



## EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

REA.A – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts  
A.2 – MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

### GRANT AGREEMENT

**Project 101275697 — VITAE**

#### 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':

**UNIVERZITA KARLOVA (CU)**, PIC 999923434, established in OVOCNY TRH 560/5, PRAHA 1 116 36, Czechia,

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

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GRANT AGREEMENT.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PREAMBLE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DATASHEET.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 GENERAL.....</b>	<b>12</b>
ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT .....	12
ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS.....	12
<b>CHAPTER 2 ACTION.....</b>	<b>13</b>
ARTICLE 3 — ACTION.....	13
ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE.....	13
<b>CHAPTER 3 GRANT.....</b>	<b>13</b>
ARTICLE 5 — GRANT.....	13
5.1 Form of grant.....	13
5.2 Maximum grant amount.....	14
5.3 Funding rate.....	14
5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding.....	14
5.5 Budget flexibility.....	14
ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.....	14
6.1 General eligibility conditions.....	14
6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category.....	14
6.3 Ineligible contributions.....	17
6.4 Consequences of non-compliance.....	17
<b>CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES.....	17
ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES.....	19
ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION.....	19
9.1 Associated partners.....	19
9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.....	20
9.3 Subcontractors.....	20

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties.....	20
ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS.....	20
10.1 Non-EU participants.....	20
10.2 Participants which are international organisations.....	21
10.3 Pillar-assessed participants.....	21
<b>SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION.....</b>	<b>23</b>
ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION.....	23
11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action.....	23
11.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	23
ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.....	24
12.1 Conflict of interests.....	24
12.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	24
ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY.....	24
13.1 Sensitive information.....	24
13.2 Classified information.....	25
13.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	25
ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES.....	25
14.1 Ethics.....	25
14.2 Values.....	25
14.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	26
ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION.....	26
15.1 Data processing by the granting authority.....	26
15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries.....	26
15.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	27
ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE.....	27
16.1 Background and access rights to background.....	27
16.2 Ownership of results.....	27
16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.....	27
16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background.....	28
16.5 Consequences of non-compliance.....	28
ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY.....	28
17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action.....	28
17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement.....	29
17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer.....	29

17.4	Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules.....	30
17.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	30
ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION.....		30
18.1	Specific rules for carrying out the action.....	30
18.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	30
<b>SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION.....</b>		<b>30</b>
ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS.....		30
19.1	Information requests.....	30
19.2	Participant Register data updates.....	30
19.3	Information about events and circumstances which impact the action.....	31
19.4	Consequences of non-compliance.....	31
ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING.....		31
20.1	Keeping records and supporting documents.....	31
20.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	32
ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING.....		32
21.1	Continuous reporting.....	32
21.2	Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements.....	32
21.3	Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros.....	33
21.4	Reporting language.....	33
21.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	33
ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE.....		33
22.1	Payments and payment arrangements.....	33
22.2	Recoveries.....	34
22.3	Amounts due.....	34
22.4	Enforced recovery.....	39
22.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	40
ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES.....		41
ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES.....		41
ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS.....		41
25.1	Granting authority checks, reviews and audits.....	41
25.2	European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities.....	42
25.3	Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding.....	43
25.4	OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations.....	43
25.5	Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations.....	43

25.6	Consequences of non-compliance.....	44
ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS.....		45
26.1	Impact evaluation.....	45
26.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	45
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE.....</b>		<b>45</b>
<b>SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION.....</b>		<b>45</b>
ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS.....		45
27.1	Conditions.....	45
27.2	Procedure.....	45
27.3	Effects.....	45
ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION.....		46
28.1	Conditions.....	46
28.2	Procedure.....	46
28.3	Effects.....	46
<b>SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION.....</b>		<b>46</b>
ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION.....		46
29.1	Conditions.....	46
29.2	Procedure.....	47
ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION.....		47
30.1	Conditions.....	47
30.2	Procedure.....	48
ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION.....		48
31.1	Consortium-requested GA suspension.....	48
31.2	EU-initiated GA suspension.....	49
ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION.....		50
32.1	Consortium-requested GA termination.....	50
32.2	Consortium-requested beneficiary termination.....	51
32.3	EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination.....	52
<b>SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS.....</b>		<b>55</b>
ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES.....		55
33.1	Liability of the granting authority.....	55
33.2	Liability of the beneficiaries.....	55
ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES.....		56
<b>SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE.....</b>		<b>56</b>
ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE.....		56

**CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS.....56**

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES.....56

    36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management..... 56

    36.2 Date of communication..... 57

    36.3 Addresses for communication..... 57

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT.....57

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES.....57

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS..... 58

    39.1 Conditions..... 58

    39.2 Procedure..... 58

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES..... 58

    40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble..... 59

    40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries..... 59

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT..... 59

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING  
AUTHORITY.....59

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES..... 60

    43.1 *Applicable law*..... 60

    43.2 Dispute settlement..... 60

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE.....60

## DATA SHEET

### **1. General data**

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>VITAE investigates how the meaning of “life” is being redefined in an era marked by ecological crisis, technological innovation, and cultural pluralism. Despite major advances in biology, astrobiology, and AI, no shared or operational definition of life exists, over 100 competing definitions, as collected in The Handbook of Astrobiology, reveal a fragmented landscape. This uncertainty has direct consequences for biodiversity governance, legal personhood, and rights-of-nature policies, affecting the implementation of the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and UNESCO’s initiatives on biocultural diversity. The project asks a fundamental question: What forms of life do environmental policies aim to protect, and why? It addresses this by bridging Western scientific models with Indigenous ecological cosmologies through an innovative, interdisciplinary methodology. Fieldwork in Colombia with Embera, Misak, and Kogi communities will generate an Indigenous Ecological Corpus, analysed through biosemiotics, philosophy of biology, and cognitive linguistics, and compared with a Scientific Corpus. This analysis will inform a definitional model of life, tested through a cross-applicability matrix to assess implications for European governance. VITAE pursues two objectives: (i) to empirically evaluate how environmental governance would change if Indigenous perspectives, where rivers, mountains, and ecosystems are recognized as living agents, were integrated; and (ii) to develop a trans-ecology as a new epistemological framework for ecological responsibility. The project will produce scientific outputs (open datasets, publications, definitional model) and public-facing results (short film, exhibitions), advancing the state of the art while supporting Horizon Europe priorities in Clusters 2 and 6. VITAE strengthens Europe’s leadership in sustainability science and delivers inclusive, coherent, and ethically robust frameworks for future ecological governance.</p>

Keywords:

- Climatology and climate change
- Epistemology, logic, philosophy of science
- Ethics and morality, bioethics
- Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
- Use of language: pragmatics, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, second language teaching and learning, lexicography, terminology
- Life; Indigenous cosmology; Environmental Governance; Indigenous Ecological Knowledge; Biosemiotics

Project number: 101275697

Project name: Vital Interpretations of Trans-ecologies Animacy and Epistemologies

Project acronym: VITAE

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF

Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01

Type of action: HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships

Granting authority: European Research Executive Agency

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

Project starting date: fixed date: 30 August 2026

Project end date: 27 February 2029

Project duration: 30 months

Consortium agreement: No

### **2. Participants**

**List of participants:**

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible contrib.	Max grant amount
1	COO	CU	UNIVERZITA KARLOVA	CZ	999923434	233 066.16	233 066.16
2	AP	Universidad Ean	UNIVERSIDAD EAN	CO	869986987	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>						233 066.16	233 066.16

**Coordinator:**

- UNIVERZITA KARLOVA (CU)

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

Total eligible contributions (unit, flat rate and lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
233 066.16	233 066.16	233 066.16

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

- A. Contributions for recruited researchers
  - A.1 Living allowance
  - A.2 Mobility allowance
  - A.3 Family allowance
  - A.4 Long-term leave allowance
  - A.5 Special needs allowance
- B. Institutional contributions
  - B.1 Research, training and networking contribution
  - B.2 Management and indirect contribution

**Cost eligibility options:**

- In-kind contributions eligible costs

**Budget flexibility:** Yes (flexibility with conditions)**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	30	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)	163 146,31

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

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): Yes

MIM contribution: 5% of the maximum grant amount (11 653.31), retained from the initial prefinancing

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call 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

No-profit rule: n/a

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

CZ9101000000511042010287 KOMBCZPPXXX

Conversion into euros: n/a

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

**4.3 Certificates** (art 24): n/a

**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 190 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509<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(38) of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to a beneficiary.

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<sup>4</sup> For the definition, see Article 190 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024): "**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 138(1) and 143(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".

**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 138(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509<sup>8</sup>.

**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 **101275697 — VITAE** ('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**

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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> 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

The grant is an action grant<sup>9</sup> which takes the form of a unit grant.

## 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

Not applicable

## 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 contributions for the action (unit contributions), broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of contributions (forms of funding)<sup>10</sup> to be used for each budget category.

The details on the calculation of the unit contributions will be explained in Annex 2a.

## 5.5 Budget flexibility

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

# ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

## 6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** for the unit contributions are the following:

(a) 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

(b) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20).

## 6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

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

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<sup>9</sup> For the definition, see 183(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509: ‘**action grant**’ means an EU grant to finance “an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective”.

<sup>10</sup> See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

## A. Contributions for recruited researchers

Contributions for recruited researchers (A.1 Living allowance, A.2 Mobility allowance, A.3 Family allowance, A.4 Long-term leave allowance and A.5 Special needs allowance) are eligible, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit contributions in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a, and if:

### for A.1 Living allowance and A.2 Mobility allowance:

- (a) the number of units declared:
  - (i) corresponds to the number of months spent by the recruited researchers on the research training activities and
  - (ii) does not exceed the maximum number of months (per researcher) set out in the call conditions
- (b) the recruited researchers comply with the following conditions:
  - (i) be — at the date of the call deadline — a post-doctoral researcher (i.e. in possession of a doctoral degree<sup>11</sup>)
  - (ii) be recruited by the beneficiaries under an employment contract (or other direct contract with equivalent benefits, including social security coverage) or — if not otherwise possible under national law — under a fixed amount fellowship agreement with minimum social security coverage, including during periods of secondment
  - (iii) be employed full-time, unless the granting authority has approved a part-time employment for professional, personal or family reasons, and
  - (iv) be working exclusively for the action, unless part-time for professional reasons has been approved
- (c) the contributions have been fully incurred for the benefit of the recruited researchers

This condition is met if:

{ **total remuneration costs** (salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs included in the remuneration under the employment contract or other direct contract) or **total fixed-amount fellowship costs** for the researcher during the action

plus

**total mobility costs** (household, relocation and travel expenses and, if they must be paid under national law, taxes, duties and social security contributions) for the researcher during the action}

divided by

the number of actual units}.

is equal to or higher than the following amount:

{amount per unit contribution set out in Annex 2 as living allowance

<sup>11</sup> As defined in the call conditions.

plus

amount per unit contribution set out in Annex 2 as mobility allowance},

**for A.3 Family allowance:**

- (a) the recruited researchers have a family.

‘Family’ means persons linked to the researcher by marriage (or a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised) or dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher.

