

ENHAnCE

Featuring Engineering

MINUTES OF MID-TERM SB MEETING AND REPORT ABOUT FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENTS

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1. Introduction

On the 11th of May 2021, the beneficiaries and partners of the H2020 MSCA-ITN project ENHAnCE, along with its project Officer from the Research Executive Agency (REA) Ms Ioanna Peppas and the 10 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) of the project, met for the Mid Term meeting, which was held online due to the pandemic circumstances. The main objective of this meeting is to assess the progress of the project after one year (M13-M15) since it started in January 2021.

The representatives of the different beneficiaries and partners attending the meeting were:

Table 1. List of attendees among the Beneficiaries and Partners

INSTITUTION/ COMPANY	BENEFICIARY/ PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE
German Aerospace Center (DLR)	Beneficiary	Prof. Peter Wierach
Clausthal University of Technology	Partner Organization	
Cenaero (CEN)	Beneficiary	Ir. David Dumas
Societe Nationale de Construction Aérospatiale SA (SONACA)	Partner Organization	
List CEA Tech (CEA)	Beneficiary	Prof. Alain Lhemery Mr. Edouard Demaldent
Fidamc (FID)	Beneficiary	Dr. María Rodríguez
Delft University of Technology (TUDELFT)	Beneficiary	Dr. Dimitrios Zarouchas
Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)	Beneficiary	Dr. Claudio Sbarufatti Dr. Francesco Cadini
Instytut Techniczny Wojsk Lotniczych (Polish Air Force Institute of Technology)	Partner Organisation	Mr. Michal Dziendzikowski
University of Strathclyde (STRATH)	Beneficiary	Prof. Athanasios Kolios
University of Nottingham (UNOTT)	Beneficiary	Dr. Dimitrios Chronopoulos
Universidad de Granada (UGR)	Beneficiary	Dr. Manuel Chiachío Dr. Juan Chaichío
Universidad de Granada (UGR)	Beneficiary	Ms. María Megía (as Project Manager)
Oritia&Boreas	Partner Organisation	Dr. Jose María Terres

Table 2. List of attendees among the Early Stage Researchers (ESRs)

NAME	HOSTING INSTITUTION/ COMPANY	ACADEMIC INSTITUTION (PhD ENROLLMENT)
ESR 1	Shankar Galiana	German Aerospace Center (DLR)
ESR 2	Aravind Balaji	TUC (Clausthal University of Technology)
		Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)



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	NAME	HOSTING INSTITUTION/ COMPANY	ACADEMIC INSTITUTION (PhD ENROLLMENT)
ESR 3	Amond Sarr Allouko	List CEA Tech (CEA)	UPS University of Paris Saclay (UPS)
ESR 4	Tasdeeq Sofi	Fidamc (FID)	TUC (Clausthal University of Technology)
ESR 5	Morteza Moradi	Delft University of Technology (TUDELFT)	Delft University of Technology (TUDELFT)
ESR 6	Tianzi-Li	Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)	Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)
ESR 7	Javier Contreras Lopez	University of Strathclyde (STRATH)	University of Strathclyde (STRATH)
ESR 8	Wen Wu	University of Nottingham (UNOTT)	University of Nottingham (UNOTT)
ESR 9	Juan Fernández	Universidad de Granada (UGR)	Universidad de Granada (UGR)
ESR 10	Ali Saleh	Universidad de Granada (UGR)	Universidad de Granada (UGR)

The Mid Term meeting has the aim to gather all the members of the consortium and altogether assess the fulfilment of all aspects (scientific, research training, management, etc.) described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. It should be understood as a constructive dialogue between the network participants and the REA project officer and is a valuable source of feedback to both the consortium and the REA.

Particular attention was paid to the training activities and networking aspects including activities across different sectors, seriously affected due to the pandemic restrictions.

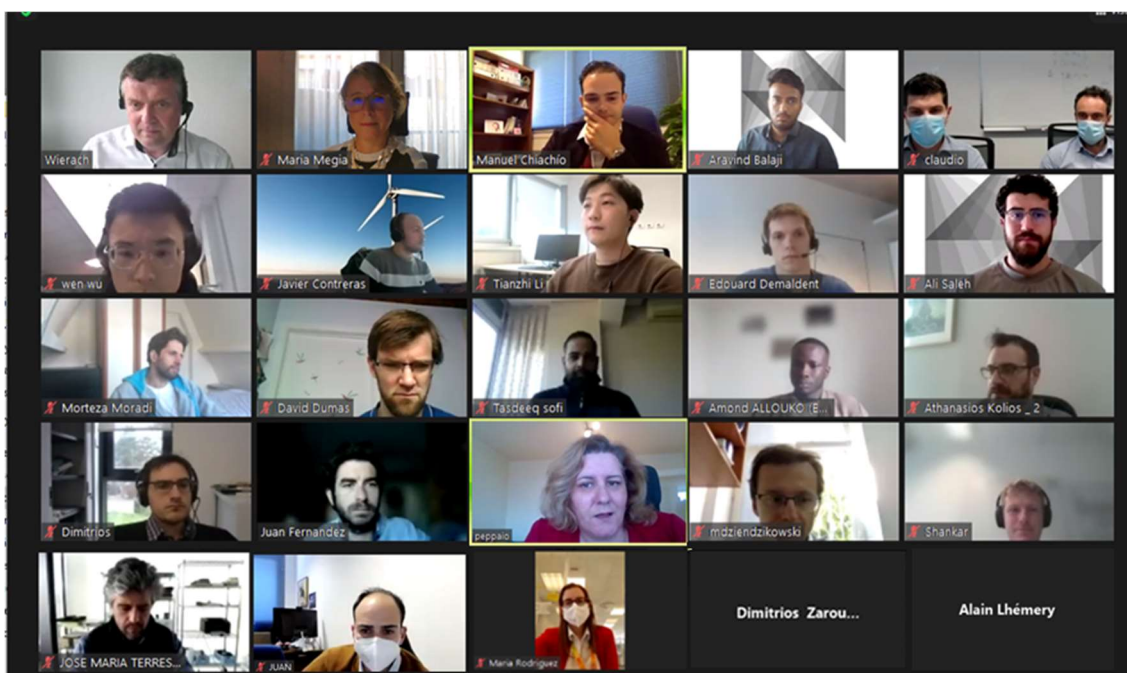


Figure 1. Attendees to the Mid Term meeting



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2. Agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting, slightly modified during the course of the action to adapt to the real timing, was as follows:

09:00 - 09:15	Welcome and introduction to the Project. Short introduction by the REA Project Officer (Ms Ioanna Peppas) and the Project Coordinator (Dr Manuel Chiachío) on the purpose of the meeting.
09:15 – 10:00	Tour the table. All scientists in charge briefly present their research team and describe their role within the network. The partner organisations are introduced. 9:15 – 9: 20 Prof. Peter Wierach (DLR). Partner organisation: Clausthal University of Technology. 9:20 – 9: 25. Ir. David Dumas (CENAERO). Partner organisation: Societe Nationale de Construction Aerospatiale SA (SONACA). 9:25 – 9: 30 Prof. Alain Lhemery (List CEA-Tech) 9:30 – 9: 35. Dr. María Rodríguez (FIDAMC). 9:35 – 9: 40. Dr. Dimitrios Zarouchas (Delft University of Technology). 9:40 – 9: 45. Dr. Claudio Sbarufatti (Politecnico di Milan). Partner organisation: Instytut Techniczny Wojsk Lotniczych (Polish Air Force Institute of Technology). 9: 45 – 9:50 Prof. Athanasios Kolios (University of Strathclyde). Partner organisation: Ramboll. 9: 50 – 9:55 Dr. Dimitrios Chronopoulos (University of Nottingham). Partner organisation: University of Brasilia. 9: 55 – 10:00 Dr. Manuel Chiachío (University of Granada). Partner organisation: Oritias&Boreas.
10:00-10:15	Short Break.
10:15 - 10:35	REA Project officer presentation, Ms Ioanna Peppas. The REA Project Officer presents on the monitoring of project implementation, reporting and purpose of the mid-term check.
10:35 – 11:20	Report from the Coordinator, Dr Manuel Chiachío. Presentation of the network and the progress, covering: the recruitment, deliverables, milestones, ethical issues, meetings, financial aspects, risk mitigation actions, document management, open research data, and re-orientation of some activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.
11:20 – 13:00	Fellows' individual presentation. Every Early Stage Researcher (10) introduce themselves and their background, and present their individual research project foreseen research, training, secondments, etc. Scientific results are not expected. 11:20 – 11:30. ESR1: Shankar Galiana (DLR). 11:30 – 11:40. ESR2: Aravind Balaji (CENAERO).



	<p>11:40 – 11:50. ESR3: Amond Sarr Allouko (CEA-List).</p> <p>11:50 – 12:00. ESR4: Tasdeeq Sofi (FIDAMC).</p> <p>12:00 – 12:10. ESR5: Morteza Moradi (TU Delft).</p> <p>12:10 – 12:20. ESR6: Tianzi-Li (Politecnico di Milano).</p> <p>12:20 – 12:30. ESR7: Javier Contreras (University of Strathclyde).</p> <p>12:30 – 12:40. ESR8: Wen Wu (University of Nottingham).</p> <p>12:40 – 12:50. ESR9: Juan Fernández (Universidad de Granada).</p> <p>13:00 – 13:00. ESR10: Ali Saleh (Universidad de Granada).</p>
13:00-14:00	Break
14:30 – 17:00	<p>Restricted session with the Project Officer and the Early Stage Researchers (ESRs).</p> <p>In this meeting, the ESRs have the opportunity to discuss with the Project officer their experiences within the Network in terms of training foreseen, supervision arrangements, progress and impact on their future careers. It is expected that they highlight the positive aspects and what could be improved. Questions could be also collected in advance by an ESR's representative as a basis for discussion during the meeting.</p>
17:00 – 17:30	Restricted session between the Project Officer and the Coordinator.
17:30 – 18:00	<p>Feedback and open discussion.</p> <p>Feedback from the Project Officer on the output of the network so far on possible training areas for future exploitation or the impact on fellows' future careers development and open discussion between the Project Officer and all the members of the Consortium.</p>

3. Presentations

Beneficiaries and partners

Beneficiaries and partners presented themselves, their institutions and the research they develop jointly with the role they represent within the project. The quality and relevance of the institutions and organisations were well demonstrated along with their commitment to the project and their complementarity.

The partner organisations showed their availability to host the secondment of the researches becoming from academic institutions, whereas the participating universities will receive the researches from the industry.



Early stage researchers

Every researcher introduced their background, supervisors and host institution, and exposed briefly the scientific content of their research with the work undertaken so far and the next steps for the future. Each of them has already submitted one deliverable corresponding to the initial kick-off of their work, which will be transferred into a scientific paper to be published in the corresponding media.

The fellows also related their training experiences within the network and at the end included their expectations on the possible impact of the action on their future.

4. Reports

Report from the Coordinator of the project

The Coordinator of the project Dr. Manuel Chiachío present an overview of the network's progress and demonstrated the achievements in relation to the initial project objectives in terms of scientific results, research training, networking and transfer of knowledge, dissemination, outreach activities and management.

Information on the recruitment and the progress of deliverables and milestones accomplished was given, justifying any deviation. The pandemic situation has caused minor delays, less than 6 months in any case, which do not significantly alter the course of the research.

International conferences and events in which the consortium has organised were related, along with the media coverage. Some modifications have been applied to the course of the training weeks prioritising those that can be held online due to their mostly theoretical nature, postponing the ones that need practical activities on site (laboratories, industry installations..) or those to be celebrating jointly with other H2020-ITN projects, all due to the pandemic circumstances.

Report from the Project Officer

The project officer Ms. Ioanna Peppas made a reminder on the contractual obligation of the Mid Term meeting to ensure that the contractual obligations are being fulfilled by the Consortium, mainly regarding the recruitment process, rights and obligations of beneficiaries, partners and ESRs, assessing possible deviations from the original schedule and the existence of contingency plans, and finally as a constructive dialogue between network participants.

The REA monitoring project implementation covers technical, legal and administrative aspects, taking into account the continuous report from the Consortium. It has been checked that the research declarations have been correctly submitted into the participant's portal, which will need to be updated in case of parental leave, sick leave, or when secondments take place. Milestones, deliverables and publications are part of the continuous reporting, placing emphasis on the open access to peer-review publications.



An interim check will be due within 60 days of the present reporting period (M1-M24), including technical and financing aspects and all records must be kept for 5 years after the final payment has been made. Individual Financial statements (IFS) will be produced by every member of the Consortium and will be revised and gathered by the Coordinator to be submitted to the REA.

5. Feedback

The overall progress of the project is satisfactory, well overcoming the difficulties caused by the pandemic. The progress up to the date is about 35% of the project completed as expected and some minor aspects need to be corrected as follows:

-Two ESRs are not yet enrolled on a PhD for the impossibility of accessing their University due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so this action should be undertaken as soon as possible whenever access to the University is allowed. Their supervisors will give priority to this issue and will modify the ESR status on their Research Declarations at the Participant's Portal (help will be provided by the Project Manager and Coordinator, if required).

-Some Visa charges of one of the ESRs have to be reimbursed. This also applies to tuition fees to any of the ESRs (all the PhD fees, university/laboratory fees should be covered as Institutional Costs).

-The salary of the researchers should be detailed to them by the corresponding Administrations specifying allowances, country coefficients and taxes, in order to make it more understandable and detects possible inaccuracies. A technical meeting will be allocated for the ESRs (and the rest of the Consortium, if required) to explain these aspects.

-Secondment periods into partner organisations can sum up to a maximum of 30% of their recruitment period, so as 10,8 months. Secondments of less than 2 weeks related to the ESR's fieldwork can be undertaken on premises different from the partner organizations, and are considered as visits. These visits should also be covered to the ESRs.

-In one case, one principal supervisor is moving to another University. Agreements are in course to name a new supervisor. Then, the current supervisor will become co-supervisor and his new institution will act as Partner Organisation, receiving the ESR for visits and secondments. Agreements on making the new university a Partner Organisation will start soon.

-A paternal leave is expected by one of the ESRs, a situation also included in the Risk Management Plan of the project. Following the Risk Management Plan, the ESR will leave the consortium during the paternal leave and will be included within the Social Security scheme of his corresponding host country, after which he will re-start the project with an extension of the project equivalent to the leave period.

-A general frame covering intellectual property rights (IPR) is proposed, to which a dedicated section will be devoted in the next Supervisory Board meeting. Additionally, as good practice before the



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secondments start, a plan of activities signed by all the institutions involved will be delivered and sent to the Coordinator, with specific mention to the IPR.

-New organisations are being envisaged as Partner Organisation for some ESRs (others than those planned in their PhD project of the Declaration of Action [DoA]), for benefit of their projects and training. The activities to be carried out are similar to those planned within the DoA, thus the new Partner Organisation will be added to the Consortium by signing a Letter of Commitment. If the changes in secondments are not strong, this circumstance will be just communicated to the Project Officer through the Communication Portal and by providing the required documentation (Letter of Commitments of the new Partner Organisation, Secondment plan).

6. Conclusions

Since its beginning on 1st January 2020, the project has progress adequately, overcoming the difficulties arising from the pandemic situation suffered all over the world from March 2020. As described before, the project has successfully completed its objectives for its first year, with minor delays that do not significantly alter the course of the research.

Several actions should be undertaken into the network to correct some aspects, all covered by the Risk Management Plan of the project and easily remediable. These actions have been sufficiently detailed and will be informed after their completion.