SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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Table of Contents

1	INT	TRODUCTION	3
2	ОВ	JECTIVES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY	4
3	SU	STAINABILITY ACTION PLAN	7
4	TAl	RGET AUDIENCE	9
	4.1	Reaching target audience	11
	4.2	Sustainability channels	12
	4.3	Internal and external sustainability	18
	4.4	Sustainability activities	19
5	CO	NCLUSIONS	2.3

1 INTRODUCTION

EU strongly encourages and promotes activities connected to strengthening of the projects impact, to ensure that objectives are met results of projects (foreground) should be published and disseminated. Sustainability may be formulated as processes and channels through which research results are presented to the public (IPR Helpdesk). Channels are, in turn, conferences, publications, exhibitions, press releases, workshops, newsletters, social platforms, web sites etc. In order to systematise and organise works connected to diffuse the foreground among potential beneficiaries the sustainability plan should be prepared.

The sustainability plan explains how the project will share its outcomes with stakeholders, relevant institutions and organisations, and how it will contribute to the overall sustainability strategy for the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme "Greece - Albania 2014-2020". Sustainability of the foreground including knowledge obtained during research is one of the most important activities of the Networking for Reciprocal Safe Cross Border Water Supply towards a Worth Living Environment (SaveSafeWater). The sustainability plan is a very important document since it summarises the partnership's strategy and future activities to spread and exploit the foreground of the project. Hence it is a tool to monitor the progress in the project development.

This document is product of the planned activities of the SaveSafeWater project funded by the Interreg-IPA-CBC Programme of the European Union.

The document presents the actors, activities that should be included and undertaken to support the future implementation and continuation of SaveSafeWater project activities.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY

The purpose of the sustainability is to raise awareness, engagement and education of community as well as the promotion of outputs and results of SaveSafeWater project.

- o SaveSafeWater sustainability plan provides a common framework for action that has the potential to:
- Use resources more efficiently by identifying opportunities to conserve energy and save money through smart investments with identifiable payback periods.
- Promote smart economic development by creating jobs, increasing the tax base, encouraging development, and increasing the jurisdiction's competitiveness.
- o Improve the environment by monitoring and improving local air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, cleaning up waterways, reducing auto dependency by increasing transportation options, decreasing waste, and reducing urban sprawl.
- o Create a more equitable society by targeting economic and environmental improvements to communities most in need, and by ensuring that all residents have access to high-quality health care, education, and arts and cultural amenities.
- o Lay the groundwork for major investments that can have a dramatic impact on the overall sustainability of the jurisdiction.

The following milestones are addressed:



For performers of the SaveSafeWater project the sustainability of the project results is a crucial matter. At first, message of the project itself should be defined and subsequently distributed through all the project informative materials. It is possible at the moment that the purpose and benefits of the project are clear. The project will develop several innovative ICT methods aiming to Safe Cross Border Water Supply in the programme area. The overall goal will be achieved by developing a logical framework for cross border capacity development in integrated water resources and management and supply. Being validated at four differently characterised locations, the EWS - SaveSafeWater will be sufficiently flexible to be exploited in any EU location. Appropriate training, manuals and sustainability will give people across EU an efficient tool for water conservation.

The objectives of the planned sustainability are:

- to assess the social impact in increasing the awareness in water usage and in changing users' behaviour when participating in the social network of water users,
- to assess the economic impact of the EWS SaveSafeWater results for the new adaptive pricing model,
- to demonstrate the outcomes of EWS SaveSafeWater in the water demand management at city and household level, and to make the results of EWS
 - SaveSafeWater available to water stakeholders and other relevant audiences,
- to disseminate and promote new innovative outcomes of this project to the European Communities interested in the effective water resource management,
- familiarise European Water Bodies, European Innovation Partnerships Water, ICT for water cluster with the results of the project.

The final awareness events will demonstrate and summarise the results of the project. These events will educate water users how ICT solutions can support a more effective water demand management. Furthermore, the website will be a prominent tool to disseminate the project outcomes and to ensure the impact on water users' awareness and their behaviour.