- (b) the number of units declared:

(i) corresponds to the number of months spent by the recruited researchers with a family on the research training activities and

(ii) does not exceed the maximum number of months (per researcher) set out in the call conditions.

- (c) the contributions have been fully incurred for the benefit of the recruited researchers

This condition is met if they have been fully used for the recruited researchers for whom they are claimed.

**for A.4 Long-term leave<sup>12</sup> allowance:**

- (a) the general and specific eligibility conditions for the living and mobility allowances were fulfilled before the long-term leave and

- (b) the number of units declared corresponds to the number of months paid by the beneficiary.

**for A.5 Special needs allowance:**

- (a) they are used for recruited researchers with disabilities whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments are certified by a competent national authority and of such nature that their participation in the action would not be possible without the special needs items or services

- (b) the special needs items or services are not already covered from another source (such as social security or health insurance)

- (c) the number of units declared corresponds to the number of special needs units that were needed for implementing the action.

**B. Institutional contributions**

Institutional contributions (B.1 Research, training and networking contribution and B.2 Management and indirect contribution) are eligible, if they are calculated as unit contributions in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a, and if the living and mobility allowances are eligible.

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<sup>12</sup> Long-term leave includes maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave of more than 30 days.

### 6.3 Ineligible contributions

‘Ineligible contributions’ are:

- (a) units that do not comply with the conditions set out above (see Article 6.1 and 6.2)
- (b) units implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31) and
- (c) units for activities already funded 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 case:
  - (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
- (d) other:
  - (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable.

### 6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

## 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. Unit 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>13</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)
- 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’:

- **UNIVERSIDAD EAN (Universidad Ean)**, PIC 869986987

*Associated partners must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 in accordance with Article 11. They may not charge contributions to the action (no unit contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible.*

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

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<sup>13</sup> For the definition, see Article 190(2) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509: “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.”

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 contributions to the action (no unit contributions) and their costs are considered entirely covered by the unit contributions paid to the beneficiaries.

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

## **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 beneficiaries' costs for subcontracting are considered entirely covered by the unit contributions (irrespective of the actual subcontracting costs incurred, if any).

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>14</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

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<sup>15</sup>
- 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

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<sup>14</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 (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

<sup>15</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 (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

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 157 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509).

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 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 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>16</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).

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<sup>16</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).

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

### 14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

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

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

## ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION

### 15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

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

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725<sup>17</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>18</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.

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<sup>17</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>18</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).

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

### **15.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

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

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

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

### **16.1 Background and access rights to background**

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

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

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

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

### **16.2 Ownership of results**

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

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

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

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

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

- (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):



Funded by the  
European Union



Co-funded by the  
European Union



Funded by the  
European Union



Co-funded by the  
European Union

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

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

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

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to 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 unit 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 adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared; beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred.

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, unit 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 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): not applicable.

The **financial statements** must detail the contributions for the units implemented in the reporting period.

Unit contributions which are not declared in a financial statement 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 unit contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the 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)

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.

### **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

At beneficiary termination there will be no payment, but the grant must be provisionally closed for the beneficiary which leaves the consortium (and the affiliated entities which had to end their participation together with the beneficiary, if any).

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 unit contributions for the accepted units.

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:

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

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 contributions claimed for the units implemented 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 first calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by calculating the unit contributions for the accepted units.

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 eligible contributions claimed for the remaining units implemented (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 unit contributions for the accepted units.

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

Not applicable

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:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{final grant amount} \\ & \text{minus} \\ & \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)} \} \} \end{aligned}$$

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:

$$\left\{ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the action} \end{array} \right\} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{final grant amount for the action} \end{array} \right\}, \\ \text{minus} \\ \left. \left\{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments received by the beneficiary (if any)} \right\} \right\}$$

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 unit 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 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) joint and several liability of affiliated entities: not applicable or
- (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 2024/2509.

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>19</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

**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.

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<sup>19</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).

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

Not applicable

## 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 unit 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, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

### 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, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

## 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>20</sup> and No 2185/96<sup>21</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 263 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

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').

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<sup>20</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>21</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).

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
- (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 unit 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, unit 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 CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **27.1 Conditions**

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any unit 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 unit 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 unit contributions, it will deduct them from the 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), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, 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), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, 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. Moreover, no units may be implemented. Ongoing units must be interrupted and no new units may be started. Unit 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), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, 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

### 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. Moreover, no units may be implemented. Ongoing units must be interrupted and no new units may be started. Unit 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 unit contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22).

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only unit contributions which

are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no 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 and the explanation on the use of resources
- (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 unit contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22).

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 unit contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no 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

## **LIST OF MILESTONES**

(None)

## **LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS**

(None)

**Deliverable D1.1 – Career Development Plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - CU
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Career Development Plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	6	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

**Description**

A Career Development Plan will be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research objectives, this plan will comprise the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aiming at opening science and research to citizens. The Plan can be updated when needed.

**Deliverable D1.2 – Data Management Plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - CU
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Data Management Plan		
<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

**Description**

The Data Management Plan describes the data management life cycle for all data sets that will be collected, processed or generated by the action. It is a document describing what data will be collected, processed or generated and following what methodology and standards, whether and how this data will be shared and/or made open, and how it will be curated and preserved.

**Deliverable D1.3 – Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - CU
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	29	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

**Description**

The plan describes the planned measures to maximize the impact of the project, including the dissemination and exploitation measures that are planned, and the target group(s) addressed. Regarding communication measures and public engagement strategy, the aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens.

## LIST OF DELIVERABLES

### Deliverables

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open (A) automatically posted online)

Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D1.1	Career Development Plan	WP1	1 - CU	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D1.2	Data Management Plan	WP1	1 - CU	DMP — Data Management Plan	PU - Public	6
D1.3	Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan	WP1	1 - CU	R — Document, report	PU - Public	29

## STAFF EFFORT

<b>Staff effort per participant</b>		
<i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>		
<b>Participant</b>	<b>WPI</b>	<b>Total Person-Months</b>
1 - CU	1.00	1.00
<b>Total Person-Months</b>	1.00	1.00

**Work package WP1 – Research Data Management**

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - CU
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Research Data Management		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	30

<b>Objectives</b>
Research Data Management

<b>Description</b>
Research Data Management

## 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	Research Data Management	1 - CU	1.00	1	30	D1.1 – Career Development Plan D1.2 – Data Management Plan D1.3 – Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan

## 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.*

VITAE investigates how the meaning of “life” is being redefined in an era marked by ecological crisis, technological innovation, and cultural pluralism. Despite major advances in biology, astrobiology, and AI, no shared or operational definition of life exists, over 100 competing definitions, as collected in The Handbook of Astrobiology, reveal a fragmented landscape. This uncertainty has direct consequences for biodiversity governance, legal personhood, and rights-of-nature policies, affecting the implementation of the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and UNESCO’s initiatives on biocultural diversity.

The project asks a fundamental question: What forms of life do environmental policies aim to protect, and why? It addresses this by bridging Western scientific models with Indigenous ecological cosmologies through an innovative, interdisciplinary methodology. Fieldwork in Colombia with Embera, Misak, and Kogi communities will generate an Indigenous Ecological Corpus, analysed through biosemiotics, philosophy of biology, and cognitive linguistics, and compared with a Scientific Corpus. This analysis will inform a definitional model of life, tested through a cross-applicability matrix to assess implications for European governance.

VITAE pursues two objectives: (i) to empirically evaluate how environmental governance would change if Indigenous perspectives, where rivers, mountains, and ecosystems are recognized as living agents, were integrated; and (ii) to develop a trans-ecology as a new epistemological framework for ecological responsibility.

The project will produce scientific outputs (open datasets, publications, definitional model) and public-facing results (short film, exhibitions), advancing the state of the art while supporting Horizon Europe priorities in Clusters 2 and 6. VITAE strengthens Europe’s leadership in sustainability science and delivers inclusive, coherent, and ethically robust frameworks for future ecological governance.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### PARTICIPANTS

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

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	CU	UNIVERZITA KARLOVA	CZ	999923434
2	AP	Universidad Ean	UNIVERSIDAD EAN	CO	869986987

## 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>	101275697
<b>Project name:</b>	Vital Interpretations of Trans-ecologies Animacy and Epistemologies
<b>Project acronym:</b>	VITAE
<b>Call:</b>	HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF
<b>Topic:</b>	HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01
<b>Type of action:</b>	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF
<b>Service:</b>	REA/A/02
<b>Project starting date:</b>	fixed date: 30 August 2026
<b>Project duration:</b>	30 months

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project summary .....	3
List of participants .....	3
List of work packages .....	4
Staff effort .....	6
List of deliverables .....	7
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes) .....	9
List of critical risks .....	9



**ANNEX 1**



**Horizon Europe (HORIZON)**

**Description of the action (DoA)**

**Part A**

**Part B**

## SIGNATURES

### For the coordinator

Sokolova Vera with ECAS id n002n46g signed in the Participant Portal on 2026/04/16 14:25:07 (SigId-63025-xpU9eQeg8IRNMFES8i8Xi9CafCoEmX3rTQWrV2cjaHGvfSkKnFr2VZoTfGrPYenWkIRIEKHqNUKZYUW49NaE0-R2zIpfT8xjMUzpFKNCIjgkWGkFv7naVOESxDaUoHDnjM1oPzanC3TyM84sIsraOoAleqIfHDIPWLKxhxCjVb8jBwcczRoBzkQNzLLTWbp9mI). Timestamp by thirdparty at 2026/04/16 14:25:10

### For the granting authority

Signed by Renat BILYALOV with ECAS id bilyare as an authorised representative on 17-04-2026 07:56:59 (transaction Id SigId-65130-LKZPLgFvhEOIt19GQ8KOZ6tIXUpDMkmkYFFUCPhFadXPwszyJkGgvxNzg3ITZGTc1WxV3EQzbpuv4wQy3kQg7w0-R2zIpfT8xjMUzpFKNCIjgkE3x0MGEhKb3ggkWT0IZ0mBr9dKpzohg6anHRBbmf2spI0lys172zVXtDvM29KY56DINMPfG2OM087Zqx0zxdW)

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.

#### **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).

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71<sup>23</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.

## ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

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<sup>23</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).

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**

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 137 to 148 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95<sup>22</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**

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

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<sup>22</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).

until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, and the explanation on the use of resources

- (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 (see Article 22). Only units implemented until termination will be accepted.

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 unit contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no 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**

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 (see Article 22). Only units implemented until termination will be accepted.

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 unit contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no 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

- (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), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, 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

### 32.3.2 Procedure

## PART B TEMPLATE

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**Part B-1****1. Excellence****1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)**State-of-the-art, objectives and overview of the action:

The core idea behind *VITAE* (*Vital Interpretation of Trans-ecologies, Animacy and Epistemologies*) is to empirically test how the meaning of "life" shifts in an era shaped by ecological crisis, technological innovation, and cultural pluralism. Rather than reducing life to a fixed biological fact, the project approaches it as both a biological phenomenon and a culturally and historically situated concept, underscoring how different interpretations of life shape ecological responsibility and policy. Without rethinking what life means, current European and global policies for biodiversity protection and ecological governance risk remaining disconnected from the complexities of contemporary ecological challenges<sup>1</sup>. The project will be carried out by [REDACTED], a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Turin (Italy), under the supervision of [REDACTED] at Universidad EAN (Colombia) and [REDACTED] at Charles University (Czech Republic), and is grounded in an essential question: **What forms of life do environmental policies aim to protect, and why?**

In recent years the [European Green Deal](#) (where at art. 58 there is a specific LIFE Program), the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), and UNESCO's initiatives on biocultural diversity, and [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity](#), have highlighted the need to rethink how *life* is conceptualized in environmental governance. Yet, despite major advances in biology, chemistry, physics, astrobiology, and AI, no shared or operational definition of life exists<sup>2</sup>, creating a fragmented epistemic landscape. A clear example of this fragmentation is found in [REDACTED]'s *Handbook of Astrobiology*<sup>3</sup>, which compiles 100+ definitions, evidencing lack of consensus with policy implications. This conceptual uncertainty is not merely academic: it directly impacts political decisions, legal personhood, ecological governance, and bioethical frameworks, influencing which entities are granted protection, agency, or rights. Clarifying the meaning of life is therefore essential to ensure that emerging environmental and technological policies are coherent, inclusive, and ethically robust. As highlighted by the ERC-funded "[Local Ecologies of Knowledge](#)" project (2020–2025), integrating indigenous ecological knowledge is necessary to redesign a new ecological policy. *VITAE* addresses the question of how *life* is defined in an experimental, empirical, and measurable way, combining methods from sociolinguistics, biosemiotics, and anthropology. *VITAE* aligns with Horizon Europe priorities (Clusters 2/6) to inform inclusive ecological governance.

Research methodology and approach, including interdisciplinary aspects:

Responding to the need identified by European and international agendas (e.g. Horizon Europe, UNESCO's environmental and cultural initiatives<sup>4</sup>), *VITAE* bridges Indigenous ecological cosmologies and Western scientific models. The two research objectives are: **O1** is to empirically assess how European environmental governance would change if Indigenous perspectives, where rivers

[REDACTED] (2025). Achieving sustainability transformations for multi-species justice: assessing the potential of diverse local ecologies and societal struggles. *Sustainability Science* 20: 1017-1035.

[REDACTED] Does 'life' have a definition? In [REDACTED] (Ed.), *Planets and Life: The Emerging Science of Astrobiology*. Cambridge University Press: 119-31; Tirad [REDACTED] (2010). The Definition of Life: A Brief History of an Elusive Scientific Endeavor. *Astrobiology*, 10: 1003-9; [REDACTED] (2019). *Handbook of Astrobiology*.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. "UN Development Group (2008). Guidelines on indigenous Peoples Issues". Available [online](#) (visited 06/08/2025); "UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples" (2018). Available [online](#) (visited 06/08/2025); "UNESCO and partners spotlight indigenous water knowledge at UN Forum", 28th May 2025. Available [online](#) (visited 06/08/2025).

and mountains possess agency, animacy and rights, were formally integrated; and O2 is to develop and test a trans-ecology as an epistemological methodology that redefines ecological responsibilities. In order to go beyond the state of the art in research on the definition of life, a **trans-epistemology** will be established. Firstly, **anthropological fieldwork** provides the empirical basis: **video interviews** will be conducted with the Embera, Misak and Kogi communities throughout Colombia, including the Amazon (see 1.2), to understand **how their cosmologies interpret and represent life, living beings and the ecosystem**. The **biosemiotic and philosophy of biology** approaches provides an interpretative tool capable of **analysing indigenous cosmological animism** as a system of complex signs, through **mythologies**<sup>5</sup>. Once data is collected, an in-depth **cognitive linguistic** analysis will be conducted, comparing the **Indigenous Discourse Corpus** with a **Scientific Corpus** (see 1.2). This analysis will **identify recurring conceptual models**, including **metaphors and images** of the living, to understand **how life is attributed agency**<sup>6</sup> in non-organic entities such as rivers and mountains. This perspective **challenges prevailing anthropocentric and biocentric models**<sup>7</sup> by centering an **ecology of meaning**, thereby advancing the state of the art in philosophical, scientific, and anthropological debates on life. To operationalise this, it will **design a definitional model** by coding core criteria in a structured database and evaluating them with a cross-applicability matrix. In parallel it will produce a **short film** documenting **alternative approaches to life and ecology**, offering actionable insights for **biodiversity management and sustainability policy in Europe**. Building on [redacted] **trans-ecological methodology**<sup>8</sup>, and Ludmila Lackova's work on meaning-making in living systems<sup>9</sup>, it will assess implications for **ecological governance, bioethics, and legal recognition**, and deliver evidence-based, publicly accessible outputs (short film, exhibitions, open datasets). This project moves decisively **beyond a dominant scientific paradigm, providing robust tools for policy and regulation**, strengthening **Europe's leadership in sustainability science**, and generating clear public value and economic relevance. **VITAE** will equip European institutions with innovative, integrative frameworks for **biodiversity management and rights-of-nature policies**, enriched by **ancestral Indigenous knowledge on environmental stewardship**, at a pivotal moment for environmental governance.

**1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices).**

### Integration of Methods and Disciplines

**VITAE** mobilizes a **trans-epistemological** framework for a mutual transformation of concepts and assumptions, moving beyond simple juxtaposition. 1) **Anthropological Fieldwork**: Over at least **ten months (Table 2)**, collaborative ethnography will be conducted with Embera, Misak, and Kogi communities in Colombia (located respectively in the west, south, and north of the country, often in remote regions of Amazon). This includes **20–30 semi-structured interviews per community, participatory observation, and visual and linguistic elicitation**, all guided by Indigenous data sovereignty<sup>10</sup>. The resulting **Indigenous Discourse Corpus** comprises **500,000 words from transcribed interviews**. 2) **Biosemiotics**: Serving as the central analytical framework, biosemiotics applies qualitative, Peircean semiotic analysis to both the Indigenous and scientific data. This approach **maps how concepts like “living inorganic entities” function as complex sign systems in Indigenous**

<sup>5</sup> [redacted] (2025). Mythology and Zoosemiotics: Exploring Snake Narratives in Greek, Aztec, and Amazonian Culture. *Biosemiotics*, 18(1): 1-15.

<sup>6</sup> [redacted] W. (2025). The world in a stone: nature and knowledge in the indigenous communities of northern Colombia. *World Archaeology*, 56(2): 1–17.

<sup>7</sup> [redacted] (2024). The Critical Role of Indigenous People in Addressing the Twin Crises of Climate Change and Loss of Nature: How Powerful New Partnerships Between Indigenous Peoples, Faith Communities and Science to Protect Forests Can Turn the Tide. In J. von [redacted] Alford (Eds.), *Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and the Sciences: Combining Knowledge and Science on Vulnerabilities and Solutions for Resilience*. The Pontifical Academy of Science (PAS): 390-404.

<sup>8</sup> [redacted] [redacted] B. (2025). *Transecologia: Una guía metafísica para habitar las transformaciones del mundo*. Ariel.

<sup>9</sup> [redacted] L. (2025). *Language of Life: A Peircean Approach to Living Organisms*. Peter Lang.

<sup>10</sup> Similar preliminary work with Embera population has been done in: [redacted] (2022). Protecting Indigenous and Local Knowledge Through a Biocultural Diversity Framework. *The Journal of Environment & Development*, 31(3): 223-252.



- **Data Security (WP4):** All sensitive data will be handled in compliance with **GDPR** and local laws. A detailed **Data Management Plan** will be submitted within the first six months (Table 2). **Personal data:** Categories: audio, optional photos/videos (if consented), transcripts, field notes. Data minimisation; anonymisation for sharing; otherwise pseudonymisation with separate key. **Controllers in DPO:** [REDACTED] in [Charles University](#) (Prague) and [REDACTED] [Universidad EAN](#) (Bogotá). No transfers outside the EU/EEA without Chapter V GDPR safeguards (see Part B-2).

**Ethical considerations** (EC SSA + Ethnography guidance) ensure adult Indigenous participants provide ongoing, culturally appropriate consent for interviews/observation, with **clear opt-ins and withdrawal rights**. Harm minimization, Indigenous Data Sovereignty (CARE), benefit-sharing, and a **robust Fieldwork Safety Plan** are central to the project. Data handling adheres to strict TOMs and GDPR Chapter V safeguards for any non-EU/EEA transfers.

### *1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host*

#### Qualifications and experience of the supervisors

[REDACTED], author of *Transecologia* (2025), is the [rector of Universidad EAN](#) in Bogotá, where she leads one of Colombia's most innovative academic institutions focused on **ecological transition, sustainability, and entrepreneurship**. With two **Honoris Causa PhD** in **Environmental Management** from Unipaz, and **Law** from Universidad de Regina, she is one of the **25 global experts** of the [Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), **chairs the Science Policy Advisory Committee** of the [Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research](#), and member of the Scientific Committee of the [Global PECS Program](#). Baptiste has accumulated extensive experience in **supervising and mentoring** (22 in total) undergraduate, master's, and PhD theses, and has coordinated large interdisciplinary research teams as a **professor** at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and **director** of the [Humboldt Institute](#) (2011-2019). She is recognized for her inclusive, supportive supervision, and commitment to integrating Indigenous and local knowledge, and her ability to guide students from diverse backgrounds towards impactful scientific and policy-oriented careers. In 2018, she received the **Fulbright for Excellence Award** in Colombia and in 2019 the exemplary **Colombian Environment Award**.

[REDACTED], author of the book *Language of Life: A Peircean Approach to Living Organisms* (2025), and the director of the [ISI](#) (International Semiotics Institute). She is **editor-in-chief** of the journal [Linguistic Frontiers](#) (De Gruyter Open), She has been **head of the Department** of General Linguistics at [Palacký University](#) in the period 2021-2024. She is the guarantor for the BA study program General Linguistics and Communication Theory at Palacký University. Her research involves cognitive- and bio-semiotics in relation to digital communication technology, the iconic turn in communication, **biosemiotic approach to AI** and the cognitive study of writing systems. She is the **coordinator and PI of Marie Curie Staff Exchange project** [MASKED](#) (ID. 101236781), a prominent research project in applied biosemiotics. The background of the supervisor in biosemiotics and cognitive linguistics provides a strong foundation for this research. She has supervised 8 BA and 5 MA students and is currently supervising 1 PhD student, 5 MA and 2 BA students.

