

MID-TERM EVALUATION CONSENSUS REPORT

Research-based Assessment of Integrated approaches to Nature-Based solutions (RainSolutions)

Name of Coordinator: Prof. Miklas Scholz

Project code: WaterWorks2017- RainSolutions

Duration of project: 3-years

Start date: 1 April 2019

End date: 30 March 2022

FOLLOW-UP GROUP

Please include the data of the FG members reviewing the report

Name	Organisation
Teppo Vehanen	Natural Resources Institute Finland
Mi-Yong Becker	Bochum University of Applied Sciences

1. Scientific and technological progress (Maximum 250 words)

Based on the Table of Deliverables the project deliverables have been so far delivered in time, some of them will be improved when more information comes available. Some partners, however, report of serious delays in the work. First, Londrina (Brazil) reports of evident delays, it will not be possible to deliver results on time. However, this does not change the original objectives of the study. Secondly, TYPESA (Spain) reports that not all case studies are available and will be looking for alternatives TYPESA will be late with the project execution. Thirdly, VESI (Ireland) has had to delay the start of the field sampling. Despite the delays of some partners project results and methodologies used so far follow the study plan. It remains unclear what is the total impact of these delays to the whole study. Also, while the progress report contains detailed information on tasks, methodology/methods and results, it is not possible to link the reports of the partners to the work packages, tasks, and milestones in the proposal in particular since in the list of deliverables it has not been made clear which deliverables have actually been completed and which are pending/delayed. Collaboration among partners is well-established and thus the flow of data and knowledge across the different disciplines seems to be quite intact. Work in the project is truly multi-disciplinary. Several scientific papers from the results are in pipeline. Current outcome is modest, anticipated outcome adequate.

2. Collaboration, coordination and mobility within the Consortium (Maximum 250 words)

The report does not contain any information on coordination efficiency. Some partners, ULUND (Sweden) and OsloMet (Norway), however, report good cooperation and coordination between them. Collaboration among partners is established and thus the flow of data and knowledge across different disciplines seems to be intact. It, however, looks as if the cooperation across the entire consortium is not reported, and thus may be limited. Delays reported by some partners may be the reason for this, together with COVID restrictions. More cooperation between the partners would certainly increase the transnational value of the project. For example, Brasil reports that with the pandemic, mobility has been limited. Since the reported collaboration, exchange of data and workflow among different partners seems to be active, the project has prospects at implementing a transnational nature and at providing added value across partners, stakeholder and partner countries/communities.

3. Coordination with other international project funded by WaterWorks2017, or other instruments (Maximum 250 words)

Some partners report cooperation with other international projects (consortium INCDDD, Waternet Project), but as a whole external collaboration with other international projects seems to be rather limited. The RainSolutions project has contributed to other international instruments, like the Digital VEAS hackathon 2020. There has also been a joint student master thesis proposal.

4. Coverage of the themes and sub-themes of the call (Maximum 250 words)

RainSolutions has covered mainly the Theme 1 (Enabling sustainable management of water resources) especially by focusing on developing new knowledge for sustainable water management and new knowledge management approaches. In theme one the subtheme 1.1. (Promoting adaptive water management for global change) has been covered by the project. The project has dealt with socio-economic factors touching the Theme 2 (Strengthening socio-economic approaches to water management). At this stage the project seems to be appropriately aligned with the selected themes of the JPI call as stated in its original proposal. However, as mentioned above, it is not possible to link the reports of the partners to the work packages, tasks, and milestones in the proposal in particular since in the list of deliverables it has not been made clear for all deliverables whether they have actually been accomplished or are pending/delayed.

5. Stakeholder/industry engagement (Maximum 250 words)

In spite of the COVID restrictions the project has succeeded in stakeholder engagement. An advisory board team has been established to overview the activities of the project. In Norway the VEAS wastewater company for Oslo, Asker and Bærum municipalities was involved in the project. In the case study of Londrina, Brazil, the National Water Agency was successfully involved. In Estonia cooperation was initiated with the local project companies (e.g., Alkranel LCC). In Netherlands WUR has succeeded in engaging public and industrial partners. These and other stakeholder/industry engagements in the project are highly acknowledged.

6. Recommendations for improvements/amendments of the report (Please complete Table below)

Page	Modification	Rationale for change
5-12	Clearly link progress to milestones and deliverables	Transparency about actual performance in the project.
14-16	Clearly indicate accomplishment of deliverables	Transparency about actual performance in the project.

7. General Assessment Comments (Maximum 250 words)

Based on the Table of Deliverables the project deliverables have been so far delivered in time, some of them will be improved when more information comes available. Some partners, however, report of serious delays in the work.

Also, while the progress report contains detailed information on tasks, methodology/methods and results, it is not possible to link the reports of the partners to the work packages, tasks, and milestones in the proposal in particular since in the list of deliverables it has not been made clear which deliverables have actually been completed and which are pending/delayed.

Cooperation across the entire consortium is not reported, and thus may be limited. Delays reported by some partners may be the reason for this, together with COVID restrictions. More cooperation between the partners would certainly increase the transnational value of the project. Some partners report cooperation with other international projects (consortium INCDDD, Waternet Project), but as a whole external collaboration with other international projects seems to be rather limited.

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The risks in the project are mostly around the delays from three partners: how they will affect the project goals and outcomes? A Covid-19 management plan for the year 2021 to secure project results with emphasis on most impacted partners.