

D.5.3.1 Drafting of legal documents for Open Network's establishment



1506
UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI URBINO
CARLO BO



COMUNE
DI FANO



Istarsko veleučilište
Università Istriana
di scienze applicate



Document Control Sheet

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will be attached to this deliverable is to identify roles and activities of the founding partners and other potential new members as they join the network called ASTERIS Open Network.

The Network will strengthen the relations among the partners and new public and private members characterized by institutional competences, technical skills but also, where appropriate, knowledge-based economic purposes, in the fields of spatial and temporal (based on future downscaled climate scenarios) monitoring variation in seawater intrusion by increasing the knowledge, mapping needs and barriers in risk management.

The MoU aims at supporting the following activities in order to enhance sustainability of the project and its impact on raising awareness on the role of cities and public authorities, universities and technical and scientific research centres, in an improvement of the protection and strengthening the resilience of coastal aquifer to saline intrusion as a result of the predicted impact of climate change:

- stimulating the dialogue and the networking between representatives of local communities engaged in the environmental protection, policy makers, public and private entities responsible for mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change;
- enhancing the exchange of information and data among the members in order to contribute to a significant improvement of the knowledge of present and future salt intrusion;
- enhancing the production of materials, documents, and data collection and the exchange of that with the aim of sharing experiences on the planning of adaptation measures for a sustainable use of freshwater coastal aquifers.
- stimulating a new and innovative approach to the risk management and better understanding of the local hazard by diminishing the risk to saline intrusion through the integration of vulnerability maps and the analysis of specific case studies;
- sharing and, when possible, co-organizing public events targeted to dissemination of knowledge on the main topics of the ASTERSI project;

Any such activity can be promoted on the respective web-portal of the ASTERIS Open Network members to provide as much visibility as possible.

2. Meaning and Importance of this MoU

One of the main output of the ASTERIS project is the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), retrievable in annex. The MoU is meant to “stimulate a new and innovative approach to the risk management and a better understanding of the local hazard by diminishing the risk to saline intrusion through the integration of vulnerability maps and the analysis of specific case studies”.

To this end, the project has developed (through the Activity 5.2 and more specifically the deliverable 5.2.2) three adaptation plans on both the Adriatic shores. These plans concern the 3 study areas, i.e. the areas of Fano and Ravenna (for Italy, represented at project level by their Municipalities) and the Neretva Region (for Croatia, developed by Croatian Waters – PP6).

For the areas interested by these three case studies, the pilot plans for adapting the groundwater management to climate changes have been produced on the basis of the Guidelines for adaptation measures (project deliverable 5.2.1), thereby giving a first concrete example of how to plan some adaptation measure at local level.

The plans carried out at local level consist of three documents for water management based on two levels: a) different conceptual and practical solutions and investment programmes already existing and experienced in the past; b) new and innovative suggested measures /actions to be undertaken in the short, medium and long term in compliance with the national, regional laws and local regulations of each country/territories.

For what concerns the enactment and entry into force of these adaptation plan in each of the three case studies areas (i.e. through local land-use plan, integrated urban water management, etc.) there is an objective obstacle represented by the differences in terms of internal procedures, timing, political impetus and momentum of the three involved authorities (Fano, Ravenna and Neretva Valley). Trying to find a joint and valuable solution for all the three authorities, likewise complying with the ASTERIS project lifetime (2 years and half, with the last

12 months devoted to WP5) is really impossible. Partners were aware of it since the design of the project proposal, and for this reason they conceived the enactment of the “adaptation plan” in a twofold manner:

1) By providing the three Public Authorities with 3 concrete booklets (Deliverables: D.5.2.2 “Booklet on adaptation plans put in place at local level”) transposing the guidelines of D5.2.1 into real plans. This was possible because the case study of WP4 will provide all the information needed to a concrete planning. The three plans provide a clear exemplification on how to apply guidelines in different contexts, and they can be immediately discussed and approved at political level.