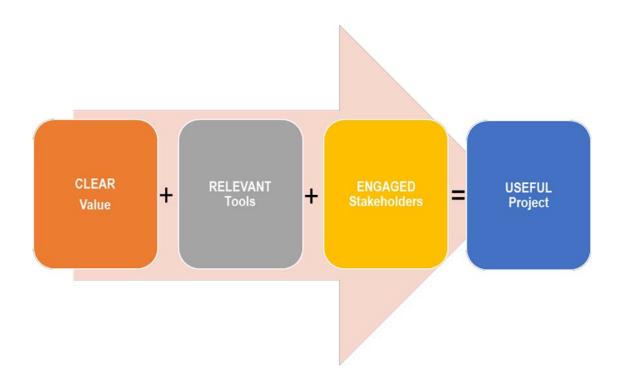
National, regional and local governments should ensure that the scope of their sustainability plan addresses the most pressing challenges and includes measures that are implementable and achievable.

3 SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The following rules will be respected:

Method	Action Steps	Timeline
Develop Vision, Mission, Case for Support	 Create internal staff team to guide planning process Discuss with staff and community members why this program is needed, who will benefit, why your organization is the best organization to undertake it. Identify and talk with other community leaders who might share common or similar vision/mission. 	Months 1- 3
Develop Goals and Objectives	 Develop a logic model to clarify sustainability goals, create specific program objectives, and identify measures to track progress and outcomes. 	Months 1- 3
Research and identify potential stakeholders	 Identify priorities such as community engagement, strategic communication, leadership development, governance and management. Solicit ideas from other agencies, schools, and faith communities who might share interests with your program. Talk to local businesses about how your program can benefit their interests. 	Months 1- 3
Initiate relationship with potential stakeholders	 Schedule community/partner meetings. Select team of helpful community members, agency representatives, and business people to act as advisory committee. Formulate meeting agenda. Prepare invitations and ask folks who recommended individuals for your committee to invite them personally. Prepare written materials for participants outlining the program's purpose and vision. Language should match community interests garnered from earlier research and interviews with community members. 	Month 4

Analyze Program Cost	 Clarify financing for services and outcomes. Map current spending and analyse funding gaps. With staff and advisory committee, develop financing strategies, evaluate options, and develop recommendations. 	Month 4
Continue to cultivate stakeholders and create buy in	 Hold meetings. Include shared vision exercise to get input and expand vision to more stakeholders. Invite press to cover a meeting, highlight participants and outcomes. 	Month 6



4 TARGET AUDIENCE

The stakeholder analysis identifies peoples or institutions who may be impacted by the project the most and whose support is needed (via web portal, users forum). A list of stakeholders who are relevant regarding the successful performance of SaveSafeWater project and has been targeted during and after the project is presented bleow:

Targeted groups include: academic community, researchers, Greek and Albania community, national and local institutions, social platform users, water stakeholders organisations, participants of related EU projects, industry-sectors, trade fairs and exhibitions participants, policy bodies, funding and regulatory bodies, innovation transfer organisations, professional users, decision makers, general audience.

Possible target groups and relevant stakeholders include:

- a) policy makers and national authorities at EU and Member State level,
- b) water management organizations on both an EU and national level,
- c) wider audience: consumers across Europe,
- d) partners of national and international projects related to SaveSafeWater.

A tentative list includes:

- Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKALB), http://shukalb.al/
- o Albanian Ministry of Environment and Tourism
- o Albanian General Directorate of Water Supply and Sewerage
- o Albanian Water Regulatory Authority

- Albanian National Agency of Water Supply, Sewage and Waste Infrastructure http://www.akuk.gov.al/
- o Albanian Water Resources Management Agency
- Albanian Institute of Geosciences and Energy, Water and Environment,
 https://www.geo.edu.al/newweb/?fq=brenda&gj=gj2&kid=21
- Albanian Institute of Public Health
- Special Secretariat for Water, Ministry of Environment and Energy,
 http://www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=246&language=el-GR
- Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises for Water Supply and Sewerage (EDEYA), http://edeya.gr/
- o Hellenic Water Association, http://www.hwa.gr/index.php/en/
- The International Water Association (IWA)
- o European Water Association (EWA)
- The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities (IBNET)
- o European Water Platform WssTP, http://wsstp.eu/
- o Water Information System for Europe (WISE), http://water.europa.eu/
- European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) Water,
 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/
- Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership, http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/
- o Digital Agenda Community for ICT Water, http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/communities/ict-and-water-management
- o European Technology Platform for Water, http://wsstp.eu/
- o Eco-Innovation Action Plan
- o Drinkadria IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 project, http://www.drinkadria.eu/
- Water Guard project, Interreg GR-IT 2007-2013,
 http://www.waterguard-project.eu/
- Waterloss project, MED 2007-2013 programme, http://www.waterloss-project.eu/

- o ICeWater FP7-ICT-317624 project, http://www.icewater-project.eu/
- o iWIDGET FP7 project, http://www.i-widget.eu/
- o EFFINET FP7 project, http://www.effinet.eu/
- o WatERP FP7, http://www.waterp-fp7.eu/
- o UrbanWater FP7 project, http://urbanwater-ict.eu/
- o DAIAD FP7 project
- o SmartH2O FP7 project
- o WATERNOMICS FP7 project, http://waternomics.eu/
- o WISDOM FP7 project

4.1 Reaching target audience

A multi-step and multi-channel sustainability strategy will be followed in order to reach different target groups, provided information will be carefully adjusted to the audience level of need/involvement. An important part of the work will be the recognition of clear and understandable messages about the project. The terminology should be adjusted to the targeted audience, but non-technical language will be preferable. Required knowledge about the field will be considered. For different kind of receivers, relevance message should be checked in each specific case.

People who will benefit from the outcomes of the project can act as a catalyser for the sustainability process. Online guests, journalists, teachers, researchers can act as "opinion makers" for the project. Moreover, some products of the project, such as questionnaires, methods, evaluation criteria, guidelines, will be shared with the wider community, through articles, presentations, case studies. This is particularly important for the SaveSafeWater as the results will be of interest to people at the intersection of several main areas, namely water resource management, civil engineering, ICT and data mining, social media as well as administration and politics.

4.2 Sustainability channels

The sustainability strategy consists of several sustainability policies aiming at the transfer of SaveSafeWater achievements and lessons to be learnt. Sustainability policies will be based on three major sustainability (on- line, interaction and non-electronic) channels and their corresponding sustainability activities. The interactive channel of sustainability is intended for target groups with a high level of information need and involvement and it therefore provides information tailored to highly targeted audiences. The interactive channel is expected to be the most efficient means for community building and have the highest impact on sustainability. Since non-electronic sustainability is expected to increase the level of information need, involvement and invite interactive participation of interested parties, careful design of non-electronic intensive sustainability policies is needed. This type of activities will guarantee a high degree of knowledge promotion within all targeted groups, including those people that are less 'prone' to be involved in websites.

Each sustainability policy will be designed as blend of sustainability activities from one or more channels, with respect to the respective target group(s) that aims to address.

Channels that planned to be used are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Channels - planned to be used during and after the SaveSafeWater project

Channel	Type of channel	Details
Personal contacts	Interaction	Project will be advertised among peers of the participants, acquaintances etc.
Professional contacts	Interaction	Project aims will be presented among professional contacts of the participants. This channel will offer a chance for personal interaction in academic, socioeconomic (and possibly selected commercial) conferences, EU organised events and conferences and trade fairs and exhibitions.

Channel	Type of channel	Details
Conferences	Interaction	The interactive channel of sustainability. (Annex 1): attendance/ presentation/ poster. National and international conferences are an important opportunity to share SaveSafeWater achievements with experts in the field. Conferences with an impact will be chosen e.g. water management resource conferences (e.g. International Conference on Water Resources Management and Engineering, conferences organized by the European Water Resources Association (EWRA), Water and Environment, ICT conferences, conferences and workshops organized under the auspices of EU and water organizations, industry conferences and exhibitions thematically related to the use of ICT in water resource management. Furthermore, several individuals in the consortium are present in program committees of well-reputed conferences. Some of them even have chaired or will chair related special workshops and conferences and several of them are invited in round table discussions. They can therefore shape the research vision through discussions with other members of the academic community, they can disseminate research results and the notion of technology and vision developed. Specialised conference sessions can also be organised in that context.
Seminars / Webinars Training activities	Interaction /on-line Interaction	The foreground will be presented during the open seminar/webinar organised by project's participants. The events may be recorded and posted on the web site. Activities will be organised to train end-users. The goal is to make them familiar with the results and possibilities available after the implementation of the tool. A users' manual will be prepared in order to follow the training activities. It is planned that training activities will promote the exploitation of the project t since future customers will be able to have a hand on experience with the tool's potential and capabilities.
Programme meetings	Interaction	Programme meetings are excellent opportunities for projects to learn from each other, discuss common issues, and get feedback on their work.
Final event	Interaction /on-line	An awareness event is planned to be held in the two locations of the pilot/validation sites. The event will be taking place at the same time in two selected cities, An interaction between the two sites of the conference via teleconferencing is planned. An important reason for this decision is that we will want to encourage the involvement of the local stakeholders and the general

Channel	Type of channel	Details
		public and we believe that it is best for those sessions to be done in the local languages (Greek and Albania, respectively). The conference event will be free and open to public, together with the private, academic and research stakeholders. The event will be publicised adequately and will be held in the final months of the project, after all results and objectives will be achieved. The conference will be addressed mainly to the water stakeholders and target users and organized in two separate sessions. In the morning plenary session, the main results of the project will be presented and in the afternoon workshop session participants will be encouraged to cooperate in defining the needed plans for enhancing technology transfer between research and industries, both SME and large enterprises. Also, a major focus of the afternoon session will be to present the manual of the project to the public. The manual will be prepared for SaveSafeWater in 3 languages (English, Greek and Albanian)
Project web site	On-line	Albanian). The dynamic public website will be designed, developed and maintained throughout the duration of SaveSafeWater. A project website is one of the most versatile sustainability tools. Every effort will be made to make the website active for several years after the end of SaveSafeWater. Website will provide a first and key access point for interested scientific and business parties into SaveSafeWater. Important results will be published on that website, but also added-value services will be offered such as newsletters, mailing lists or communication with project researchers and various stakeholders. The long-term objective of the website is to create a community of interested parties around SaveSafeWater, to accelerate their involvement and to create awareness of the research results. This site will include sustainability material such as information about the concept, vision, objectives and expected outcomes of SaveSafeWater. It will discuss the problems that SaveSafeWater intends to solve and will provide results, findings and operation guidelines as they emerge. A messaging service will also be available, so that end users will be able to exchange comments with the participants. Besides up to date, continuously updated material concerning SaveSafeWater, advanced web services (as social media platform and the adaptive pricing model) and technologies such as wikis, blog,

Channel	Type of channel	Details
		forums will be employed to further facilitate the communication of users, internal and external to SaveSafeWater, regarding the latest developments, papers and open problems on aspects of the relevant cooperation. Useful links to the EC services, initiatives, technology platforms, networks, as well as to the other EU ICT in water management projects will be established on SaveSafeWater website that will intend facilitate targeted information sustainability and allow the consortium to widen the potential applications of the results. An area for downloading project brochures, videos, demos, and other useful material such as public deliverables, news for communication of events, workshops, and conferences related to the project as well as the contacts that allow the website visitors to have a direct link to the consortium will be established. An internal web portal only for consortium partners and designated EC official's communication on the website will be developed. The users will be able to access to the internal web portal by using their own username and password to share their information and knowledge. Herein the supervision and the coordination of the sustainability will take place.
Social media platform	On-line	SaveSafeWater will be promoted at professional, connected with water management social media platform, created during the project realisation. This is meant to be a general forum for discussing SaveSafeWater, where all partners come together with external organisations and companies (European and International), who are invited to participate in discussions to help promote knowledge. In this forum, the challenges associated with in-network storage architectures for enhancing user experience will be addressed from all points of view, including technological, societal and organisational. All SaveSafeWater concepts, designs and ideas will be reported for public scrutiny and a wider discussion will be initiated with every interested party. Mailing service for communication with the project researchers and various stakeholders will be offered.
Social platforms	On-line	The results and aims of the project will be published in social media platforms.

Channel	Type of channel	Details
Journals	On-line / Paper	(Annex 2): any and every opportunity will be taken to get published articles containing the results of the project. Several journals, conferences for publication relevant to SaveSafeWater will be considered: 1. The Research*eu magazine, 2. International Journal of Water (IJW), 3. Journal Environmental Innovation and Sustainability Transitions, 4. International Journal of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering, 5. Water Science & Technology Journal, 6. Journal of Environmental Management, 7. Journal of Hydro informatics, 8. Decision Support Journal, 9. Environmental Modelling & Software, etc. Also, publication in open access journals will be considered. At a scientific level, the sustainability activities will be carried out through publications in specialised journals. This can aid the sustainability of the results and improve the up-take of the technologies developed and validated in the project. It is expected that all these publications reach a wide audience both of the scientific and technical community. The considered journals are: 1. Water Resources Management, 2. Water Resources, 3. Applied Water Science, 4. Water, Air, & Soil Pollution, 5. Intelligent systems, 6. ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology, 7. Mobile Networks and Applications, 8. Real-Time Systems, 9. Human-centric Computing and Information Sciences, 10. ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction, 11. Journal of Hydro informatics, 12. Environmental Modelling and Software, 13. Journal of Environmental Informatics, 14. Urban Water, 15. Environmental Modelling and Assessment, 16. Decision Support System, 17. European Journal of Operational Research, 18. Journal of the Operational Research Society etc.
Newsletters	On-line /	Outcomes of the project will be published in newsletters of the institutions involved in the project.
Press	On-line /	It is an announcement to the national and local press
release	Paper	
Leaflets/post er/roll-up	On-line / Paper / electronic	Materials in printed form will be handed out at conferences. An electronic version will be circulated electronically.

Channel	Type of channel	Details
Publications in broadcast	Pre- recorded /	Interviews regarding the project will be arranged, for instance using local mass media.
media	on-line	
Reports	Paper / electronic / on-line	Reports on specific topics can be posted on SaveSafeWater website so they will be accessible to a wide audience. In parallel to conducting research, the consortium will take actions towards actively spreading awareness and knowledge about new challenges and research opportunities. The wider societal implications will be explored by establishing synergies with educational institutions at all levels. All partners are committed to serving this goal by spreading awareness and knowledge within their radius of influence at the national and international level.
Involvement in networks	Interaction / on-line	Will be encouraged using the participation of the members in other activities and projects. For disseminating the website further, SaveSafeWater will establish links with the main existing networks, both social and professional ones (facebook, twitter). The specifically designed web-based social platform will also be used for the sustainability and exchanging of experiences between stakeholders and consumers. List of websites links with information about SaveSafeWater will be established.
Additional		Participation in European Innovation Partnerships
activities		(EIP) Water is planned

4.3 Internal and external sustainability

Online, electronic, non-electronic and interactive sustainability will be used for internal and external sustainability. Internal sustainability is especially important for knowledge networking within SaveSafeWater. All partners should periodically report their internal sustainability activities. The private website for document exchange and publication that was mentioned above is a form of the internal sustainability. In addition, partner meetings and specialised workshops are a form of the internal sustainability. A major expression of external sustainability is the production of deliverables. Most of deliverables will have a public version and will be made available via SaveSafeWater website.

Partners will use their involvement and status in the research community to impact major scientific events by organising related panels, tutorials, and special sessions. In addition, seminars will be organised for business and technical managers. All consortium members have already indicated their interest, involvement, and determination to host, organise or participate in the external sustainability activities described above. All partners have an outstanding record of publications and impact on both the academic and industrial scientific communities. The partners are currently involved in scientific events and groups.

The communication with other EU-funded projects is planned. An attempt will be taken to recognize subjects and areas of similar activities to exchange experiences and compare the obtained results. Links to the other projects will be published on SaveSafeWater website. Also, information, about future conferences and events on ICT-related water management, will be exchanged to extend the sustainability's possibilities of all projects. Personal contacts with water stakeholders are invaluable for promoting and demonstrating projects goals and results as well as networking with the interested members of the community.

4.4 Sustainability activities

Part of the sustainability activities will be focused on developing a coherent visual identity for project results including graphics, templates, styles and guidelines which can be used by partners when presenting their work in electronic and print materials. In particular, for SaveSafeWater, which aims at generating new knowledge on a continuously evolving field, the benefits and opportunities will be made public in a timely and structured manner. A number of sustainability activities such as logo, leaflets, press releases website, participation in project forums are planned. The partners will participate in various international events and round tables and publish extensively in well-reputed international conferences and workshops.

The sustainability plan includes also the SaveSafeWater Layman's Report that will be distributed to both counties communities and also in EU level. It is targeted at a nonspecialist audience and serves to inform decision makers and non-technical parties of the project objectives and results. It should be clear and concise. This report will provide a permanent record of SaveSafeWater that can be filed for future reference.

Below are presented some recommended activities to be followed in accordance with this sustainability plan:

Mass/Social Media Communication

Responsible institutions shall engage a social expert who shall be inter alia responsible in disclosure, dissemination of information and communication with the local population. The chosen communication outlet (media) should be fitting to each community, taking into consideration the type and sensitivity of stakeholders.

Communication Materials

Written information will be disclosed to the public via a variety of communication materials including brochures, flyers, posters, social media and a dedicated website etc. A public factsheet and newsletter will be designed specifically and distributed both in print and online form. Partners will also update their website regularly (at least on a quarterly basis) with key Programme updates and reports on the Project's performance both in English and Albanian.

Roll-up banners: roll-up banners will be produced through the implementation of the programme and will been used at the meetings as well as at the open events.

Information Desks and Notice Boards

Responsible authority in collaboration with municipalities will set up Information Desks in the premises of each Municipality, where they can meet and share information about the Programme. Information Desks will provide local residents and tourists with information on stakeholder engagement activities, Programme implementation updates, SaveSafeWater activities, and contact details of the Institutions. Brochures and flyers on various project related social and environmental issues will be made available at these Information Desks.

Notice boards are a common information tool used for communication and transmission of important project related messages in a simple and direct way. For this reason, responsible authorities will put up and maintain information boards at strategic locations in their premises, ensuring that they are accessible and visible to the public.

Survey and Feedback

In the following, responsible authorities will conduct sample-based stakeholder surveys to collect feedback and useful data for implementation of the sustainability plan. The surveys will also serve to communicate periodically with stakeholders.

Media Work

A set of media-related dissemination activities will be foreseen in order for the programme to gain increased publicity and raise community/stakeholder awareness on various sustainable and environmental/water aspects. These activities include preparation of articles for the press, press releases and announcements to the media (radio and TV), as well as press conferences.

Awareness Materials and Communication Activity

Communication, education and public awareness programmes are critical to achieving this level of understanding and involvement. Encouraging people to change their perceptions and behaviors requires an approach to communication, education and awareness that goes well beyond posting signs or distributing brochures. Effective communication that achieves the above goals while inspiring action includes:

- Establishing education and public awareness programmes involving the community;
- o Strengthen information mechanisms directed at target groups;
- o Incorporating the environmental topics and issues as an integral component of school curricula.

These materials will help to motivate positive actions by changing individual behavior, which is crucial in reducing negative attitudes and destructive behaviors towards the environment.

One of the most effective ways of raising awareness, creating change, and sustaining changes over time is through school programmes. Communication campaigns can be tailored to almost any age group. There are a number of best practices to consider when designing school programmes. These include:

- o Encourage critical reflection: From a young age, children need to understand causes, effects and relationships between behaviors and environmental outcomes. For older children, an activity such as a science fair can be an effective way of enabling them to analyze and articulate these complex relationships.
- o Dive into natural enthusiasm: Children are naturally curious and enthusiastic learners. This enthusiasm can be channeled by creating activities that get children outside by conducting experiments, taking field trips, seeing animals in the wild, collecting plant samples and drawing what they see.
- Involve families: These activities should engage not only school children, but also their families.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The sustainability plan of SaveSafeWater is to ensure that the project will generate a large impact on society, economy, and science. This sustainability plan presents a comprehensive sustainability strategy, specific tools and activities adapted to the respective target groups and communication policy. The sustainability will be performed through variable channels characterised by online, interactive, and other types of activities. The efforts made to advertise the project and its product will be summarised in the final report that will be released in month 24. It will include updated brochures, a list of publications, attendance and presentations at events and workshops, press-releases, as well as the user's manual and the results of the final awareness events.

The easiest way to define and recognise results of the sustainability strategy is to promote and establish evaluation of the activities through the whole period of the project duration, with the monitoring of the progress, and parallel all major sustainability activities. In order to avoid derailing of the project and to maintain the high quality of the performance participants will have to fill questionnaires at the end of meetings and events. For example, it is planned that the website will be evaluated frequently by checking the usage, meetings and training sessions is planned to be evaluated by distributing and collecting some kind of questionnaire (Opinion meter is a practical tool e.g.), number of citations assessed quality of the published articles etc.

To further improve the sustainability strategy during the project's life, the sustainability plan will be updated and resubmitted at least once a year.