them

- for virtual access:

- access which must be provided:

The access must be free of charge, virtual access to research infrastructure or installations.

‘Virtual access’ means open and free access through communication networks to digital resources and services needed for research, without selecting the users to whom access is provided.

The access must include the support that is usually provided to external users.

Where allowed by the call conditions, beneficiaries may in justified cases define objective eligibility criteria (e.g. affiliation to a research or academic institution) for specific users.

- other conditions:

The beneficiaries must have the virtual access services assessed periodically by a board composed of international experts in the field, at least half of whom must be independent from the consortium (unless otherwise specified in Annex 1). For this purpose, information and statistics on the users and the nature and quantity of the access provided, must be made available to the board.

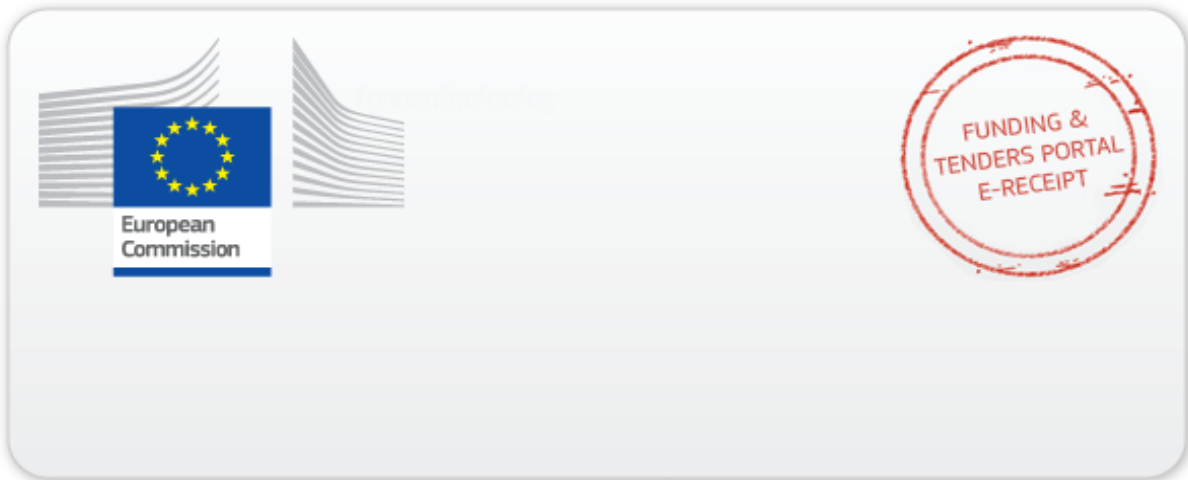
The beneficiaries must advertise widely, including on a dedicated website, the access offered under the grant and the eligibility criteria, if any.

Where the call conditions impose additional traceability<sup>5</sup> obligations, information on the traceability of the users and the nature and quantity of access must be provided by the beneficiaries.

These obligations apply regardless of the form of funding or budget categories used to declare the costs (unit costs or actual costs or a combination of the two).

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<sup>5</sup> According to the definition given in ISO 9000, i.e.: “Traceability is the ability to trace the history, application, use and location of an item or its characteristics through recorded identification data.” The users can be traced, for example, by authentication and/or by authorization or by other means that allows for analysis of the type of users and the nature and quantity of access provided.



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