2) By preparing and signing the Memorandum of Understanding, which can guarantee specific follow-up of the action and the durability of this project output. Some specific paragraphs are actually obliging the political representatives to carry out concrete actions in the near future, namely:

- in the par. II “Purpose”;
- in the par. III “Network identity” (where one of the common challenges of the signatories is to “Identify policies for future sustainable exploitation of vulnerable coastal aquifer”)
- in the par. IV “Role and activities foreseen by this MoU” (where the activities of each partner of the Network shall be guided with the following principles “Involvement and inclusion into the activities of the Open Network of interested local actors). In the same paragraph the provision of at least “*one annual online meeting among the members with the aim of updating the membership about the policies sharing*” certainly could be used and focused precisely for checking and monitoring the concrete adoptions of some measures as suggested in the Adaptation Plans for the three case studies (see the Booklets as provided in the project as Deliverable 5.2.2.) in urban plans and water management regulations on both Adriatic shores by those PPs which have the jurisdiction on the 3 study areas, hence at the most suitable level (local or higher).

In this regard, the following signed MoU can be considered of key importance for the project outputs durability and for a concrete and practical impact of the ASTERIS project for a public utility through a constant and continuous improvement of the local environmental performance

of the Municipalities and Regions with specific regards to the understanding and preventing local hazard by diminishing the risk to saline intrusion.

3. Annexes

Pages 1-6: Memorandum of Understanding signed by the ASTERIS Lead Partner – University of Urbino Carlo Bo

Page 7: Signature CNR IGG

Page 8: Signature Municipality of Fano

Page 9: Signature Municipality of Ravenna

Page 10: Signature Institute for Adriatic Crops and Reclamation

Page 11: Signature Croatian Waters

Page 12: Signature Istrian University of Applied Sciences

ASTERIS Open Network
Adaptation to Saltwater intrusion in sEa level Rise Scenarios

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the ASTERIS partners

University of Urbino



1506
UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI URBINO
CARLO BO

City of Fano



City of Ravenna



National Council Research (CNR)



METRIS Research Centre



CROATIAN WATERS



Institute for Adriatic Crops and
Krst Reclamation (IACKR)



and
other interested entities

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets for the terms and understanding between the University of Urbino, National Council Research (CNR), City of Fano, City of Ravenna, METRIS Research Centre, Institute for Adriatic Crops and Krast Reclamation (IACKR), CROATIAN WATERS, and other interested partners to establish the ASTERIS Open Network.

I. Background

This memorandum of understanding has been developed as final part of the EU project ASTERIS – *Adaptation to Saltwater intrusion in sEa level Rise Scenarios*, which is co-funded by the Interreg V-A Italy-Croatia CBC Programme 2014 – 2020, specifically the Activity 5.3. “Promotion and operation of an Open Network.

This Activity was aimed at connecting, starting from the project partnership, other research centres, cities and companies working on solutions for the protection and strengthening the resilience of coastal aquifers to saline intrusion disseminating and making best use of the ASTERIS project outputs and results.

This potential can be exploited in a more effective way through a joint open networking that will be grounded on the wide and strong networking activities already established by all ASTERIS partners in the field of coastal system characterisation and management.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to identify roles and activities of the founding partners and other potential new members as they join the network called **ASTERIS Open Network**.

The Network will strengthen the relations among the partners and new public and private members characterized by institutional competences, technical skills but also, where appropriate, knowledge-based economic purposes, in the fields of spatial and temporal (based on future downscaled climate scenarios) monitoring variation in seawater intrusion by increasing the knowledge, mapping needs and barriers in risk management.