Table 1 Transfer of Knowledge

Transfer of Knowledge	ToK from the host to the Researcher	ToK from the researcher to the host
<b>OUTGOING PHASE (Bogotá) M1-18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Scientific training in ecology through <b>academic seminars</b> by Prof. <a href="#">[redacted]</a>.</li> <li>-Regular meetings with supervisor and <b>project management support</b> within the financial department office.</li> <li>-Training in <b>field-based research</b>, and <b>ethical protocols</b> aligned with Indigenous data sovereignty.</li> <li>-<b>Network</b> and <b>facilities</b> for travelling in the Amazon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Organisation of <b>panel discussions</b> and guest lectures for <a href="#">EAN students and faculty</a>, targeted to <b>undergraduate and graduate students</b>.</li> <li>-<b>Workshops</b> and <b>policy-oriented stakeholders</b>.</li> <li>-<b>Teaching activities</b> “Biosemiotics and Ecology”</li> <li>-<b>Dissemination</b> of visual documentation.</li> <li>-<b>Training sessions</b> for student on how to write a <b>Horizon</b> project and how to conduct <b>field research</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>RETURN PHASE (Prague) M19-30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Participation in seminars <a href="#">Semiosalong</a> organised by the <a href="#">International Semiotics Institute (ISI)</a>.</li> <li>-<a href="#">Open-access</a> weekly training.</li> <li>-<b>Career development plan (CDP)</b> develops it with a supervisor.</li> <li>-Regular meetings with the supervisor and refine the theoretical framework (WP3).</li> <li>-<b>Courses</b> organised by <a href="#">Charles University’s Research Support Office</a> on <b>project management</b> and collaboration within <b>Horizon Europe</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Scheduled meetings with the supervisor.</li> <li>-<b>Teaching activities</b> “Trans-ecology” targeted to undergraduate/graduate students.</li> <li>-<b>Tutoring/mentoring</b> of students and PhDs.</li> <li>-Participation in relevant activities to disseminate the project.</li> <li>-Public engagement through the organisation of a <b>photographic exhibition</b> and short film.</li> <li>-Organisation of the 2028 <a href="#">Biosemiotic Gathering</a>, early September 2028 in Prague.</li> <li>-<b>Training sessions</b> on how to write a <b>Horizon</b> project and how to conduct <b>field research</b>.</li> </ul>

#### 1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher’s professional experience, competences and skills

My academic and professional trajectory demonstrates a deep and consistent commitment to the interdisciplinary study of life, making me exceptionally well-suited to lead the VITAE project. My journey began in 2013 with a focus on **animal ethics** at the University of Turin, culminating in my **organization of the international conference** “[Rethinking Animality](#)” in 2017, in Santiago de Compostela, which showcased my early capacity for **academic leadership**. These academic foundations were powerfully shaped by my extra-academic engagements, including my role as president of the animal ethics NGO [Gallinae in Fabula](#) (2018-2020) and my hands-on experience with wildlife relocation during **volunteer work** in [People for Animals](#) in India (2019). My **environmental activism** with [Extinction Rebellion](#) further cemented my commitment to ecological justice, which I formalized in 2020 by earning a national **certification** as an **Environmental Educator**. With a **second Master’s degree** in ecosemiotics and a **PhD dissertation**, *The Continuum of Life*, I developed an original transdisciplinary framework combining **biosemiotics**, **environmental humanities**, and **philosophy of biology**. Alongside my doctoral studies, I also coordinated the [Semiotics of Landscape and Environment group](#), where I gained crucial skills in **qualitative methodologies and fieldwork**. I further gained project management and dissemination skills by coordinating the scientific communication for the **European research network** [CULT-UP](#) (€224,132). My commitment to **international and comparative research** is evidenced by two pivotal visiting periods: at the University of Tartu, where I developed a wearable **artistic device**, and at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in

Bogotá, where I initiated research on the **Indigenous cosmologies** central to this proposal. This unique combination of theoretical expertise and practical, **field-based experience** is complemented by a **strong publication record**, including **39 scientific articles** (17 of which are specifically on the **epistemology of life**). My academic recognition is further demonstrated through my roles as an Associate **Editor** for *Biosemiotics* (Springer), Managing Editor for *Linguistic Frontiers* and Editor for *Animal Studies*. My leadership skills are further demonstrated by my role as the organizer of the international conference “*Animality and Biosemiotics: Rethinking Life and its Expressions*” (2025). My scientific work has been recognised with several competitive **grants, fellowships, and keynote** invitations, including research funding from Nanjing Normal University (China). This holistic background, which bridges **empirical fieldwork, transdisciplinary research, and active social engagement**, makes me a uniquely qualified candidate to successfully execute the VITAE project.

## 2. Impact #GIMP-ACT-1A36#

### 2.1 *Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development*

**Short-term impact:** The VITAE project will (i) improve my **field research skills** and learn **ethnography** through practice as a highly skilled job for my expertise, enabling me to make **reasonable ethical judgments** during research; (ii) **consolidate my independent research profile** by leading an ambitious, interdisciplinary project that integrates theoretical innovation with empirical fieldwork; (iii) **diversify the academic experience** by engaging with **world-leading experts**; (iv) **strengthen the international academic network** through active collaboration with Universidad EAN, Charles University, the [Humboldt Institute](#), and the [International Semiotics Institute](#); (v) it offers me the opportunity to apply and further **develop my teaching skills** through courses of my own design; (vi) enables me to actively participate in **leading scientific events** such as the 2028 Biosemiotic Gathering.

**Medium-term impact:** The medium-term outcomes will (i) consolidate my **position as tenure-track role in philosophy and semiotics**; (ii) implement the **interdisciplinary expertise and project management** skills necessary to apply for **competitive postdoctoral and research positions** at European universities and research centres; (iii) provide a solid foundation to compete for **prestigious research grants**, including the **ERC Starting Grant** or equivalent funding opportunities, further enhancing the scientific career.

**Long-term impact:** In a long-term perspective, VITAE will: (i) put me in the condition to propose my candidacy for **academic positions at top-level universities** and research in Italy and Europe; (ii) strengthen my scientific and intercultural profile to meet the **requirements for professorship**; (iii) develop a **transferable methodology**, validated with Colombian Indigenous communities, that will serve as a **model for future international projects**, including **ERC proposals**, to investigate life concepts across diverse Indigenous cosmologies worldwide; (iv) open concrete **opportunities for collaboration beyond academia** with artists, museums, cultural institutions, and public venues; (v) engage with **governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organisations** concerned with **environmental justice, Indigenous rights, and ecological transition**, expanding beyond project boundaries.

### 2.2 *Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities*

#### **Dissemination of Results**

VITAE adopts a multi-channel strategy to disseminate its findings to the scientific community, policymakers, and epistemically diverse stakeholders. **Peer-reviewed publications** (minimum 3) will

be submitted to [Journal of Anthropological Sciences](#), with the provisional title: “Living Rivers, Speaking Mountains” (ethnographic findings on agency/rights of non-human entities); [British Journal for the Philosophy of Science](#), titled: “What is life for governance? Trans-ecology as a political-epistemological proposal” (structured database and model evaluation); and [Artificial Life](#), titled: “Beyond the organism: operational criteria for “life” from indigenous cosmologies to AI” (biosemiotics, synthetic/AI systems). Results will also be presented at leading conferences such as the [International Association for Semiotic Studies](#) Congress, and the Annual [Gathering of Biosemiotics](#) (Table 2). It will be scheduled for a 36hrs at EAN “Biosemiotics and Ecology”, a 36hrs at Charles University on “Trans-ecology”.

### Exploitation of Results

VITAE’s results will inform new models for environmental governance, AI ethics, and biodiversity protection, with strong exploitation potential in both research and policy. Key outputs include: (i) **Operational protocols for assessment** of emerging life-like systems (e.g. synthetic organisms, AI agents), relevant to bioethics, robotics, and science regulation; (ii) **Trans-natural conservation frameworks** to recognize complex ecological entities (e.g. mountains, deserts, rivers) as vital agents in legal and environmental terms; (iii) **Epistemic integration instruments** for intercultural governance, based on linguistic and visual data from Indigenous perspectives. Outcomes will be shared with relevant institutions (e.g. [UNESCO](#), [Colombian governmental agencies](#), [Humboldt Institute](#), [ISL](#), [ISBS](#)) will be dedicated precisely to this. The project also foresees the creation of an open-access **Comparative Epistemology of Life Dataset**, to be used by scientists, educators, and NGOs in biodiversity and AI policy work.

### Communication and Public Engagement

The project includes university students, local communities in Colombia, cultural institutions, and the general public across Europe and Latin America. Key initiatives: (i) **Documentary film** (20 minutes) co-directed with ~~Tatiana J. Jaramillo~~, Colombian artist, documenting fieldwork with Embera, Misak, and Kogi communities; subtitled in four languages and distributed via [Prague Independent Film Festival](#) (PIFF), Vimeo and educational platforms; (ii) **Traveling photo-ethnographic exhibition** (Bogotá, Prague), with digital catalogues and open educational resources; (iii) **Workshops and participatory forums** (WP2) with Indigenous knowledge holders to engage in pluri-epistemic dialogue on ecological governance; (iv) **Media communication** through a dedicated project website, institutional social media (EAN, Charles University), op-eds in major outlets, and participation in European public science events such as [Researchers at School](#) and [European Researchers’ Night](#); (v) **Educational impact** by encouraging diverse career paths in research and amplifying Indigenous voices in climate-related debates.

### ***2.3. The magnitude and importance of the project’s contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts***

Scientifically, the project contributes to ongoing debates on the definition of life, synthetic biology, and AI. It helps **rethink the boundaries of biological sciences** by including perspectives that are usually excluded from dominant scientific discourse. At the same time, it will **strengthen human capital in research and innovation**, offering **training** in ecological thinking, intercultural communication, and **participatory research methods** to early-career scholars and researchers. Societally, VITAE addresses **major EU policy priorities** such as [biodiversity protection](#), [environmental justice](#), and [inclusive governance](#). By collaborating with Indigenous communities and co-producing open-access tools, such as a **visual archive**, a **short film**, and **policy briefs**, the project aims to **increase the uptake of research in society**. VITAE promotes intercultural dialogue and science-policy interfaces through participatory research and collaborative fieldwork, particularly in the **Global South**. Economically, VITAE contributes to Horizon Europe’s goals by co-developing community-based **green business models**, such as **regenerative agriculture practices**, intercultural **eco-education services**, and circular **bio-based product design**, with Indigenous partners and the [National Bioeconomy Strategy](#) in Colombia, supporting the local bioeconomy and [ancient wisdom for health and well-being](#) of people and the planet,

while providing **scalable case studies** and **teaching modules for European sustainability-oriented**. It also responds to emerging research and innovation markets, such as AI-driven biotechnologies, synthetic biology, and conservation-based bioeconomies, where the definition of life plays a central role in **shaping investment strategies** (e.g. NASA's astrobiology **high-stakes funding**).

### 3. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

#### 3.1 *Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages*

The project is strategically designed into 4 WPs, each of them with given tasks and deliverables.

**WP1 - Data Collection and Field Research (M1-M18)** This WP forms the **empirical backbone** of the project, focusing on **investigating Indigenous conceptions of life**.

**Tasks: 1.1 Ecological training (M1-4):** Academic training on transecología, Indigenous epistemologies, and environmental humanities; **1.2 Interviews (M5-15):** Conducting record interviews with Embera, Misak, and Kogi; **1.3 Ethnographic Dataset (M10-18):** Corpus documentation, production of a short film, and subsequent cognitive-linguistic analysis of the notions of “life” within the collected material.

- **D1.1 Scientific reports** (drafts for publications) (M4, M10, M15).
- **D1.2 Indigenous Audiovisual Interview Dataset** (M18)

**WP2 - Data Analysis and Cognitive Linguistics Research (M19-M30)** WP2 focuses on analyzing and integrating data to compare scientific and Indigenous views of life and ecology.

**Tasks: 2.1 Annotated corpus (M19-25):** collection of materials for a structured and accessible public archive on the definitions of life in the Western Science (with [Open Science Support Center](#)) (see 1.2); **2.2 Semantic analysis (M24-28):** linguistic analysis and construction of a semantic map using biosemiotic and discourse analysis tools (in renowned journals, see 2.2); **2.3 Mapping life (27-30)** comparative mapping between indigenous knowledge and scientific views on life, living beings and ecosystems (see 1.2).

- **D2.1 Scientific reports** (for exhibition use) (M19, M25).
- **D2.2 Trans-epistemic Dataset** (M30)

**WP3 - Exploitation and Dissemination (M1-M30)** This WP is strategically designed to **ensure the effective exploitation** of project results.

**Task: 3.1 Academic Submissions (M15-16, M25-26):** Submission of an article on indigenous, on the notion of life in science, and on the role of AI (see 2.2); **3.2 Public Exhibition (M16-18, M28-30):** Interactive presentations and exhibitions in Bogotá and Prague to share film and interviews outcomes with non-academic audiences; **3.3 Conferences (M14, M16):** Presentation at [Biosemiotic Gathering](#) (July 2027) [AISS-AIS](#) (September 2027); **Task 3.4 Project Communication & Data Management (M1-M30):** Development and continuous refinement of the DEC Plan and DMP to ensure adherence to funding body requirements, maximize project impact, and enhance data accessibility through integrated communication and robust data management from project inception.

- **D3.1 Papers submitted** (peer-reviewed journals) (M16, M26);
- **D3.2 Materials** for short film and exhibition (M18, M30);
- **D3.3 Conference dissemination** (M14, M16);
- **D3.4 Data Management Plan (DMP)** (updated continuously from M1 to M30).

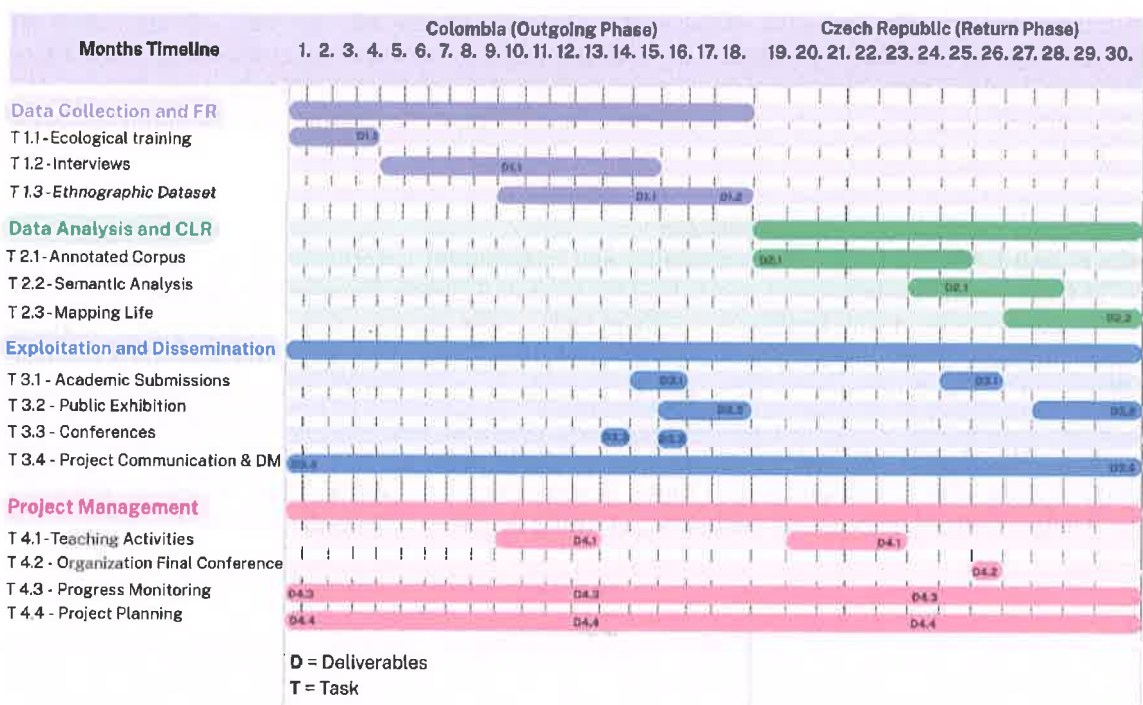
**WP4 - Project Management (M1-M30)** is embedded to establish robust and reciprocal knowledge exchange across institutions.

**Task: 4.1 Teaching activities (M10-13, M20-23):** Delivering seminars and the courses at EAN and Charles University (

Table 1, 2.2). **4.2 Organization final conference (M26):** Gathering in Biosemiotics in July 2028 with an expanded focus on intercultural life-definitions and final conference in coincidence with last exhibition (Task 3.2 in WP3); **4.3 Progress monitoring (M1–30):** Continuous evaluation of research and training outcomes, with mitigation strategies; **4.4 Project planning (M1–30):** Implementation of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) and management of fellowship resources and joint academic initiatives with external partners.

- **D4.1 Teaching activities (M13, M23);**
- **D4.2 Organization international conference (M26);**
- **D4.3 Financial reports (M1, M13, M24);**
- **D4.4 Career Development Plan (including updates) (M1, M13, M24).**

Table 2 GANNT Chart



**Risks that might endanger reaching project objectives and contingency plans**

Table 3 Risks and Mitigation

Risk	Likelihood level	Description and Mitigation
Lack of consent for interviews	High	I will ensure informed consent, follow data sovereignty protocols, and maintain dialogue via local mediators. Non-invasive methods will be used if needed.
Environmental and logistical constraints in the Amazon	Medium	Fieldwork risks in remote areas are mitigated through full insurance, flexible planning with local partners, no lone working, contact points via phone, counselling support, including remote or alternative site options.
Data non-compliance protection during recordings	Medium	Layered consent with media opt-ins; encrypted transfer; pseudonymisation; timely deletion; community review; DPO oversight (see 1.2).
Delays in video editing and exhibition	Low	Delays will be mitigated by parallel editing during fieldwork and expert support to ensure timely.

### **3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements**

#### **Hosting Arrangements and Integration**

I will be fully integrated into the research communities at both host institutions. At **EAN**, I will receive direct mentorship from Prof. [REDACTED] whose previous role as director of the [Humboldt Institute](#) will facilitate my integration into its research networks. I will also benefit EAN's strong ties to local communities and its Master's in [Sustainable Development Projects](#), which offers hands-on training in Indigenous knowledge systems. This access is crucial for the fieldwork and participatory methodologies of the project. At **Charles University**, I will be embedded in a thriving research environment at the Faculty of Humanities with Prof. [REDACTED]'s expertise in biosemiotics. I will also receive support from the university's [Research Support Program](#) and its [Open Science Support Centre](#). Both institutions will provide dedicated office space, IT facilities, and all necessary administrative and logistical support, including assistance with visa applications and local registrations for the outgoing phase, and health, safety and well-being: pre-departure risk briefings ([Table 3](#)); emergency contact trees; counselling access. Fieldwork Safety Plan and Incident Response Protocol approved before travel.

#### **Quality and Capacity of Host Institutions**

**Universidad EAN** is a leader in sustainability and intercultural governance. This is evident from its **LEED Gold certification** for its Legacy Building and its **Carbon Neutral certification** from 2021. EAN is deeply involved with **Indigenous policies** and actively manages its **environmental, social, and political impacts**, promoting collaboration with local communities to tackle ecological and governance challenges. **Charles University** is a prestigious institution whose **HR Excellence in Research** award confirms its commitment to ethical research and clear career development, in line with Horizon Europe standards. The Faculty of Humanities provides a [Postdoctoral Hub](#) for the project in the [Research Administration Office](#). The university's **Open Science Support Centre** offers high-level training in data management and open access publishing, ensuring the project meets the highest standards of open science.

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## Part B-2

### 4. CV of the researcher

<https://www.nicolazengiaro.com/>

Name: [REDACTED]  
 Date of birth: [REDACTED]  
 Nationality: [REDACTED]  
 Address: [REDACTED]  
 E-mail: [REDACTED]  
 ORCID: [REDACTED]



### GENERAL STATEMENT

I am a semiotician with a Ph.D. in Semiotics from the University of Bologna, with research carried out at the University of Tartu (Estonia). I hold **two Master's degrees** completed in Italy and Spain with honour (cum laude). My work focuses on **biosemiotics** and **ecosemiotics**, particularly on the interaction between signs, matter, and life, and the semiotic construction of landscapes. I am the author of the **monograph** *Il mondo dell'animalità* (Graphe) [*The world of animality: from biology to metaphysics*] and am currently preparing a book on the history of biosemiotics for the publisher Mimesis. I serve as an associate **editor** of the journals *Biosemiotics*, *Linguistic Frontiers*, and *Animal Studies*, and I regularly publish in the leading journals of my field (e.g., *Biosemiotics*, *E/C*, *Lexia*, *Sign Systems Studies*, *Linguistic Frontiers*). I have delivered 24 papers at major **international conferences** and have been invited as a **keynote speaker** at the "La semana de la semiótica" at Universidad de Cuernavaca (Mexico) and at the "Coloquio Internacional de Ecocritica" at the Universidad de Costa Rica. Currently, I am a **postdoctoral research fellow** at the University of Turin, where I investigate Artificial Intelligence and animal communication, and I teach a course entitled "Design of the Mind" at the [Scuola Holden](#).

### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Postdoctoral Researcher, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Science Education, Università degli Studi di Torino, Turin, Italy (22/04/2025-ongoing)**

- Project: *San Francesco e l'Intelligenza Artificiale* (LEOM\_CRT\_25\_01-110992/ 2024.1420-San Francesco e l'IA: 12.000 euro)
- I am responsible for delivering international lectures (Italy, Estonia, China, Czech Republic, Netherlands), publishing articles (4 in peer review), editing two academic journals ([Semiotica](#) and [Lexia](#)), organising a final event (in November 2025), and conducting research on how AI decodes whale vocalisations
- Interdisciplinary project on the development of an LLM for automated interpretation of animal communication and plants behaviour. Supervised by Prof. Massimo Leone

**Visiting Researcher at the Universidad Pontificia Javeriana, Department of Education, Bogotá, Colombia (28/12/2024–01/02/2025)**

- Research on Indigenous cosmologies and Econarratives
- Worked with Prof. Jorge Eduardo Urueña in the biosemiotic understanding of cosmologies

**Visiting Researcher at the University of Tartu, Department of Semiotics, Tartu, Estonia (01/09/2023–01/02/2024)**

- Research on Ecosemiotics, Biosemiotics, and Climate Change
- Worked with Prof. Timo Maran in the biosemiotic understanding of life and ecology

**Editor Role** (01/09/2016–present)

- Managing Editor: contract with Mouton de Gruyter, journal *Linguistic Frontiers* (since 01/06/2025)
- Associate Editor: 3-year contract with Springer, journal *Biosemiotics* (since 01/02/2025)
- Scientific Board: contract with Safarà Editore, journal *Animot: L'altra filosofia* (since 01/09/2024)
- Associate Editor: contract with Apeiron Editor, journal *Animal Studies. Rivista italiana di zoologia e biologia* (since 01/09/2016)

**School Teacher** (2018–2021)

- History and Italian literature, Middle School, Scuola Giuriolo, Vicenza, Italy (2020-2021)
- History and Philosophy, High School, Scuola San Marco, Vicenza, Italy (2018-2021)

**EDUCATION**

**PhD (with honours) in Philosophy, Science, Cognition, and Semiotics, University of Bologna**  
03/04/2025

- Dissertation: *The Continuum of Life: Semiosis as Ecosystemic Resonance*
- Supervised by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

**Master's Degree in Philosophy of Science, University of Verona** (08/07/2021)

- Final Grade: 110/110 *cum laude*
- Dissertation: *Semiotics of the Environment: A Theoretical Proposal for Investigating the Sign*, supervised by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

**Master's Degree in Philosophy, Ethics, and Politics, University of Santiago de Compostela**  
(21/07/2017)

- Awarded The Best Thesis of the Universidade of Santiago de Compostela
- Dissertation: *Rejecting Anthropocentrism. An Analytical and Continental Reading on Exit Strategies*, supervised by [REDACTED]

**Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, University of Turin** (07/07/2016)

- Dissertation: *Ontology of Animality: Starting from Jacques Derrida*, supervised by [REDACTED]

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2025-2026

**Lecturer Bachelor Course, Scuola Holden. Contemporary Humanities, Turin, Italy**

- Teacher of the course "Design of the Mind" (96hrs)

Spring 2023

**Teaching Assistant, University of Bologna, Italy**

- Master course: Semiotica dello spazio
- Responsibilities: teaching "Territori, paesaggi, ambienti, città" (36 hrs) and supervision Master's students

Spring 2022

**Teaching Assistant, University of Bologna, Italy**

- Master course: Semiotica degli spazi urbani
- Responsibilities: teaching "Ecosemiotica della città" (36 hrs)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Monograph

- [REDACTED] (2019). *Il mondo dell'animalità: dalla biologia alla metafisica* [The world of animality: from biology to metaphysics]. [REDACTED] **project:** The book examines how animals perceive reality beyond human-centered views, using Uexküll's concept of Umwelt. It questions anthropocentrism and calls for redefining our relation to animals and the environment.

### Edited Volumes

### Selected





- Catalan: A2

## 5. Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)

### 5.1 Template table: Overview of Participating Organisations

Organisation role	PIC	Legal Entity Short Name	Academic organisation (Y/N)	Country	Name of Supervisor
Beneficiary	999923434	Charles University - CU	Yes	Czech Republic	[REDACTED]
Associated partner for outgoing phase	869986987	Universidad EAN - EAN	Yes	Colombia	[REDACTED]

### 5.2 Template table: Capacity of the Participating Organisations

Charles University - Czech Republic	
<b>General description</b>	Charles University (founded 1348) hosts over 50,000 students, including ~9,000 international students, and employs thousands of researchers and staff. It offers a comprehensive range of programmes across humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, law, theology, and education. Since 2021, its Project and Grant Support program has strengthened European funding success, resulting in 8 ERC grants and 10 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (2021–2023). The University actively participates in Horizon Europe initiatives and hosts numerous ERC projects and MSCA fellows, promoting international collaboration, research mobility, and training the next generation of global researchers.
<b>Role and profile of supervisor</b>	[REDACTED] is Director of the <a href="#">International Semiotics Institute (ISI)</a> and author of <i>Language of Life: A Peircean Approach to Living Organisms</i> (2025). She served as Head of the Department of General Linguistics at Palacký University (2021–2024) and currently acts as guarantor of the BA programme in General Linguistics and Communication Theory. She is also Editor-in-Chief of the journal <a href="#">Linguistic Frontiers</a> (De Gruyter Open). Her research lies at the intersection of biosemiotics, cognitive linguistics, and digital communication technologies, with particular expertise in: (i) the biosemiotic study of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies; (ii) the role of the iconic turn in communication; (iii) the cognitive and semiotic foundations of writing systems. [REDACTED] has significant experience in European collaborative projects: she is Coordinator and Principal Investigator of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Staff Exchange project <a href="#">MASKED</a> (ID 101236781), a high-profile initiative in applied biosemiotics connecting multiple international partners. Her track record in securing EU funding and coordinating interdisciplinary consortia demonstrates strong management capacity, international networking, and the ability to turn innovative concepts into impactful research. As a supervisor, she has guided over 15 undergraduate and master’s theses (8 BA and 5 MA completed), and she is currently supervising 1 PhD, 5 MA, and 2 BA students. She provides structured mentorship across career stages, with a focus on

	fostering interdisciplinary expertise, international mobility, and transferable skills development, fully aligned with the objectives of Horizon Europe in training the next generation of European researchers.
<b>Key research facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Charles University offers researchers access to an integrated network of libraries, specialised centres, and digital resources that together form one of the most comprehensive research infrastructures in Central Europe. The library system comprises the Central Library and faculty libraries, with holdings of more than 7 million volumes, 90,000+ electronic journals, extensive e-book collections, and access to international scientific databases across all fields. Valuable historical collections, including manuscripts and rare prints, provide additional resources for specialised scholarship. CU hosts key research facilities like its new AFM/SEM Laboratory with FIB-SEM (Scios 2) and in-situ AFM, and the <u>Imaging Methods Core Facility (IMCF)</u> within the BIOCEV center, which is also home to the Institute of Biotechnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Research is further supported by advanced ICT facilities, including high-performance computing, data repositories, and secure collaborative platforms ( <u>CESNET/ICS</u> ). Dedicated administrative units assist with project management, EU funding applications, and compliance, ensuring smooth implementation of international projects ( <u>Project and Grant Support</u> ). For fellows, the University guarantees office space, IT infrastructure, a specific <u>Postdoctoral Hub</u> , and access to all facilities, alongside targeted professional development opportunities. Combined with a vibrant international community, these facilities create an environment fully suited to the needs of Horizon Europe researchers.
<b>Previous and current involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects</b>	-FP7 Science in Society, No. 612493, Societal Engagement in Science, <b>Mutual Learning in Cities (SEiSMiC)</b> -COST Action: Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health, No. IS1307, <b>New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship on “How Matter Comes to Matter”</b> -FP6-2004-SCIENCE-AND-SOCIETY-10, No. SAS6-017617, <b>Knowledge, Institutions and Gender: An East-West comparative study (KNOWING)</b>

<b>EAN University - Colombia</b>	
<b>General description</b>	Universidad EAN (founded 1967) is a leading Colombian university integrating sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It offers 3 doctoral, 18 undergraduate, and 33 graduate programs to 9,554 students and has 38,138 alumni. Its research ecosystem includes 50+ recognised research groups, 400+ faculty members, and specialised centres such as the Institute for Business Sustainability, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and EAN Impacta Hub. The LEED-certified campus provides modern laboratories, collaborative spaces, and a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) linking research with start-ups, patents, and industry. With its doctoral training capacity, international networks, and sustainability-driven infrastructure, EAN is a strong partner for Horizon Europe projects on sustainable business models, digital transformation, and social impact.
<b>Role and profile of supervisor</b>	[REDACTED] is Rector of Universidad EAN, a leading institution in ecological transition, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. She has over a decade of academic experience at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, mentoring undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral students. Her research leadership includes more than 10 projects, such as the creation of the Guanentá Sanctuary and ecological characterization of the Nukak and Puinawai reserves. She is author or co-author of 8+ books (e.g. <i>The Great Book of the Páramos</i> ), 20+ scientific

	articles, and technical regulations, including <i>Colombia's National Policy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</i> . Known for her inclusive supervision style, she actively supports early-career researchers, making her an ideal supervisor for Horizon Europe fellows in interdisciplinary.
<b>Key research facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Key research infrastructure includes the XR Lab (VIROO platform for extended reality), Prototyping & Engineering Lab (Industry 4.0, product design), Digital Innovation Lab (AI, data analytics, smart platforms), Institute for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (ISE), EAN Impacta Hub (innovation & technology transfer), and the Creative & Cultural Industries Centre. The library system provides 120,000+ volumes and access to 40+ international databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science, IEEE), with bibliometrics, research data management, and open access support. I'll benefit from a dedicated workspace, modern laboratories, high-performance ICT.
<b>Previous and current involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects</b>	SPECIAL project aims to strengthen higher education in Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic by introducing micro-credentials and digital tools on Sustainable Waste Management (SWM), aligned with international standards. The consortium includes 11 partners from Italy, Spain, Romania, Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic, coordinated by the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio (Italy), with Universidad EAN as the Colombian partner. Funded by Erasmus+ CBHE, the 3-year project is currently in the enlistment process.

## 6. Additional ethics information

As part of the VITAE project, the research protocol will be submitted to the [Ethics Committee](#) at Charles University (team: [REDACTED] and reviewed by Universidad EAN (Bogotá) with local support from [REDACTED]

Informed consent (written or verbal, Spanish or Indigenous languages) will be mandatory, stressing voluntary participation and withdrawal rights. Data protection will comply with GDPR (EU 2016/679), the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and Colombia's Habeas Data Law 1581/2012. Data will be anonymised and pseudonymised; audio/video used only with explicit consent and destroyed after transcription. Transcripts will be stored on encrypted servers at Charles University with restricted access, and no identifiers will appear in outputs.

The project excludes minors and vulnerable groups, and will follow CARE principles on Indigenous data sovereignty. Datasets will be anonymised and processed only within Charles University and Universidad EAN. Throughout the project, I will remain in close contact with the Ethics Committees and Data Protection Officers of both institutions to ensure full compliance with the highest ethical, cultural, and legal standards

## 7. Additional information on security screening

The research activities envisaged in this project involve fieldwork with human volunteers in both Prague (EU) and Bogotá (non-EU). Although the scientific objectives do not include security-sensitive technology, dual-use items, or military applications, certain aspects relating to the physical safety of researchers, the treatment of participants, and the handling of personal data do require explicit attention.

All interactions with human participants will be conducted on the basis of fully informed consent. In line with the European Commission's Guidance on Ethics Self-Assessment and established codes of practice in ethnography and anthropology, all participants will be briefed in plain, accessible language about the scope of the project, the voluntary nature of their involvement, their right to

withdraw at any time without consequences, and the protective measures in place regarding their data. Participants' safety will be prioritised at all times, and interviews will only take place in safe and controlled environments.

The non-EU dimension of the project, specifically the activities in Colombia, has been carefully assessed in light of potential security concerns. Colombia is not classified as completely safe, and therefore risk mitigation strategies will be implemented. A dedicated local support group is already assisting with the entire process of security planning and mobility in Colombian territory. This team is composed of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who will provide continuous guidance and monitoring during the research stays abroad. In addition, my supervisor at EAN University [REDACTED] will play a direct role in ensuring research safety in the field. Drawing on her long-standing collaborations with local communities, she will facilitate my introduction to trusted partners, provide me with a translator, and ensure that I am consistently accompanied by a support group during fieldwork. Complementary measures include full travel and health insurance, emergency contact points, and structured "buddy system" protocols to ensure no lone-working in high-risk settings.

Through this combination of ethical safeguards, personal safety measures, institutional oversight, and robust data security protocols, complemented by the strong involvement of local experts and the hosting supervisor in Colombia, the project guarantees that all potential risks connected to human participation, non-EU research mobility, and personal data handling are effectively screened and managed. These actions ensure conformity with Horizon Europe's requirements on ethics and security while also reflecting a practical, field-oriented, and feasible approach to the empirical nature of the research.

## **8. Environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter**

In line with the principles of the MSCA Green Charter, the VITAE project is committed to reducing its environmental footprint and embedding sustainability into all stages of research, training, and dissemination. Virtual communication tools will be used as the default option for meetings, supervision, and collaborative exchanges, thereby reducing the need for travel and associated carbon emissions. When travel is indispensable, particularly for ethnographic fieldwork in Colombia or major dissemination events, preference will be given to low-emission solutions such as public transportation and direct flights. Travel will always be planned efficiently, combining multiple activities in a single trip whenever possible.

A "digital-first" approach will underpin the project's operations. Documentation, data management, and dissemination will be handled electronically, minimising paper consumption and physical materials. Data will be stored securely on encrypted servers and shared via trusted digital repositories in line with FAIR and CARE principles. Project deliverables, including reports, datasets, policy briefs, and the short film, will be distributed entirely in digital formats.

When organising public engagement activities such as exhibitions, workshops, and conferences in Bogotá and Prague, the project will work with venues and service providers that demonstrate strong environmental credentials. The use of recyclable or reusable materials will be prioritised, and single-use items will be avoided. Exhibition materials, including the photo-ethnographic catalogue, will be produced in digital and sustainable formats.

In addition, VITAE will make sustainability awareness part of its research culture. Partners, collaborators, and Indigenous communities engaged in the project will be encouraged to adopt eco-responsible practices, such as local sourcing, energy efficiency, and waste minimisation. The project's environmental impact will be a standing item in management meetings, ensuring continuous monitoring and improvement. By embedding sustainability in both daily operations and long-term outputs, VITAE will actively contribute to the objectives of the MSCA Green Charter and set a model for responsible, environmentally conscious research.

## **9. Required for Global Fellowships only: Letter(s) of commitment from associated partners (hosting the of outgoing phase)**



Acreditada  
en Alta Calidad

Res. n° 023654 del Mineducación  
10/12/21 vigencia 10/12/27

[REDACTED]

**Bogotá, 08 september 2025**

[REDACTED] my quality of rector in Ean University commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal "VITAE - Vital Interpretations of Trans-ecologies Animacy and Epistemologies" (ID 101275697) to be submitted to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Global 2025 call.

On behalf of Ean University I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research, innovation and training activities as planned in this project. In particular, Ean University will be involved in execution of the activities that the project needs to be able to develop properly, as well as support for the activities that can be developed in the national territory

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

[REDACTED]



Proposal ID **101275697**Acronym **VITAE**

## Ethics Self-Assessment

## Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact

Securing the free, prior and informed consent of every community involved in VITAE is not a one-off administrative step but a living process that must be managed as ongoing throughout the research engagement. The proposal therefore embeds iterative FPIC checkpoints before, during and after fieldwork, delivered through bilingual information sheets that follow the Commission's informed-consent template (EU Self-Assessment, sect. 2.2). Because power imbalances can distort consent, interlocutors will first meet in closed caucus with trusted gate-keepers so they can define acceptable topics, venues and recording modalities. Participants may withdraw at any stage without prejudice, and this right is reiterated orally at every encounter to satisfy the directive that subjects should be able to choose freely to participate in research. Special safeguards (for example, assent + parental permission in the case of minors) mirror the Guide's clause that heightened protection is required for vulnerable categories of individuals. Before any data collection begins, I will submit the research protocol to the Charles University Ethics Committee, which has a rigorous and well-established review process. I will also seek ethical advice and review at Universidad EAN in Bogotá to ensure compliance with Colombian regulations and Indigenous protocols. No interviews, recordings, or observations will take place until full ethical clearance has been granted by both institutions and, where necessary, validated by local community authorities. Informed consent is central to my methodology. All participants will be provided with clear and accessible information regarding the aims of the project, their expected role, and the uses of the data collected.

Methodologically, the project adopts reflexive ethnography, combining participant observation with 20–30 semi-structured interviews per community (Embera, Misak, and Kogi), participatory observation, and safeguarding data through the GDPR principles of data minimisation, pseudonymisation and purpose limitation (EU Guide, sect. 4.2). Field notes are stored on encrypted drives; the key file linking codes to identities is held in a separate vault, thus meeting the requirement that identifiers must be kept in a secure locked file with restricted users. Sampling remains small, purposive and theoretically driven to respect the epistemology of ethnographic inquiry, yet every interview guide is co-designed with the Cabildo to honour local epistemologies and to avert the extractive practices flagged in the Commission's ethics checklist. A reflective diary will document real-time ethical dilemmas and corrective actions, providing an auditable trail for any subsequent ethics check or audit foreseen in the Grant Agreement. Consent will be obtained in writing wherever possible, or verbally where literacy or cultural appropriateness calls for it, with all information made available in Spanish and, when necessary, in Indigenous languages with the help of local translators. It will be stressed that participation is entirely voluntary, and participants may withdraw at any time without repercussions. The protection of participants' privacy and confidentiality is a top priority. I will comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, EU 2016/679), the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and Colombia's data protection legislation (Habeas Data Law 1581/2012). Personal data will be minimised, anonymised at the earliest stage, and pseudonymised during transcription, and audio and video recordings will only be used with explicit consent. Anonymised transcripts will be stored securely on encrypted servers at EAN University, with limited access restricted to the project team. No identifiable information will be included in any publications, reports, films, or exhibitions resulting from this research. The project will not involve minors or other vulnerable groups; only adults aged 18 and above will be invited to participate. I will work in close collaboration with Indigenous organisations and mediators to guarantee that all research practices respect local customs, cultural protocols, and Indigenous data sovereignty (CARE principles). The risk-benefit calculus required by the Self-Assessment Guide (sect. 7.2) is operationalised through a fieldwork safety plan and a benefit-sharing protocol. The study's public-value statement has been endorsed by both the regional Indigenous Council and the national ethics committee. Deliverables include community-owned digital archives, bilingual policy briefs and capacity-building workshops, satisfying the Guide's call for reciprocity and the Nagoya-compliant sharing of any traditional knowledge incorporated. An independent ethics advisor (free from conflicts of interest) will monitor adherence to these safeguards, ensuring that ethical review remains a dynamic, ongoing exercise throughout the life of VITAE.

Remaining characters

48

## Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations

The Research Ethics Committee of Universidad Ean was created through Resolution No. 092 of July 2, 2015, as an autonomous and multidisciplinary body attached to the Vice-rectorate for Research. It is composed of the Vice-Rector for Research (or delegate) and four directors of research groups, with the option to invite external experts when relevant. The committee's mandate is to review, analyze, and approve research projects that involve human populations, animals, environmental interactions, or biodiversity, as well as to ensure respect for ethical standards regarding information management, authors' rights, intellectual property, conflict of interest, beneficence and non-maleficence, participant privacy, and voluntary withdrawal. Its functions include granting or denying ethical approval through written certification, determining the need for informed consent, and classifying projects involving human subjects according to Colombian Ministry of Health Resolution 8430 of 1993 as "without risk," "minimal risk," or "greater than minimal risk," followed by appropriate ethical evaluation. The committee meets at least twice per year, or as needed, and its decisions are

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101275697**

Acronym **VITAE**

recorded in official minutes signed by all members. The VITAE project fully complies with national and international ethical standards, as well as the policies established by Universidad Ean. All research activities will respect the principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice, in line with the Declaration of Helsinki, the Belmont Report, and Colombian regulations such as Law 1581 of 2012 on personal data protection and Resolution 8430 of 1993 on health research with human participants. Within the EU context, all data management activities will adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). At Universidad Ean, any project activity that involves data collection, human interaction, environmental impact, or sensitive information will be subject to review and approval by the Research Ethics Committee prior to implementation. This ensures that informed consent processes, confidentiality, data anonymization, and participant rights are safeguarded. Moreover, any potential risks to communities, ecosystems, or cultural heritage will be carefully assessed, with mitigation measures established in accordance with both Colombian law and European Union ethical standards. The project also acknowledges responsibilities regarding intellectual property, fair recognition of contributions, and avoidance of conflicts of interest. In cases of collaboration with non-EU institutions, compliance will be ensured through data-sharing agreements and ethical oversight mechanisms. No personal data transfers from non-EU to EU countries (or between non-EU countries) are planned; should such transfers become necessary, they will be carried out under strict legal safeguards, including pseudonymization or anonymization.

Remaining characters

2072

**ANNEX 2**

**ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION**

Estimated BU contribution											
Estimated eligible unit contributions (per budget category)											
Forms of funding	A. Contributions for recruited researchers					B. Institutional contributions			Total	Maximum grant amount <sup>1</sup>	
	A.1 Living allowance	A.2 Mobility allowance	A.3 Family allowance	A.4 Long-term leave allowance	A.5 Special needs allowance	B.1 Research, training and networking contribution	B.2 Management and indirect contribution	Total			Maximum grant amount <sup>1</sup>
	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>				
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h = a + b + c + d + e + f + g	i			
1 - CU	142 666,16	21 300,00	19 800,00	0,00	0,00	30 000,00	19 500,00	233 066,16	233 066,16		
2 - Unemployed Em	142 666,16	21 300,00	19 800,00	0,00	0,00	30 000,00	19 500,00	233 066,16	233 066,16		
<b>Total</b>											

<sup>1</sup> The maximum grant amount is the maximum grant amount fixed in the grant agreement (on the basis of the sum of the beneficiaries' estimated units).

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 2a. Additional information on the estimated budget for the details (units, amount per unit).

**ANNEX 2a**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**HE MSCA Doctoral Networks/Post-doctoral Fellowships and HE ERA fellowships**

See [\*Additional information on unit costs and contributions \(Annex 2a and 2b\)\*](#)

**HE MSCA Staff Exchanges**

See [\*Additional information on unit costs and contributions \(Annex 2a and 2b\)\*](#)

**HE MSCA COFUND/COFUND Choose Europe for Science**

See [\*Additional information on unit costs and contributions \(Annex 2a and 2b\)\*](#)

ANNEX 4 HORIZON EUROPE MSCA UNIT MGA — MULTI + MONO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

EU contribution							Requested EU contribution
Eligible unit contributions (per budget category)							
Forms of funding	[OPTION for all MSCA Top exempt COFUND - A - Contributions for recruited researchers] [OPTION for COFUND - A - CORIND contributions]		[OPTION for all MSCA Top exempt COFUND - B - Institutional contributions]		[OPTION for all MSCA Top exempt COFUND - C - Management and indirect contributions]		
	[OPTION for DH and PS - A.1 Living allowance]	[OPTION for DH and PS - A.2 Mobility allowance]	[OPTION for DH and PS - A.3 Family allowance]	[OPTION for all MSCA Top exempt - A.4 Long term leave allowance]	[OPTION for all MSCA Top exempt - A.5 Special needs allowance]	[B.1 Research, training and networking contribution]	[B.2 Management and indirect contribution]
	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	Total
	a	b	c	d	e	f/g	h = a + b + c + d + e + f + g
AR - [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]							

The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:  
 The information provided is complete, reliable and true.  
 The unit contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).  
 The 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).

<sup>1</sup> See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, amount per unit).

**ANNEX 5****SPECIFIC RULES****CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)****Sensitive information with security recommendation**

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

**EU classified information**

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444<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 — Background free from restrictions**

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 in the agreement on background — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

### **Results free from restrictions**

Where the call conditions restrict control due to strategic interests reasons, the beneficiaries must ensure that the results of the action are not 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 — 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).

*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 or licensee 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.

*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 Commons 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.

#### 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/dedication with equivalent rights, following the principle 'as open as possible as closed as necessary', unless providing open access would in particular:

- be against the beneficiary's legitimate interests, including regarding commercial exploitation, or
  - be contrary to any other constraints, in particular the EU competitive interests or the beneficiary's obligations under this Agreement; if open access is not provided (to some or all data), this must be justified in the DMP
- provide information via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data.

Metadata of deposited data must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent (to the extent legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded), in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: datasets (description, date of deposit, author(s) 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 (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 trusted 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, third parties giving in-kind contributions, 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.

### **Specific rules for MSCA actions**

When implementing MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN), Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF), COFUND (COFUND) and COFUND Choose Europe for Science (COFUND-CE) actions, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- take all measures to implement the principles set out in Annex II to the Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe<sup>3</sup> ('the European Charter for Researchers') and ensure that the researchers and all participants involved in the action are aware of them
- ensure that the researchers enjoy at the place of the implementation at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local researchers holding a similar position
- ensure that the employment contract, other direct contract or fixed-amount-fellowship agreement (see Article 6) specifies:
  - the name of the supervisor(s) for the research training activities
  - the starting date and duration of the research training activities
  - the monthly support for the researcher under this Agreement (in euro and, if relevant, in the currency in which the remuneration is paid)
  - the obligation of the researcher to work exclusively for the action, unless part-time for professional reasons is allowed and has been approved (and for MSCA-DN and MSCA-PF: not to receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiary or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
  - the working pattern of the researcher
  - the arrangements related to the intellectual property rights (during implementation of the action and afterwards), in particular full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researcher to background and results needed for their activities under the action

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<sup>3</sup> Council Recommendation C/2023/1640 of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe, Annex II (OJ C, C/2023/1640, 29.12.2023).

- the obligation of the researcher to inform as soon as possible about events or circumstances likely to affect the implementation of the action or the compliance with requirements under the Agreement (see Article 19)
- the obligation of the researcher to maintain confidentiality (see Article 13)
- the obligation of the researcher to ensure the visibility of EU funding in communications or publications and in applications for the protection of results (see Articles 17)
- where set out in the call conditions, the obligation of the researcher to carry out a mandatory return period of 12 months
- assist the researchers in the administrative procedures related to the recruitment
- inform the researchers about:
  - the description, conditions, location and timetable for the implementation of the research training activities
  - the rights and obligations toward the researchers under this Agreement
  - the obligation of the researchers to complete and submit — at the end of the research training activities — the evaluation questionnaire and — two years later — follow-up questionnaire provided by the granting authority
- ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- ensure that the researchers do not have to bear any costs for the implementation of the action as described in Annex 1
- provide training and the necessary means for implementing the action (or ensure that such training and means are provided by other participants in the action)
- ensure that the researchers are adequately supervised and receive appropriate career guidance
- ensure that personalised career development plans are established, support their implementation and update in view of the needs of the researchers
- ensure an appropriate exposure to the non-academic sector (if applicable)
- respect the maximum limit for secondments set out in the call conditions
- respect the conditions for the outgoing and return phases set out in the call conditions (if any)
- ensure that the researchers are informed that they are ‘Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows’
- for MSCA-DN, MSCA-COFUND and COFUND-CE:

- advertise and publish vacancies internationally, including on the web-sites requested by the granting authority, indicating the gross salary (not including employer's social contributions) to be offered to the researcher
  - recruit the researchers, following an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable recruitment procedure (for MSCA-COFUND postdoctoral programmes: with regular selection rounds; for MSCA-COFUND and COFUND-CE: with international peer review), on the basis of:
    - their scientific skills and the relevance of their research experience
    - the impact of the proposed training on the researcher's career
    - a fair gender representation (by promoting genuine equal access opportunities throughout the recruitment process)
- The selection committees must bring together diverse expertise, have an adequate gender balance and include members from different countries and with relevant experience to assess the candidates.
- ensure that no conflict of interest exists in or arises from the recruitment
- for MSCA-DN and MSCA-PF:
    - ensure that the researchers do not receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiaries (or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
    - host the researchers at their premises (or at the premises of other participants in the action)
  - for MSCA COFUND-CE:
    - implement the Choose Europe for Science programmes in two phases, i.e. a first phase of 24 months for a 48-month fellowship or 36 months for a 60-month fellowship, and a second phase of 24 months
    - ensure that the second phase contributes to the longer-term career prospects and employability of the researchers
    - fully cover the total remuneration costs of the researcher during the second phase (without EU contribution) and ensure that the salary remains attractive and competitive at national level
    - clearly indicate in the vacancy notice the monthly gross salary for both phases (as well as the costs or compulsory deductions under national legislation, such as employer and employee' social security contributions and direct taxes)
  - for MSCA-COFUND where doctoral or post-doctoral programmes are implemented as financial support to third parties through implementing partners:
    - ensure that the implementing partners comply with the same standards and procedures for implementing the research training activities, including the recruitment and working conditions for researchers, the specific rules for MSCA-

COFUND actions and the specific rules on ethics and research integrity set out in Annex 5

- implement effective monitoring and oversight arrangements towards the implementing partners, covering all aspects relating to the action
- ensure effective and reliable reporting by the implementing partners, covering the activities implemented, information on indicators, as well as the legality and regularity of the expenditure claimed
- ensure that the implementing partners provide that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the final recipients.

When implementing Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges (MSCA-SE), the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- take all measures to implement the principles set out in Annex II to the Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe<sup>4</sup> ('the European Charter for Researchers') and ensure that the seconded staff and all participants involved in the action are aware of them
- ensure that the seconded staff enjoys at the place of the implementation at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local staff holding a similar position
- assist the seconded staff with the administrative procedures related to their secondment
- inform the seconded staff about:
  - the description, conditions, location and timetable for the implementation of the secondment
  - the rights and obligations of the beneficiary toward the seconded staff under this Agreement
  - the obligation of the seconded staff to complete and submit — at the end of the secondment — the evaluation questionnaire and — two years later — the follow-up questionnaire provided by the granting authority
  - the arrangements related to the intellectual property rights between the beneficiary and the seconded staff (during the secondment and afterwards), in particular full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the staff to background and results needed for their activities under the action
  - the obligation of the seconded staff to maintain confidentiality (see Article 13)

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<sup>4</sup> Council Recommendation C/2023/1640 of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe, Annex II (OJ C, C/2023/1640, 29.12.2023).

- the obligation of the seconded staff to ensure the visibility of EU funding in communications or publications and in applications for the protection of results (see Article 17)
- ensure that the seconded staff do not have to bear any costs for the implementation of the action as described in Annex 1
- provide training and the necessary means for implementing the action (or ensure that such training and means are provided by other participants in the action)
- ensure that the seconded staff are adequately mentored
- ensure that the rights and obligations of the seconded staff remain unchanged during the secondment
- ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the staff to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- if appropriate, ensure that seconded staff are reintegrated after the secondment
- ensure that the seconded staff are covered by an adequate medical insurance scheme
- ensure that the seconded staff have the relevant expertise for the action
- use the top-up allowance (see Article 6) to contribute to the subsistence, accommodation and travel of the seconded staff.

### **Specific rules for ERA Fellowship actions**

When implementing ERA Fellowships, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- take all measures to implement the principles set out in Annex II to the Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe<sup>5</sup> ('the European Charter for Researchers') and ensure that the researchers and all participants involved in the action are aware of them
- ensure that the researchers enjoy at the place of the implementation at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local researchers holding a similar position
- ensure that the employment contract, other direct contract or fixed-amount-fellowship agreement (see Article 6) specifies:
  - the name of the supervisor(s) for the research training activities
  - the starting date and duration of the research training activities

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<sup>5</sup> Council Recommendation C/2023/1640 of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe, Annex II (OJ C, C/2023/1640, 29.12.2023).

- the monthly support for the researcher under this Agreement (in euro and, if relevant, in the currency in which the remuneration is paid)
- the obligation of the researcher to work exclusively for the action, unless part-time for professional reasons is allowed and has been approved (and not to receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiary or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
- the working pattern of the researcher
- the arrangements related to the intellectual property rights (during implementation of the action and afterwards), in particular full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researcher to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- the obligation of the researcher to inform as soon as possible about events or circumstances likely to affect the implementation of the action or the compliance with requirements under the Agreement (see Article 19)
- the obligation of the researcher to maintain confidentiality (see Article 13)
- the obligation of the researcher to ensure the visibility of EU funding in communications or publications and in applications for the protection of results (see Articles 17)
- where set out in the call conditions, the obligation of the researcher to carry out a mandatory return period of 12 months
- assist the researchers in the administrative procedures related to the recruitment
- inform the researchers about:
  - the description, conditions, location and timetable for the implementation of the research training activities
  - the rights and obligations toward the researchers under this Agreement
  - the obligation of the researchers to complete and submit — at the end of the research training activities — the evaluation questionnaire and — two years later — follow-up questionnaire provided by the granting authority
- ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- ensure that the researchers do not have to bear any costs for the implementation of the action as described in Annex 1
- provide training and the necessary means for implementing the action (or ensure that such training and means are provided by other participants in the action)
- ensure that the researchers are adequately supervised and receive appropriate career guidance

- ensure that personalised career development plans are established, support their implementation and update in view of the needs of the researchers
- ensure an appropriate exposure to the non-academic sector (if applicable)
- respect the maximum limit for secondments set out in the call conditions
- respect the conditions for the outgoing and return phases set out in the call conditions (if any)
- ensure that the researchers are informed that they are 'ERA fellows'
- ensure that the researchers do not receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiaries (or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
- host the researchers at their premises (or at the premises of other participants in the action)



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