

Advisory Board Report

Deliverable Number D.1.3.4.

1

1

Project Acronym	Firespill
Project ID Number	10255377
Project Title	Fostering Improved Reaction of cross border Emergency Services and Prevention Increasing safety Level
Priority Axis	Safety and resilience
Specific objective	2.2 - Increase the safety of the Programme area from natural and man-made disaster
Work Package Number	WP1
Work Package Title	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES
Activity Number	3
Activity Title	STEERING AND MONITORING OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
Partner in Charge	PUBLIC INSTITUTION RERA S.D. FOR COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPLIT DALMATIA COUNTY
Partners involved	All PP
Status	Final version
Distribution	
Date of release:	30/06/2023

Summary

List of abbreviations and terms.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. ADVISORY BOARD ROLE.....	5
3. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS.....	7
4. ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITIES.....	7
4.1. Participation on Steering Committee meetings.....	8
4.2. Participation in making strategic decisions.....	8

List of abbreviations and terms

Application Form (AF)
Lead Partner (LP)
Project Partner (PP)
Work Package (WP)
Deliverable (D)

1. INTRODUCTION

An Advisory Board is a group of experts who lend their skills, guidance, and knowledge to an organization (corporation, nonprofit, or association). In short, an advisory board serves the purpose of its name—to offer advice that helps an organization grow and achieve its goals.

In the context of the FIRESPELL project, the members of the Advisory Board had the main roles:

- to follow the overall project management
- to monitor risk management plan
- to double-check and, if necessary, revise the conclusions made by the SC members, working groups and other implementing bodies in charge of the project management
- to provide technical and qualitative assessment of intermediate project outcomes and recommendations on further steps to ensure the achievement of project objectives.

2. ADVISORY BOARD ROLE

According to the AF the outputs of the FIRESPELL project were expected to achieve:

- the enhancement of firefighting capacity to deal with prevention and improved reaction to forest fire outbreaks by upgrading their preparedness, readiness and operational capacities, as well as strengthening cross border coordination;
- the establishment of an enhanced monitoring procedure based on the low cost and non-invasive instrumental seismic vulnerability measurement in order to promote an effective seismic risk prevention policy.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned project goals, except LPs and PPs project teams, a special role was given also to the Advisory Board members.

Although the active role of the members of the Advisory Board is foreseen in all segments of the project, it is especially emphasized within the framework of the following WP:

WP1- PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

Management and coordination activities are implemented on a day-to-day basis, through a constant flow of information between LP and PPs, and during the SC meetings for the intermediate evaluation of project outcomes, also benefiting of the qualitative contributions of *advisory experts* appointed by the LP on the basis of the specific issues of the meeting.

Special deliverable was put regarding the Advisory members' appointment:

D.1.3.3.

LP proposes to PPs a list of advisory members to take part to 5 project meetings with advisory and quality appraisal role. Advisory members are selected among civil service protection field experts, with a particular focus on the Adriatic-Ionian region. Advisory members are approved by project partners and appointed through an official letter by the LP.

WP3- MODELING AND ENHANCING THE INNOVATIVE CROSSBORDER EMERGENCY SERVICES

Special attention will be given to the process of engaging the key stakeholders to the adoption and implementation of the Green paper. It is of great importance to relate this activity to public events in WP2, in order to present, double-check and, if necessary, revise the conclusions made by the working groups. In this light, *Advisory board members* are expected to make their contribution, too.

WP 4- ENHANCEMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS' OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES- PILOT PROJECTS' DEPLOYMENT

Owner of the outputs of pilot actions are PPs who will also be responsible to maintain these outputs and to upscale/roll-out the results to other locations/sectors after project closure, underlined by the cost saving/environmental benefits they incur. This will be supported on higher policy level with the help of involved associated partners and *advisory board members*. Replicability of the practices is ensured by the adoption of a common methodology, the mainstreaming of the result at a higher policy level is expected to be ensured by the involved associated partners and by the *advisory board members*.

3. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Followed by the AF, PPs made a selection of an experts and proposed the following members of Advisory Board:

PROJECT NAME: FIRESPELL - Fostering Improved Reaction of crossborder Emergency Services and Prevention Increasing safety Level			
PROJECT PARTNER	ROLE	Advisory member	Organisation
Public institution RERA S.D. for coordination and development of Split Dalmatia	LP		
REGIONE ABRUZZO (WP3 Responsible partner)	PP1	Stefano Cocchi	Abruzzo Region
EUROPE POINT CONSORTIUM (WP2 Responsible partner)	PP2	Rossano Ruggieri	National commission for PC volunteers member @ Presidency of the Council of Ministers
DUBROVNIK NERETVA REGION (WP5 Responsible partner)	PP3	Nikola Krstičević	Municipality of Kula Norinska
ADRIATIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION	PP4	Vedran Martinić	ATRAC
	PP5	Ante Lončar	Fire department community - City of Zadar
ZADAR COUNTY	PP5	Ivka Čorić	Zadar County
MARCHE REGION	PP6	PICCININI DAVID	Civil Protection Department
REGION OF ISTRIA	PP7	Dino Kozlevac	Fire department community of Istrian County
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF ŠIBENIK-KNIN COUNTY	PP8	Darko Dukić	Fire department community of Šibenik-Knin County
PUGLIA REGION - CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT	PP9	Giuseppe Verdiani	Puglia Region
EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION	PP10	Bartolomeo Letizia	Emilia-Romagna Region
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA	PP11	Ivan Gladich	Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
VENETO REGION	PP12	n/a	Veneto Region- withdrawn partner
SPLIT DALMATIA COUNTY (WP4 Responsible partner)	PP13	Ivan Sanader	Center for education and technological development in firefighting
UNIVERSITY OF PADUA	PP15	Giovanna Xotta	University of Padua

Table 1. FIRESPELL Advisory Board members

4. ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITIES

Considering the strategic importance of the FIRESPELL project to the program area and the complexity of the project itself and the detected numerous risks of the implementation of the project activities, the role of the Advisory Board was extremely important for the successful implementation of the project. The members of the Advisory Board participated in making all important decisions that were extremely important for the implementation of the project in accordance with what was planned in the Application Form.

Most of the project activities were carried out without major difficulties, but there were also turning points, namely, high-risk circumstances that could threaten the implementation of the project, and in which the role of the Advisory Board proved to be of exceptional help to the members of the Steering Committee and other implementing bodies of the project. In addition to the "standard" difficulties that arise during the implementation of every project (new circumstances - change in market conditions, lack of interest of end users in project results, etc.), the implementation of the project was marked by the Covid 19 pandemic, which significantly disrupted and threatened the implementation of project activities.

4.1. Participation on Steering Committee meetings

During the FIRESPELL project participation Advisory board members participated on the following meetings:

- 1st Steering Committee Meeting- MS Office, 16th December 2020
- 2nd Steering Committee Meeting- MS Office, 25th May 2021
- 3rd Steering Committee Meeting- MS Office, 21st December 2021
- 4th Steering Committee Meeting- Dubrovnik, 8th April 2022
- 5th Steering Committee Meeting- Split, 30th November 2022
- 6th Steering Committee Meeting- Bari, 23rd May 2023

4.2. Participation in making strategic decisions

In order to fulfil all obligations as a project partnership and to achieve all objectives and deliverables written in the Application Form it was necessary to make strategic decisions during project implementation.

The main strategic decisions that were made during the implementation of the project were sublimated into Requests for minor/major changes.

a. Major project change

1st Request for Major change

Subject of a 1st Major change was *change of partnership* for which Steering Committee Members gave their approval on 1st meeting. Namely, from the very beginning of the project, the project partner Veneto Region did not actively participate in project meetings or project activities, therefore Lead Partner was forced to start the procedure of replacing the partnership so that the successful implementation of the project would not be brought into question. Following the above, contacts were made with other potential partners and a partnership with the University of Padova was agreed upon.

2nd Request for Major change

Subject of a 2nd Major Modification was a request for a request for a *significant modification of budget*, that included reallocation above the flexibility rules between PPs, *changes in the content of the project* and *prolongation of the project* for an additional 6 months (until June 30, 2023.). Namely, most of the partners expressed their need to change the budget, with the aim of successful implementation of the activities defined in the Application Form.

b. Minor project change

During the project implementation three (3) Requests for minor changes were submitted to the Joint Secretariat. The requirements mentioned included minor changes of activities description, outputs and budget which were important for the successful implementation of the project.