This MoU is therefore intended to support the following activities in order to enhance the durability of the ASTERIS project and its impact on raising awareness on the role of cities and public authorities, universities and technical and scientific research centres, in an

improvement of the protection and strengthening the resilience of coastal aquifer to saline intrusion as a result of the predicted impact of climate change:

- stimulating the dialogue and the networking between representatives of local communities engaged in the environmental protection, policy makers, public and private entities responsible for mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change;
- enhancing the exchange of information and data among the members in order to contribute to a significant improvement of the knowledge of present and future salt intrusion;
- enhancing the production of materials, documents, and data collection and the exchange of that with the aim of sharing experiences on the planning of adaptation measures for a sustainable use of freshwater coastal aquifers.
- stimulating a new and innovative approach to the risk management and better understanding of the local hazard by diminishing the risk to saline intrusion through the integration of vulnerability maps and the analysis of specific case studies;
- sharing and, when possible, co-organizing public events targeted to dissemination of knowledge on the main topics of the ASTERSI project;

Any such activity can be promoted on the respective web-portal of the ASTERIS Open Network members to provide as much visibility as possible.

III. Network identity

Cities, national research centres, public entities/bodies governed by public law responsible for mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change are the first founder members of this Network and they represents territories of Italy and Croatia characterized for having been interested in the past and even now by common challenges:

- Providing a regional and local scale assessment of the risk related to sea level rise;
- Developing an integrated approach for the understanding and the management of risks associated to saltwater ingression;
- Analysing the use of coastal aquifers for human use, including agriculture and industry with the aim of providing guidelines for a sustainable use in reason of the assessed scenarios;
- Identifying policies for future sustainable exploitation of vulnerable coastal aquifers.

This interest must be considered as an underlying assumption, the pre-requisite to enter the network and create a common identity between the founder partners and the new

members with the aim to foster the transferability of ASTERIS project outcomes to territories facing similar issues and challenges.

New expected possible members are: local, regional and national public authorities in charge of protecting the environment and ensuring the quality and the healthiness of the seawater; regional and local development agencies interested in the mitigation of climate change effects through the adaption of new planning measures; NGOs, and no profit organization identifying and mapping needs and barriers in risk management and providing practical tools for a sustainable management; companies working on solutions for the evaluation and management of the vulnerability of coastal aquifer disseminating and making best use of the output and results of the project; education and training centres engaged in the field of coastal systems characterisation and management; professionals and experts (freelancers) active in the specific sector or linked sectors to the ASTERIS projet's intervention area.

IV. Roles and activities foreseen by this MoU

The University of Urbino, as lead partner of the ASTERIS project, is the Network coordinator for the first year. Each year a new network coordinator must be appointed among the founded partners according to a rotation system based on the principle of equality. The rotation of the coordinator will permit to share institutional commitments between all the adherents.

The Network Coordinator shall undertake the following activities:

- give permission to use the ASTERIS logo after the end of the project lifetime to make visible the activities promoted by the ASTERIS Open Network in compliance with the ASTERIS project main goals and the "Purpose" and "Network identity" of the present MoU;
- promote a coordinated and timely publication of interesting news, public events, studies, policies, law and regulations at national and international level on the official web-portals of the ASTERIS Open Network members;
- sustain the ASTERIS Open Network through awareness raising actions on the importance of the collaboration between cities and public/private research centres for identifying policies for future exploitation of vulnerable coastal aquifer and strategies of response to climate change scenario;
- organize at least one annual online meeting among the members with the aim of updating the memberships about policies sharing ;
- promote and facilitate the accession of other public and private entities to the ASTERIS Open Network;

- suggest and highlight relevant thematic events, stimulating the participation within the ASTERIS Open Network and also outside of it.

Activity of each partner of the Network shall be guided with the following principles:

- involvement and inclusion into activities of the Open Network of interested local actors (policy makers, technical and scientific public and private organizations, professionals and specialist in the sector, multimedia, environment related organizations, etc.) with the aim of valorizing and promoting the ASTERIS main project outputs and results;
- promotion of the Open Network's visibility, and ASTERIS project results through related activities at local and national level;
- connection with local stakeholders regarding the education, information and consciousness in order to improve an integrated approach for the understanding and the management of risks associated to saltwater ingressions;
- participation in related thematic events and/or other ongoing and future co-funded projects (with National grants, EU Territorial Cooperation Programmes, ERDF, etc.) creating synergies on similar topics or related fields of action.

V. Sponsorship and collaboration with other organizations

The hydrogeology of aquifers is not uniform and presents different potential risks.

On the other hand, the common innovative approach adopted for the definition of sea-level rise scenarios with the ASTERIS project has provided different outputs on a local scale.

It is the nature itself of the scientific basis of the project that needs a highly resolved network of information and data points that can be assured only with a strong cooperation action at European and international level.

Thanks to this MoU a new network is being created and it will be set up using the structure and expertise already existing at the level of the partners institutions with a possible scenario of creating an Association whose first members will be the ASTERIS project partners.

In this perspective the Open Network will favour its direct involvement as network, where possible, and/or the active involvement of each of its members to other formal organizations engaged in the field of climate change monitoring and planning of adaptation

measures, with the main aim of sharing knowledge for a sustainable and integrated management of coastal groundwater resources.

To this aim important organizations at international level must be considered as reference entities such as the IAH – International Association of Hydrogeologists (the World – wide Groundwater Organization) and its own Commissions, Networks and Working groups.

Moreover also informal groups and/or organizations of experts at national and international level must be considered for possible collaboration and networking activities.

VI. Funding

None of the provisions of this MoU shall be deemed or construed to constitute or imply any commitment or obligation of funding. Hence, no financial contribution will be required to adherents making the ASTERIS Open Network self-sustainable.

VII. Duration

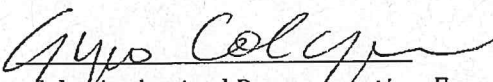
This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from members. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the members and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

In any case, it must last at least five years after ASTERIS project closure.

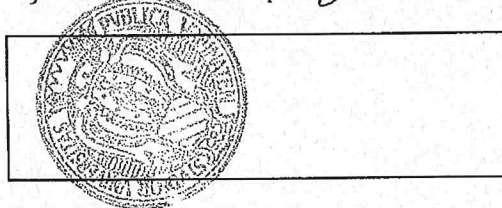
Date: 30th of June 2021

University of Urbino – Department of Pure and Applied Sciences (LP)

Place:

Signature: 
Name of the Authorised Representative, Function

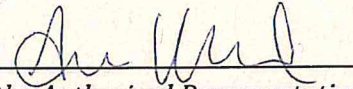
Stamp:



National Council Research – CNR (PP1)

Place: Pisa

Date: 30th of June 2021

Signature: 

Name of the Authorised Representative, Function
ANTONELLO PROVENZA, Director IGG-CNR

Stamp:



Municipality of Fano (PP2)

Place:

Date: 30th of June 2021

Signature:



Name of the Authorised Representative, Function

Stamp:



IL SINDACO
Massimo Seri

Municipality of Ravenna (PP3)

Place: RAVENNA

Date: 30th of June 2021

Signature: M. de Pas...

Name of the Authorised Representative, Function

Stamp:



Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst reclamation – IACKR (PP5)

Place: Split

Date: 30th of June 2021

Signature: _____

Katja Žanić

Katja Žanić, Director

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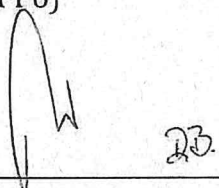


CROATIAN WATERS (PP6)

Place:

Date: 30th of June 2021

Signature:



Zoran Đuroković – General Manager of Croatian Waters

Stamp:

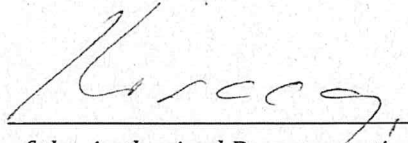


Istrian University of Applied Sciences (PP7)

Place:

Date: 30th of June 2021

Signature:



Name of the Authorised Representative, Function

Stamp:

