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## **Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan**

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

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# **Final report**

## **WP6 QUALITY CONTROL**

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Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMENLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
01	November 2022	First draft
02	November 2022	Final version
03		
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIPA	University of Palermo
WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. General description of WP6	5
3.1. Task 6.1. Establish Quality Committee	6
3.2. Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation and quality plan	6
3.3. Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator	7
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	7
5. Evaluation of the project's outcomes by the Quality Board	8
5.1. Assessment of the overall quality of the project's outcomes	9
5.2. Quality of Work Package 1 (WP1)	10
5.3. Quality of Work Package 2 (WP2)	11
5.4. Quality of Work Package 3 (WP3)	11
5.5. Quality of Work Package 4 (WP4)	12
5.6. Quality of Work Package 5 (WP5)	13
5.7. Quality of Work Package 6 (WP6)	16
5.8. Quality of Work Package 7 (WP7)	17
5.9. Quality of Work Package 8 (WP8)	19
6. Annexes	19

## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country

## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernise higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonise the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce a policy framework for creating a new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. General description of WP6

The Quality Control work package (WP6) started in the first month of the project and was carried on till the end of the project. The purpose was to ensure that the planned project activities lead to the expected results. The WP6 was intended for quality control and monitoring. In communication with the partners, the Quality Committee (QC) was established with the purpose of developing monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan. The plan introduces project quality standards and defines metrics for project goal conversions and its strategy for succession, preventive and corrective measures of the project, hierarchy of project responsibility, communication flows and decision making, PR strategy and communication with external environment, and project processes and creation of documentation needed. The outcomes of WP6 also include a set of reports stating preventive and corrective measures taken in order to achieve project goals.

## **WP6 Consisted of three different tasks:**

Task 6.1. Establish Quality Committee

Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan

Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

### **3.1. Task 6.1. Establish Quality Committee**

The Quality Committee was established in the first month of the project. Partner institutions nominated a representing member so the QC includes total of 14 members:

1. Pešić Ana, University of Montenegro, Montenegro
2. Giovos Ioannis, iSea, Greece
3. Uçma Uysal Tugba, MSKU, Turkey
4. Aldemir Ceray, MSKU, Turkey
5. Troqe Ornela, Alb-Adriatico 2013, Albania
6. Špelić Ivan, University of Zagreb, Croatia
7. Trajanovski Sasho, HIO, North Macedonia
8. Zdraveski Konstantin, Ekomenlog Ohrid, North Macedonia
9. Džafić Subha, University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina
10. Durmić-Pašić Adaleta, University of Sarajevo-INGEB, Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. HalaEdmond, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania
12. Bakiu Silvia, ACEPSD, Albania
13. Dinoshi Irsida, UCB, Albania
14. Sarà Gianluca, UNIPA, Italy.

### **3.2. Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation and quality plan**

The first draft of the Monitoring, evaluation and quality plan (MEQuP) was presented to the QC in June 2021. Following two revisions, the final version was adopted in November 2021. MEQuP contains: Aims and role of the evaluation in a project, Project Quality Assurance, Indicators of Achievement, Project Quality Control, Project risk management, Partners' technical and financial reporting.

Also, the templates of documents were provided for all partners to ensure consistent and common presentation of deliverables. The following forms were uploaded to the WP6.2 partition of RISKMAN Google drive in the form of annexes to MEQuP:

- Annex 1 – Attendance list;
- Annex 2 – Training Evaluation Form;
- Annex 3 – Meeting/Workshop/Conference/Event Evaluation Form;
- Annex 4 – Summary of the Participant Feedback Form for Training;
- Annex 5 – Summary of the Participant Feedback Form for Meeting/Workshop/Conference;
- Annex 6 – Participant Feedback Form for Round Table;
- Annex 7 – Summary of the Participant Feedback Form for Round Table;
- Annex 8 – Event Report;
- Annex 9 – Quality Assurance Checklist for Review of Deliverable;
- Annex 10 – Epidemiological list;
- Annex 11 – Rules of Procedure.

MEQuP also defines how the visual identity of the project and the Erasmus+ program is used throughout the project duration.

### 3.3. Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator

The progress reports were produced on trimester basis so the total of eight progress reports are uploaded to the WP6.3 partition of the RISKMAN Google drive ([https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1RZBSackN5g59OWsnxpRoQaCUBjyvo\\_hn](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1RZBSackN5g59OWsnxpRoQaCUBjyvo_hn)). Each trimester report was accompanied by Trimester activity reviews covering the same period, which provides detailed preview of the activities and outcomes (<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/10EsiGqHsLwsMKFDZB2trGwxmJJfBH65w>).

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

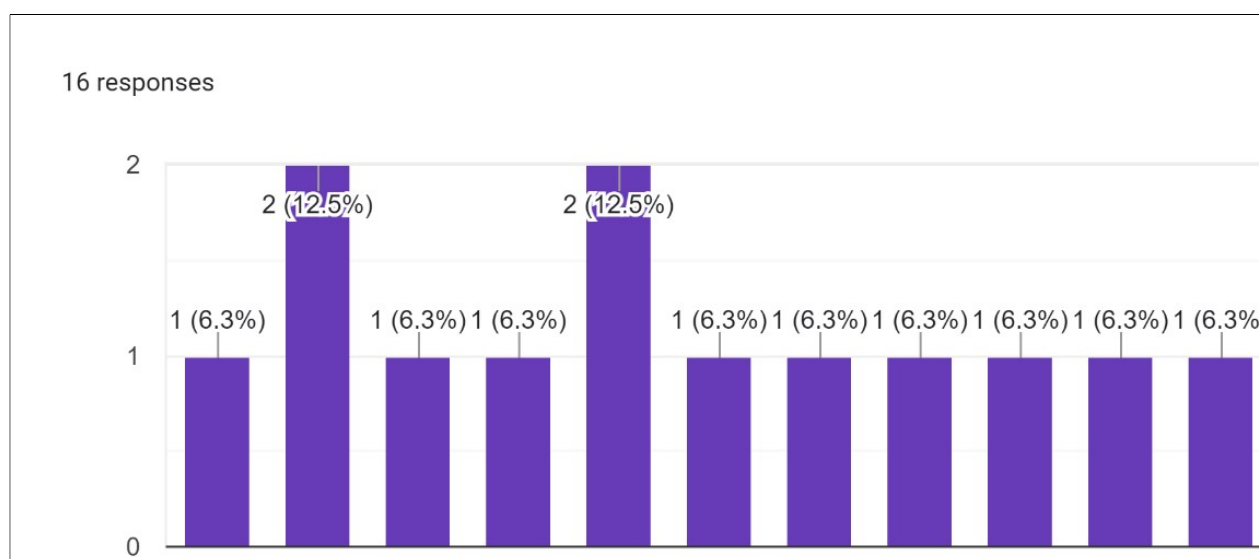
Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the project lifetime is given in the table below.

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature			X	
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website			X	
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages			X	
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site			X	
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages			X	
14	Report summarising the content of the Tailored courses materials			X	

15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website			X	
16	Tailored course activity report published on website			X	
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities			X	
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site			X	
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site			X	
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site			X	
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings			X	
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Quality Reports are published on the project web site			X	

## 5. Evaluation of the project's outcomes by the Quality Board

As agreed during the Steering Committee held in Thessaloniki, Greece, August 28 – 31, 2022, and foreseen by the Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan, an evaluation of the project's outcomes was organised within the Quality Committee members and additional members of the Consortium. All members of the Quality Committee completed the evaluation form sent online as a Google Form (Figure 1). In the capacity of external evaluators, three Consortium members also completed the questionnaire.



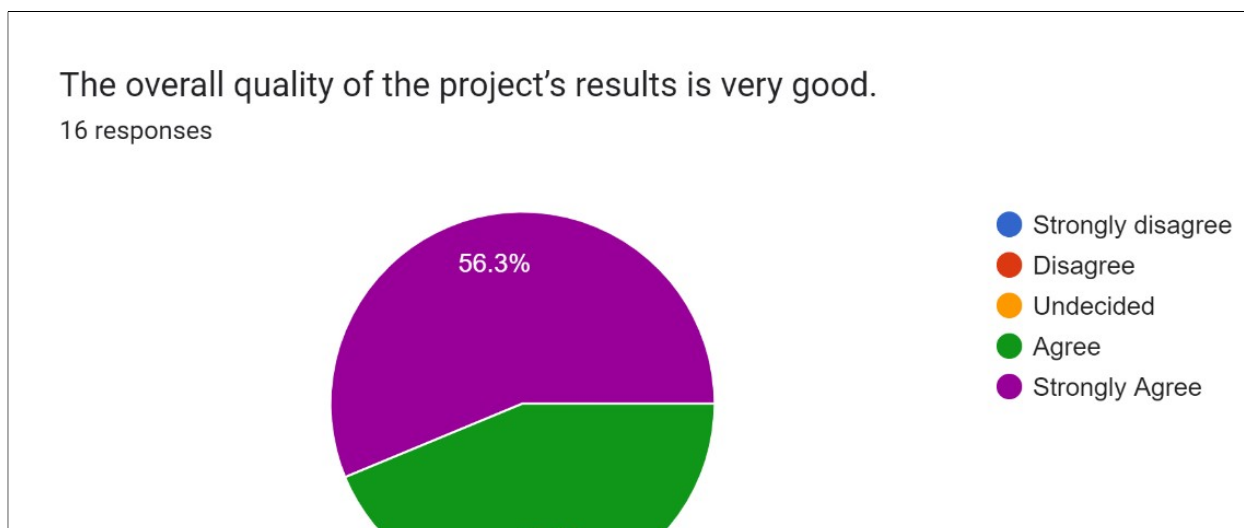
**Figure 1.** Distribution of the evaluators by their affiliation



The evaluators assessed the overall quality of the project's outcomes, and the outcomes of the individual work packages.

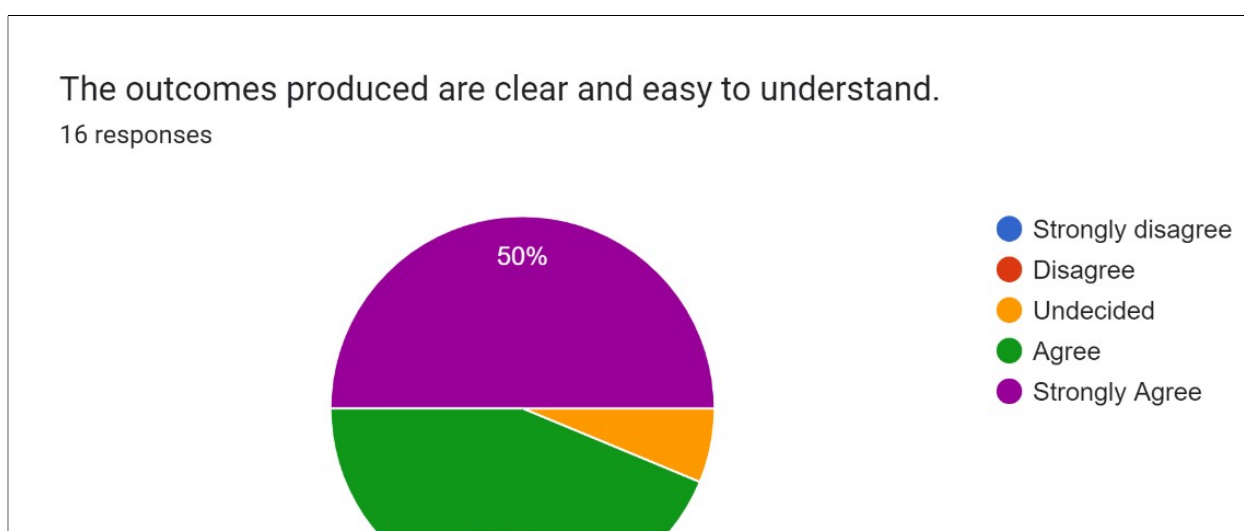
### 5.1. Assessment of the overall quality of the project's outcomes

All of the evaluators stated that the overall quality of the project's results is very good (Figure 2).



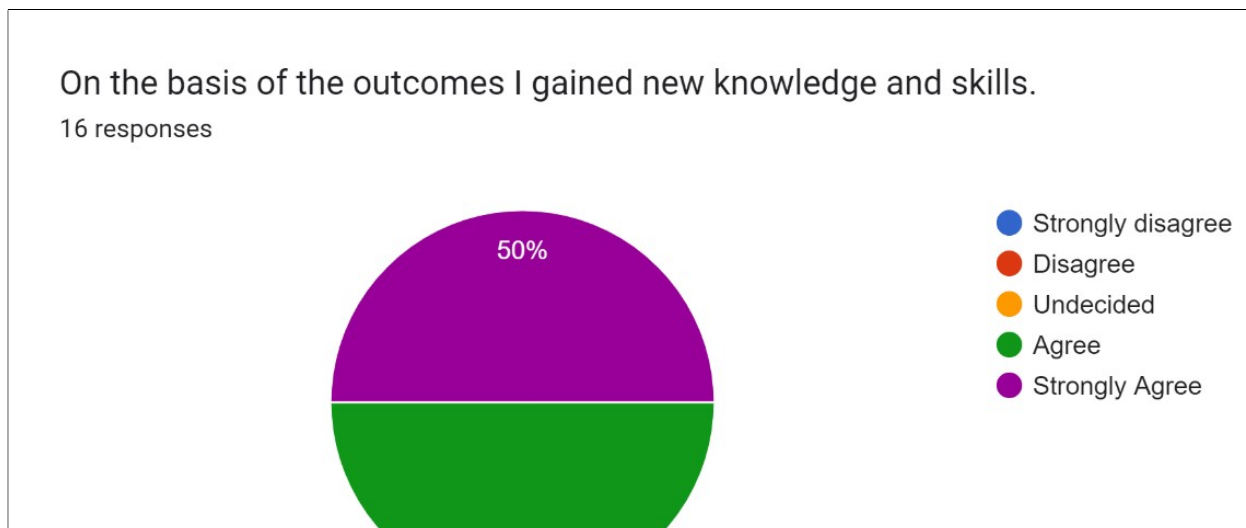
**Figure 2.** Results of the overall assessment of the project's results

Almost all of the evaluators were of a position that produced outcomes are clear and easy to understand (Figure 3). Only 6.2% of the evaluators were undecided regarding this matter.

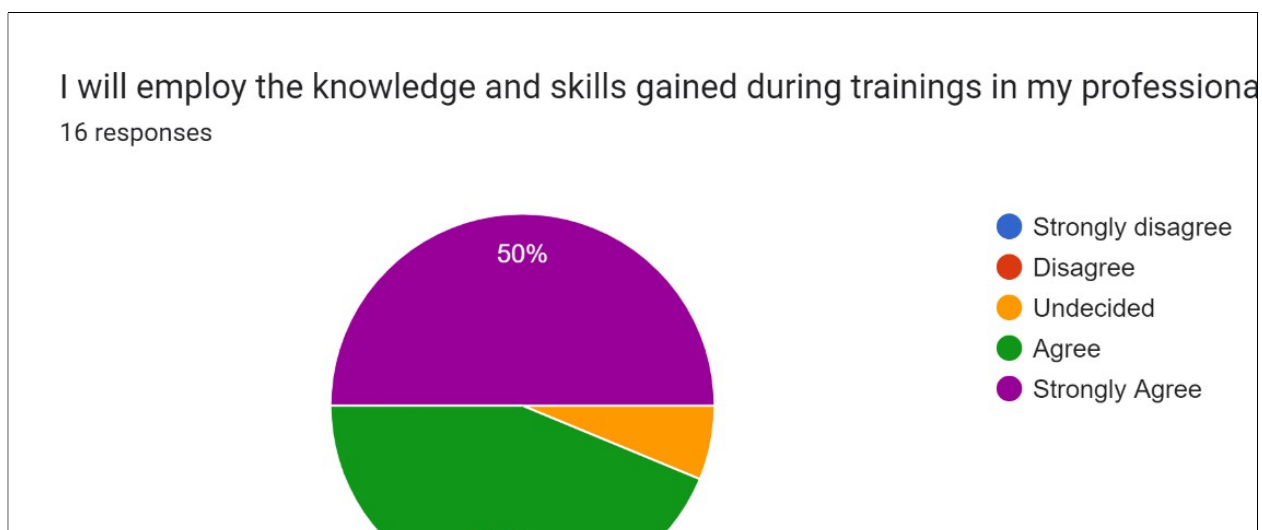


**Figure 3.** Results of the assessment of the produced outcomes' clarity

All evaluators stated that they gained new knowledge and skills out of the project's outcomes (Figure 4). Majority of evaluators stated that they will apply newly adopted knowledge and skills in their professional work. Only 6.2% of the evaluators were undecided regarding this matter (Figure 5).



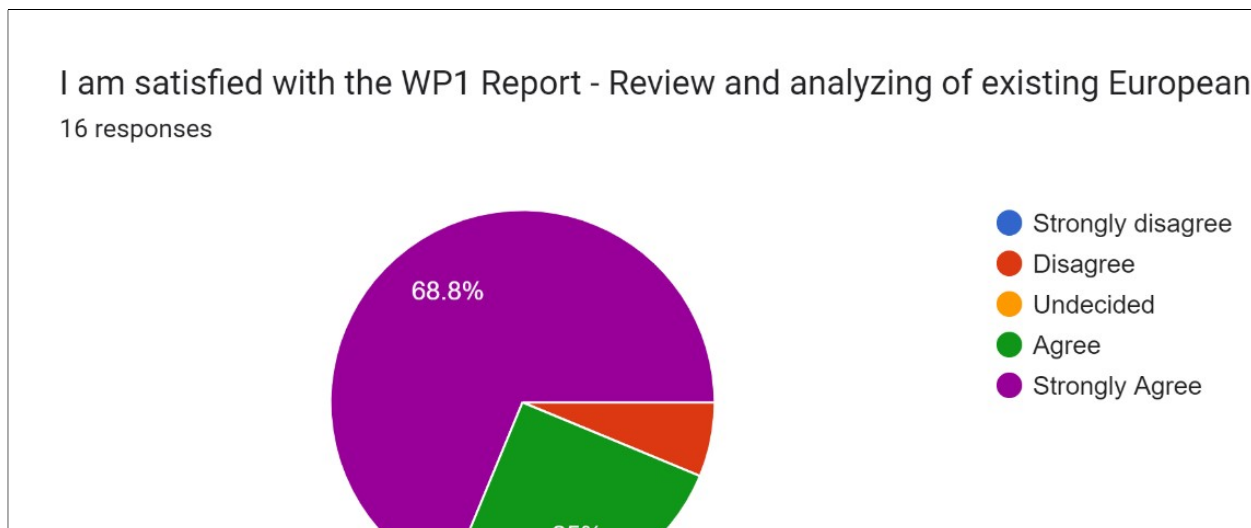
**Figure 4.** Assessment of the evaluators' own educational progress based on the project outcomes



**Figure 5.** Likelihood of evaluators applying newly adopted knowledge and skills in the professional work

## 5.2. Quality of Work Package 1 (WP1)

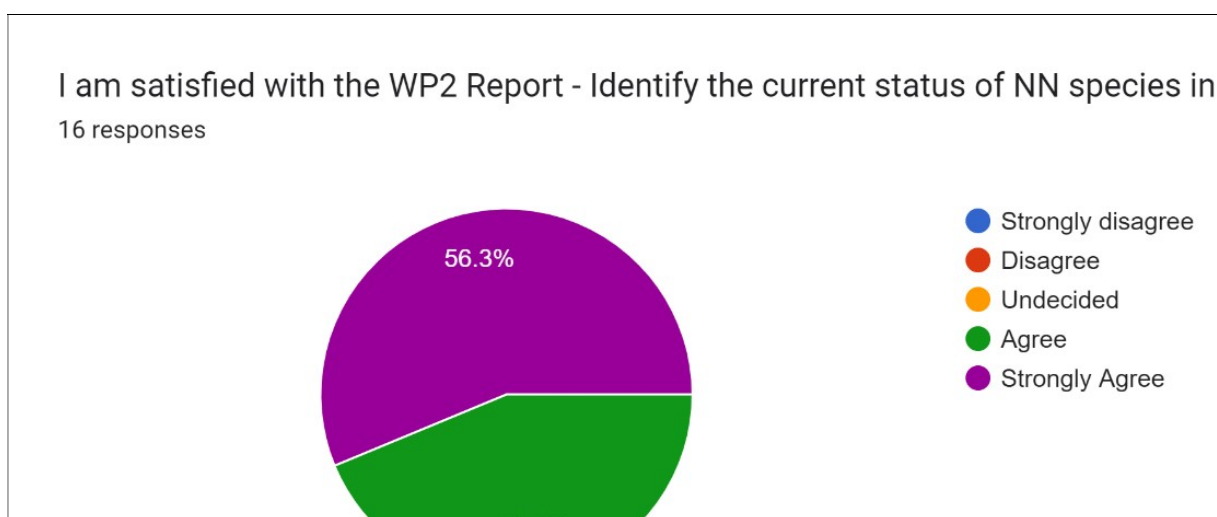
All but one, evaluators were satisfied with the WP1 Report - Review and analysing of existing European practices (Figure 6). General conclusion was that the report on WP1 has met the expectations, especially since the article has been published as a result. It provided a summary of all policies and practices which were present previously but never systematised. The only suggestion for improvement was that the deeper search for existing European practices should be made along with the regular update.



**Figure 6.** The degree of evaluators' satisfaction with the WP1 report

### 5.3. Quality of Work Package 2 (WP2)

All evaluators were satisfied with the outcome of WP2 - Identify the current status of NN species in Western Balkan (Figure 7). Comments given mostly agree that the produced database offers an extensive overview. In terms of possible improvement, comments were made that the database should be further improved in regard to eliminating repetition and redundancies, and that the database should be made publicly available online after the project's lifetime.

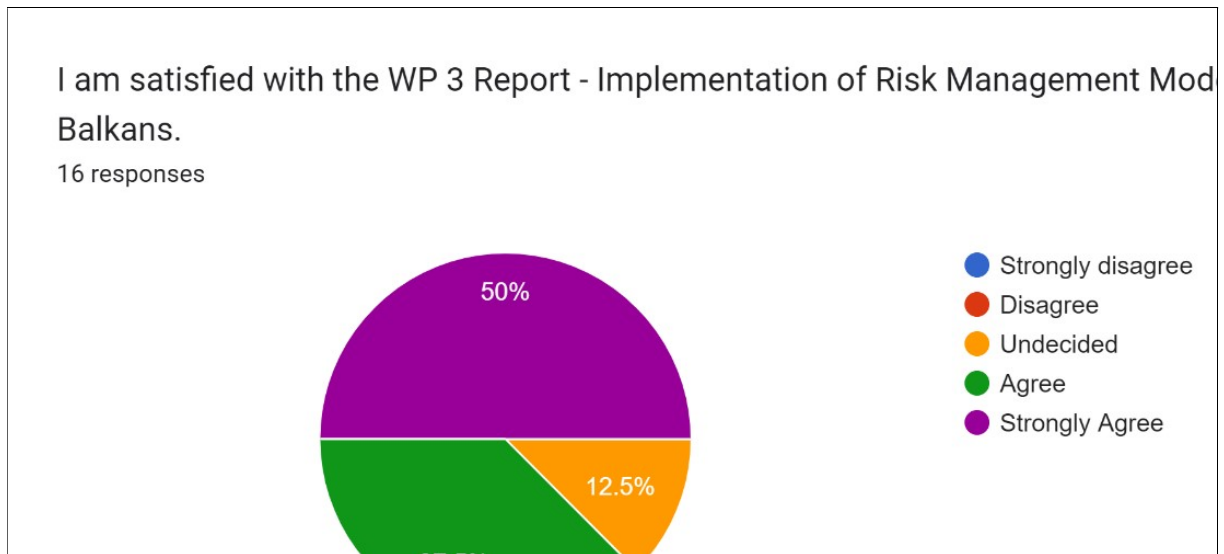


**Figure 7.** The degree of evaluators' satisfaction with the WP2 report

### 5.4. Quality of Work Package 3 (WP3)

Majority of evaluators (87.5%) stated that they were satisfied with the WP 3 Report - Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans (Figure 8). On the pro side, evaluators commented that the model combines two state-of-the-art tools offering a reliable risk identification for future management and decision making. On the other

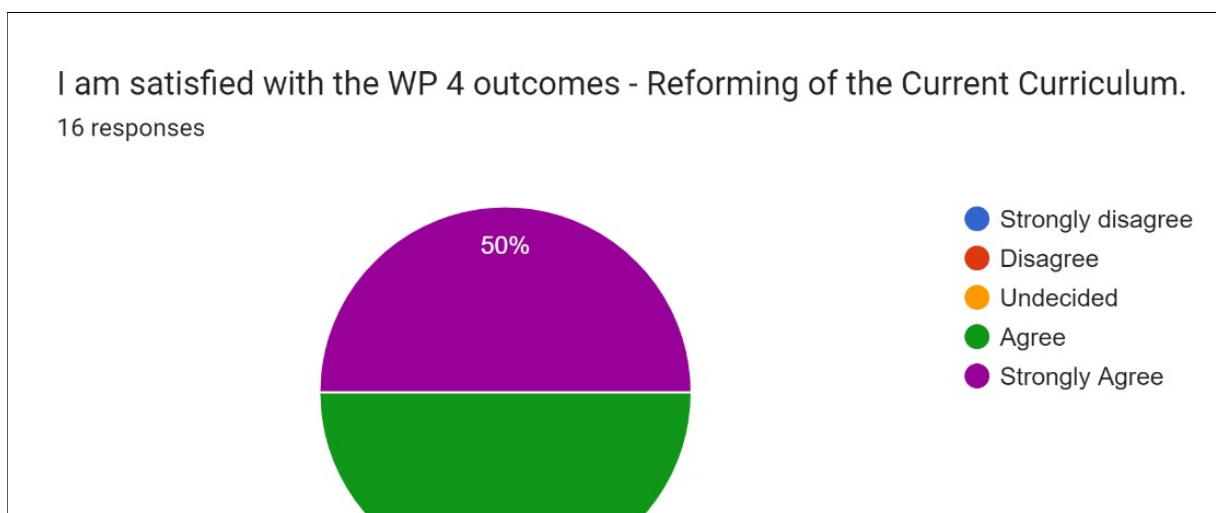
hand, some evaluators believed that the model is too general and not enough disseminated to the public.



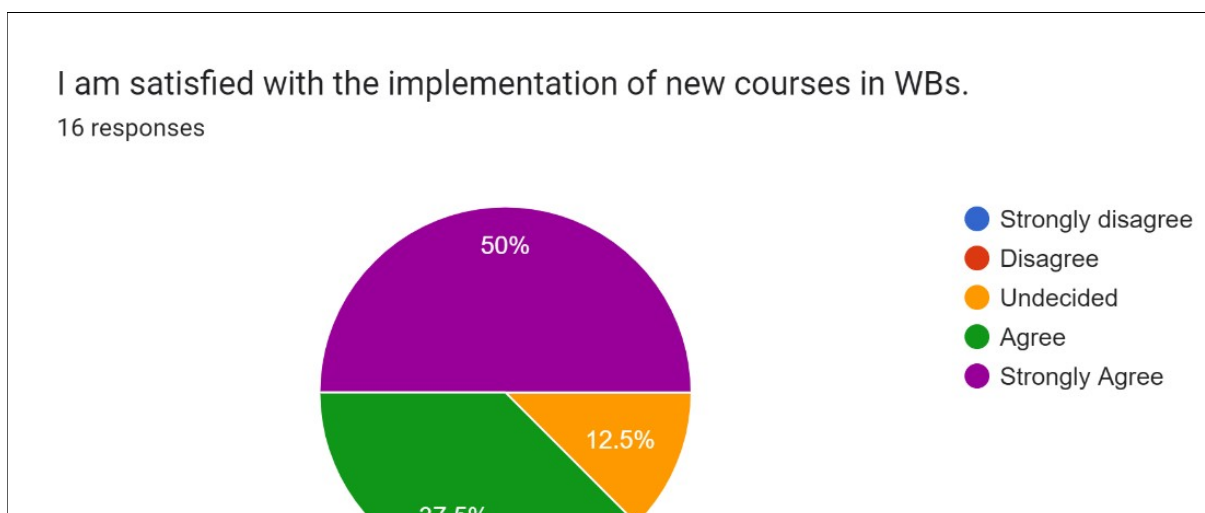
**Figure 8.** The level of evaluators' satisfaction with the WP3 report

### 5.5. Quality of Work Package 4 (WP4)

All of the evaluators stated they were satisfied with the WP4 outcome - Reforming of the Current Curriculum (Figure 9). However, a small percentage (12.5%) of evaluators were undecided regarding the implementation of new courses in Western Balkans (Figure 10). The comments in general stated that the curricula are well prepared and organised. Suggestions were given to further improve the reading and teaching materials, and that special attention should be given to the improvement of practical examples and case studies.



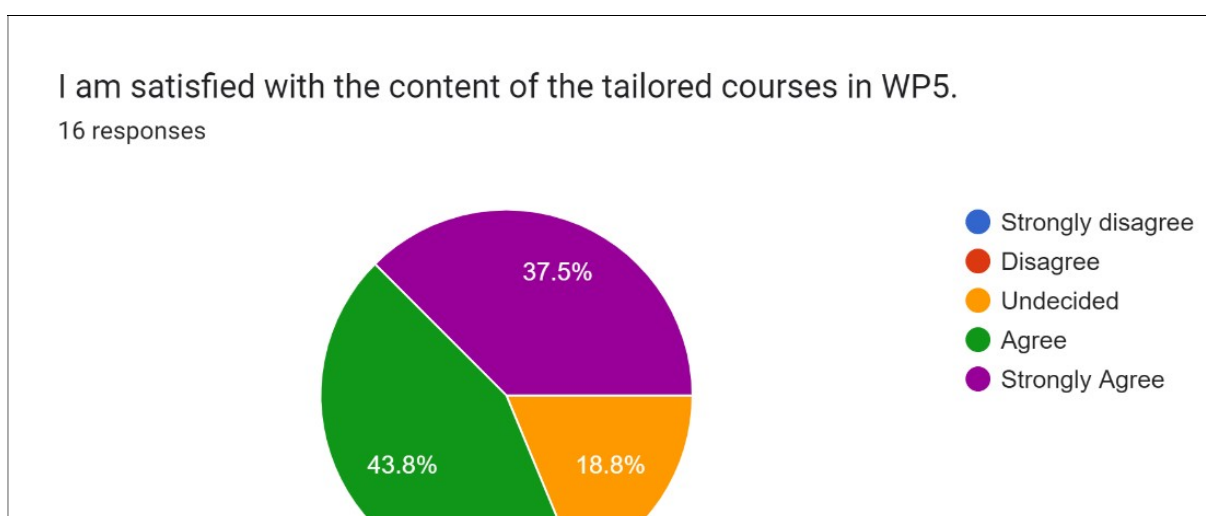
**Figure 9.** Evaluators' answers regarding the satisfaction with the WP4 outcomes



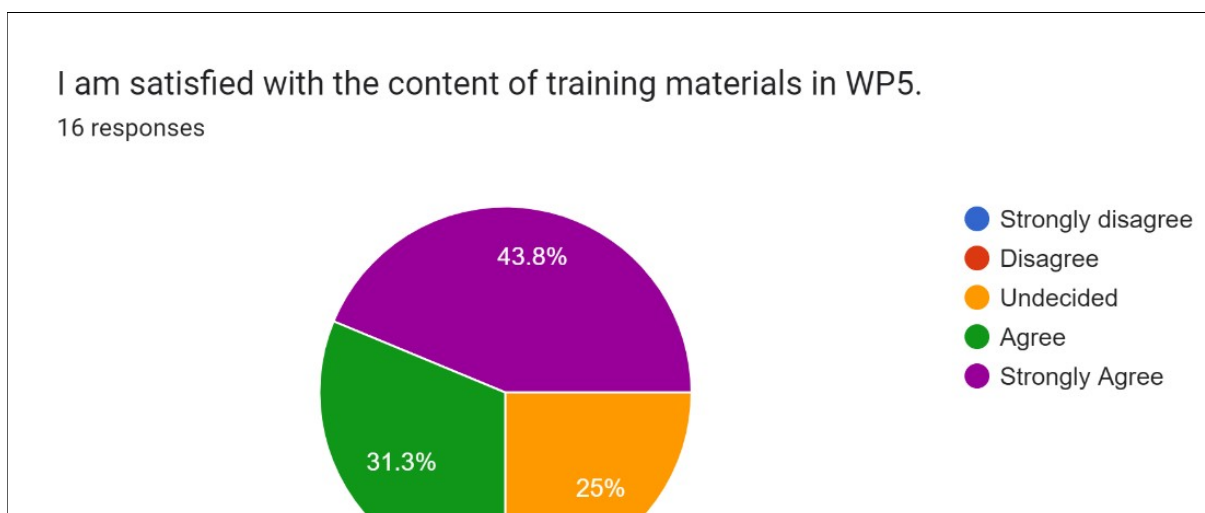
**Figure 10.** Satisfaction level regarding the implementation of new courses in Western Balkans

## 5.6. Quality of Work Package 5 (WP5)

The overall lowest level of satisfaction with the WPs' outcomes was stated for the Work Package 5. Of all answers, 18.8% were undecided regarding the satisfaction with the content of the tailored courses in WP5 (Figure 11), and further 25% were undecided regarding the content of the training materials in WP5 (Figure 12).

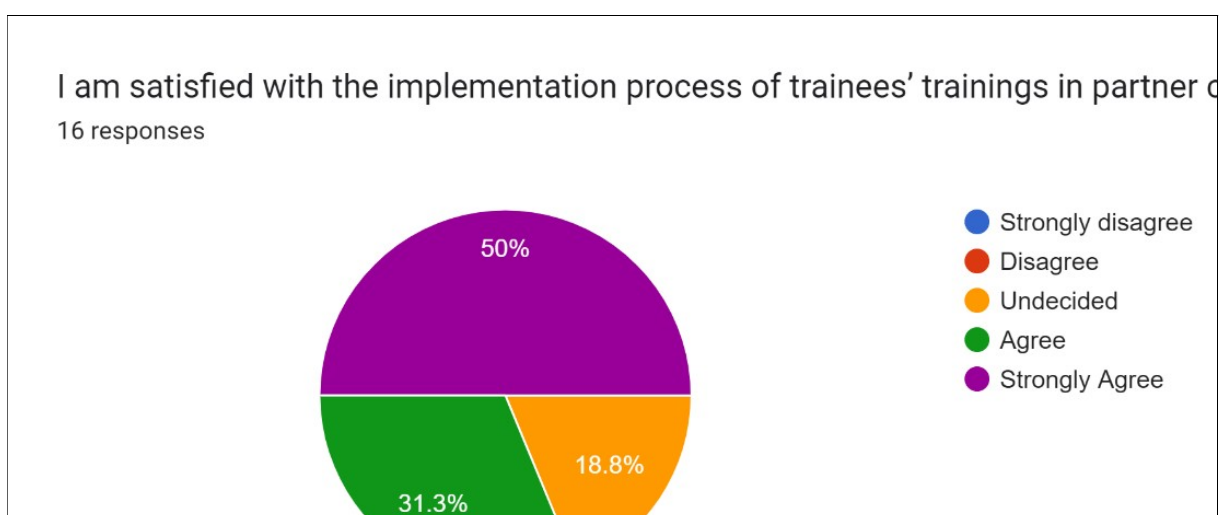


**Figure 11.** Satisfaction level regarding the content of the tailored courses within WP5

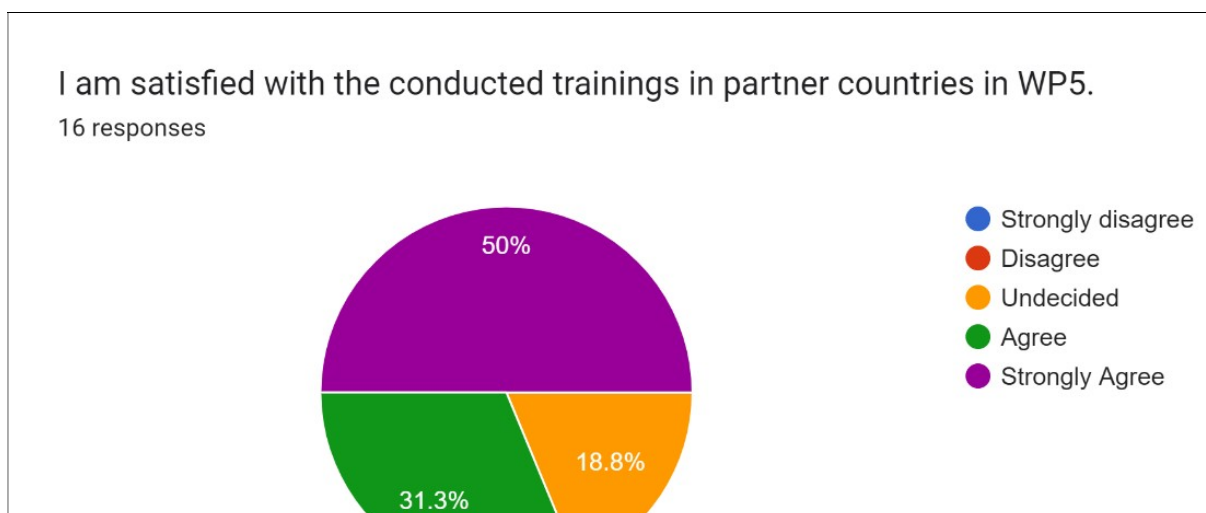


**Figure 12.** Satisfaction level regarding the content of the training materials within WP5

Same results were seen when evaluators were questioned if they were content with the implementation process of trainees' trainings in partner countries (Figure 13) and the conducted trainings in partner countries (Figure 14).

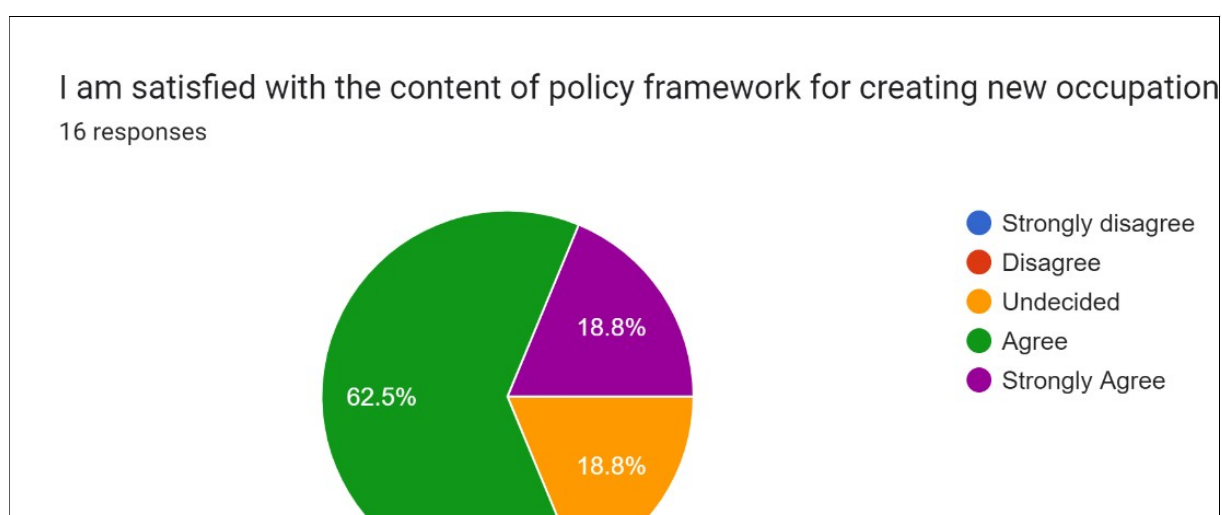


**Figure 13.** Satisfaction level regarding the implementation process of trainees' trainings in partner countries within WP5



**Figure 14.** Satisfaction level regarding the conducted trainings in partner countries in WP5

When asked about the policy framework for creating a new occupation of Risk Manager, 81.3% of evaluators stated that they are satisfied with the outcome (Figure 15). The opinion was that the policy document is well structured and developed and needs to be distributed to relevant institutions.



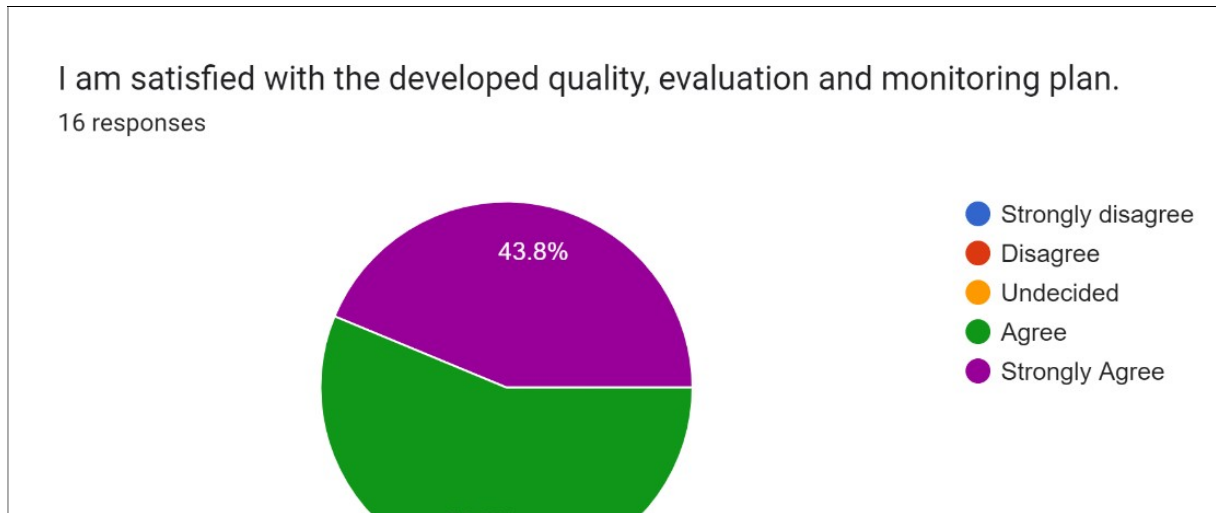
**Figure 15.** Satisfaction level regarding the content of the policy framework for the position of “Risk Manager”

The following comments and suggestions for the improvement were given by the evaluators regarding the outcomes of the WP5:

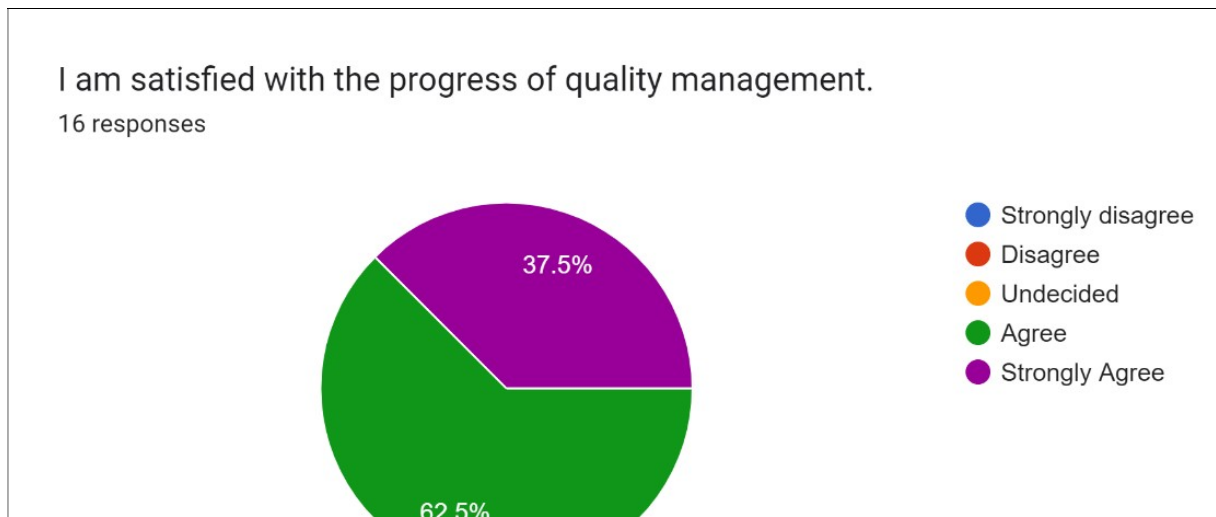
- The tailored courses were too scientific and general.
- Interactive components, practical examples and case studies were lacking, which would make the courses more appealing to a general audience.
- Although well completed, the training for trainers was short, as well as the training in the WBs countries.
- The reach of the training to young unemployed wasn't big. A better way to increase the participation of unemployed persons should be found and the dissemination of the training in public should be improved.
- Existing policy framework in partner countries requires analysis of market demand in order to create a new occupation - new job profile.

### 5.7. Quality of Work Package 6 (WP6)

Full satisfaction of the evaluators was seen when questioned about the monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan (MEQuP) (Figure 16) and the progress of quality management (Figure 17). Some indecision was seen (12.5%) regarding the adequacy of the multimedia sources quality (Figure 18).

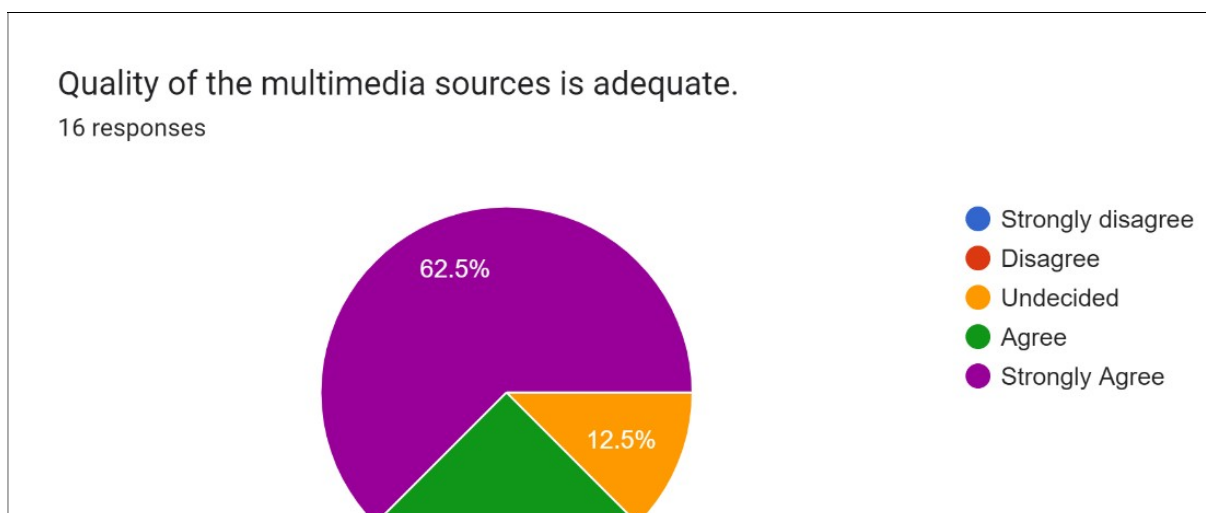


**Figure 16.** Answers to the question regarding the satisfaction with MEQuP



**Figure 17.** Satisfaction level of the progress of quality management.



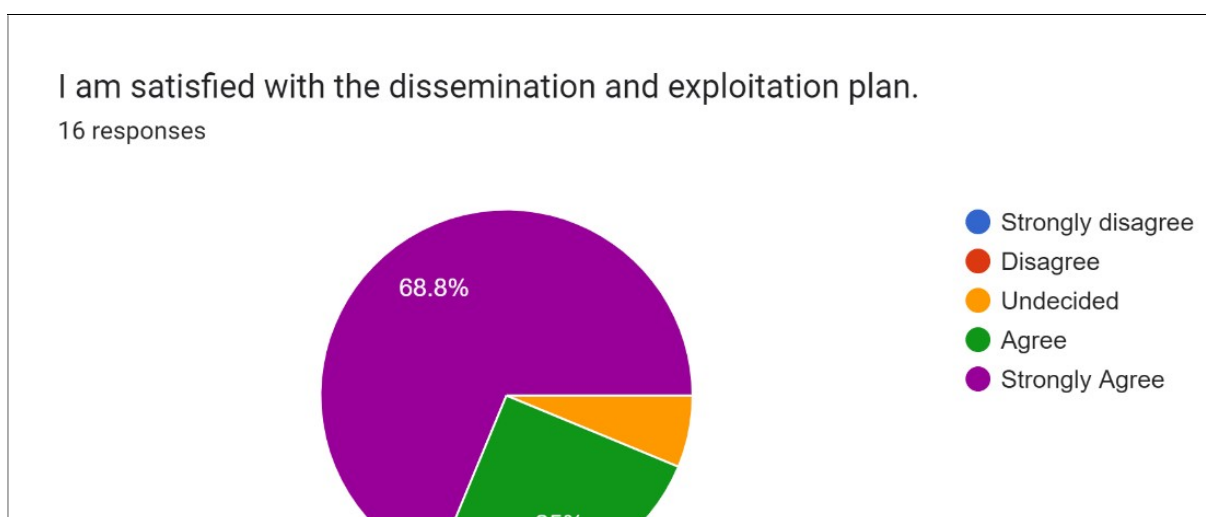


**Figure 18.** Satisfaction level of the multimedia sources quality

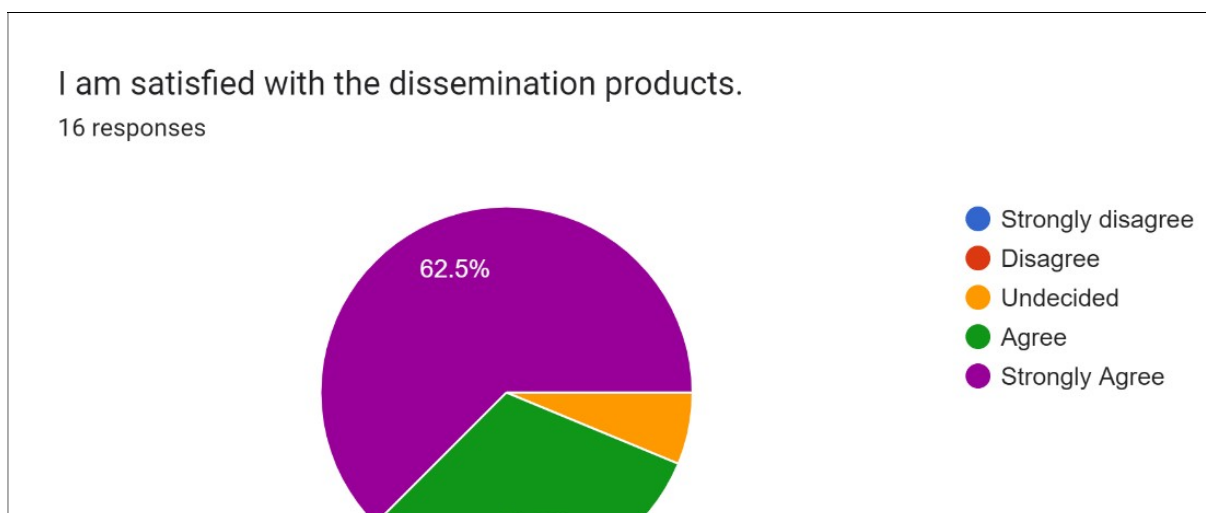
As stated by the evaluators, all materials suggested in the Quality Assurance document were distributed and with some delays were filled by the lead partner and the partners of the Project. The only improvement was suggested for the communication between the partners and understanding of the tasks. In general, evaluators assessed this WP as good.

### 5.8. Quality of Work Package 7 (WP7)

All but one, evaluators were satisfied with the dissemination and exploitation plan (Figure 19), and the dissemination products (Figure 20).

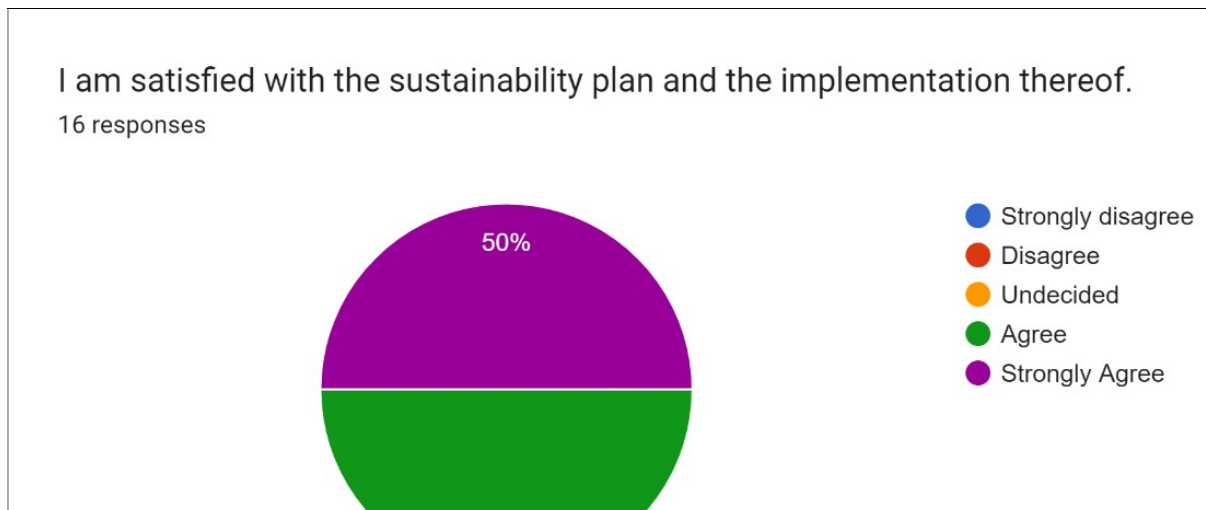


**Figure 19.** Satisfaction level with the dissemination and exploitation plan

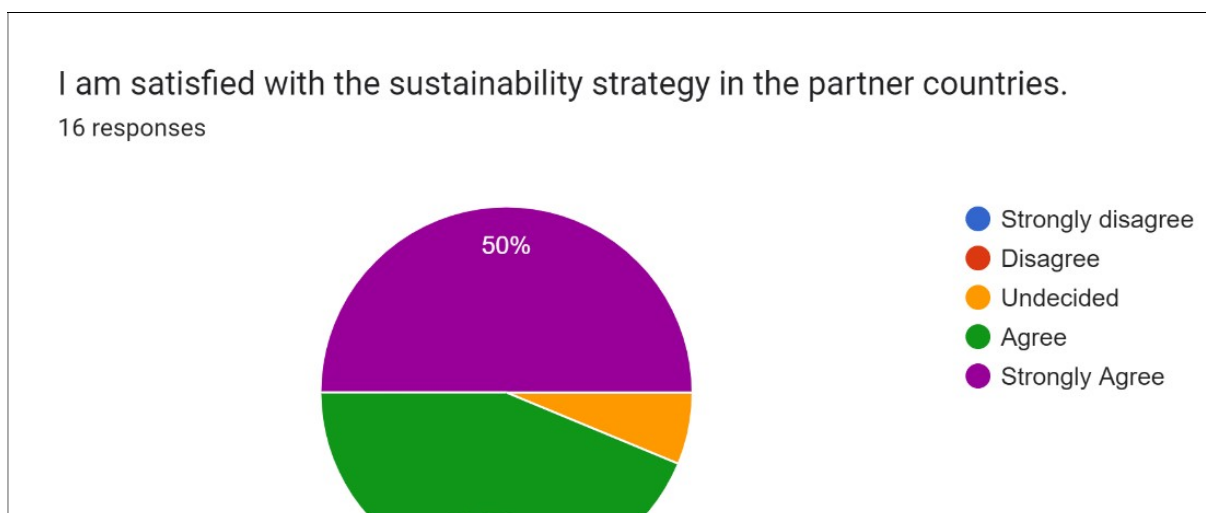


**Figure 20.** Satisfaction level with the dissemination products

All evaluators were satisfied with the sustainability plan and its implementation (Figure 21), and almost all were content with the sustainability strategy in the partner countries (Figure 22).



**Figure 21.** Satisfaction level with the sustainability plan and its implementation

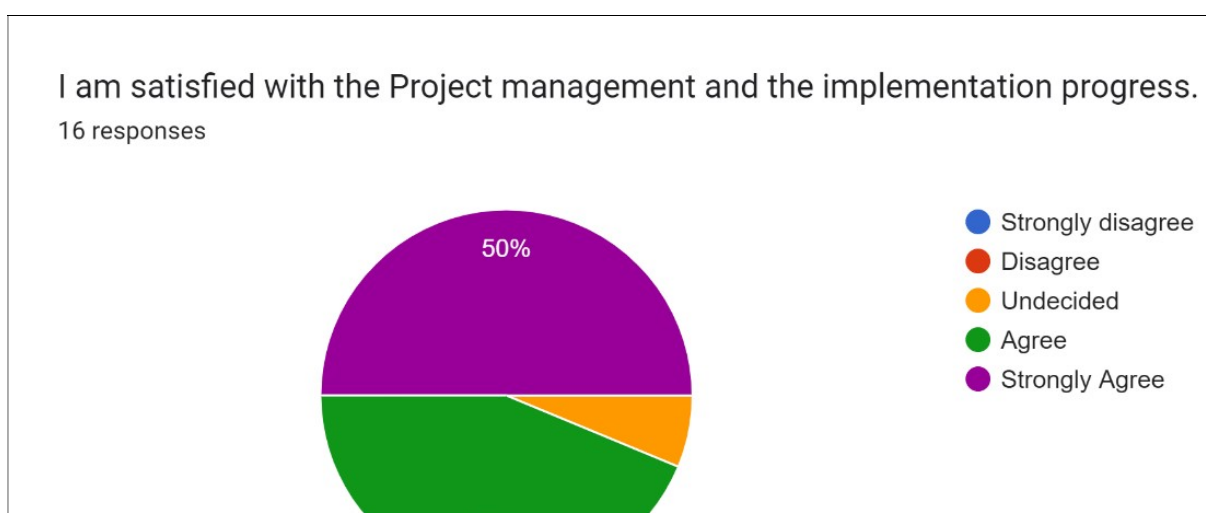


**Figure 22.** Satisfaction level with the sustainability strategy in the partner countries

The comments stated that the media coverage of the project was excellent in the WB countries and in some of the programme countries. It has been well recorded and followed by the implementing organisation and the reports showed good results. The products were well developed and designed. Only one negative comment was recorded stating that “the dissemination was low in the social media and that it was difficult for the public to understand the purpose of the project”.

### 5.9. Quality of Work Package 8 (WP8)

All but one, evaluators were satisfied with the project management and the implementation progress (Figure 23).



**Figure 23.** Satisfaction level with the project management and the implementation progress

As stated by the evaluators in the comments, project management was very good since the consortium respected deadlines and deliverables. Some drawbacks were seen in reporting since some instructions weren't clear enough and needed more guidance (e.g., for the financial report). Some evaluators also said that two years was a short period for the implementation of such a comprehensive project with many activities, some of which are administratively demanding and do not directly depend on the project participants.

In general conclusion, evaluators graded the project as novel and innovative. Evaluators were satisfied with the professional cooperation within the consortium and stated that they hope for the sustainability of the project outcomes and the network.

## 6. Annexes

Trimestral progress reports.



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# Progress report – November 2020- January 2021

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EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
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UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 1	6
3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 2	9
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6	10
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7	11
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8	12
3.5.1. Meetings	13
3.5.2. Management and operational structures	13
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	13



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country





## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the reporting period, November 2020 – January 2021, includes the following work package (WP) activities:

### **WP1 Review and Analysing of Existing European Practices**

- Task 1.1. Analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkan
- Task 1.2. Analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkan
- Task 1.3. Analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards



- Task 1.4. Develop policy and plan roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkan Education
- Task 1.5. Good Practice Collection and Producing good practice report.

## **WP2 Identify the current status of NN Species in Western Balkan**

- Task 2.1. Literature Review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries
- Task 2.2. Interview with industry representatives
- Task 2.3. Combining the findings for producing online platform
- Task 2.4. Creating online database
- Task 2.5. Pilot testing and assessments reviews.

## **WP6 Quality Control**

- Task 6.1. Establish the Quality committee
- Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
- Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

## **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries

## **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

### **3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 1**

The WP 1 - Review and Analysing of Existing European Practices is led by the University of Zagreb (UNIZG, Project partner no. 3) and prof. dr. Marina Piria as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

#### ***1.1. Analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkan***

- 1.2. *Analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkan*
- 1.3. *Analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards*
- 1.4. *Develop policy and plan roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkan Education.*
- 1.5. *Good Practice Collection and Producing good practice report.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans; Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans; Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards; Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education; Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education.

The tasks achieved have been delivered on time, and all objectives of the WP were met. During month 1 (M1), all partners conducted desk research to identify and assess the policy level documents and principles addressing non-native (NN) species in their respective countries. Since the project consortium comprises EU countries (Italy, Greece, and Croatia) and EU-candidate countries (Turkey, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro), the approach taken enabled the cross-matching of European practices and standards to those in Western Balkans. To further improve the assessment process, in M2, the WP leader created a questionnaire comprising 21 questions that addressed five areas: (A) Policy, (B) General environmental perception, (C) Educational issues, (D) Project-based, and (E) Socioeconomic perception (Table 1). Specific questions related to environmental definitions and specialized education were modified according to Boon et al. (2020) and Smith et al. (2011).

Table 1. Questionnaire on alien species policy, education, research, and socioeconomic issues

N. Question
<b>A. General- related to the policy</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there any impact of the EU Alien regulation (EU No. 1143/2014) on the formation of activities related to the NNS (citizen science development, research, education progress)?</li> <li>2. List and describe shortly policy documents addressing NN species (environment, aquaculture). Provide references with links for policy documents (if applicable)</li> </ol>
<b>B. Specific – environmental definitions and management plans, please provide examples if possible</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are 'alien species' defined in your country? Are translocated native species considered as alien species? If 'yes', please give some examples</li> <li>2. Are casual alien species considered as alien species?</li> </ol>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Are species that have expanded their range as a result of climate change considered as alien species?</li> <li>4. Are all introduced species considered as alien species, regardless of the date of introduction? If not, what cut-off date is used? Is it useful to apply a historical date as one of the criteria to determine non-nativeness of a species?</li> <li>5. Are there lists of alien species available in your country? Do you consider only those alien species known to be invasive, or all alien species?</li> <li>6. Are there monitoring programmes specifically designed for the detection of alien species or the expansion of their ranges? Would the routine monitoring programmes used in your country detect plants, invertebrates and fish in each of the aquatic habitat (i.e., rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal waters, marine environment)? If 'yes', what action is taken when an alien species is detected?</li> <li>7. Are there specific measures identified in the river basin plans or marine environment in your country for controlling alien species or preventing their spread? If 'yes', please provide web-links</li> <li>8. Are there any experiences in the field of risk management of NN species? If yes, please describe shortly</li> </ol>
<b>C. Specific -educational</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do any educational programs/training exist that focus specifically on the significant global environmental challenge of NNS or IAS?</li> <li>2. Do any programs and/or individual courses approach NNS issues from an interdisciplinary perspective? If yes, please describe shortly</li> <li>3. What is your opinion which target groups is priority in developing NNS educational programs in your country?</li> <li>4. Explain your vision on the approach of the educational program.</li> <li>5. What is your opinion for improvement of educational preparedness in Western Balkans?</li> </ol>
<b>D. Specific - project based</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is any other project considering/related to the NN species ongoing/finished (citizen science, research, education) in your institution/country? If yes, list projects and describe shortly. (for example, <i>Caulerpa</i> sp. campaign in Croatia)</li> </ol>
<b>E. Specific -Socio economic</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do citizens of your country perceive alien species?</li> <li>2. Is there an example that the alien species has stopped some common activities of citizens? If yes, give an example.</li> <li>3. Is there an example of an alien species that is economically exploited in your country?</li> <li>4. Have there been any attempts to remove alien species from the environment in your country?</li> <li>5. Have there been any visible economic and financial losses due to the spread of NN species? If yes, give an example.</li> </ol>
<b>F. Any other aspect? Optional</b>

All partners completed the questionnaire on time (M2). The documents were collected and deposited to the RISKMAN Google Drive under the folder WP\_1: Preparation\_ Lead Org: Zagreb University ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aOkY0P4xWe2yO\\_a-OdkDthDsk9UbwXp?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aOkY0P4xWe2yO_a-OdkDthDsk9UbwXp?usp=sharing)).

As the outcome of the WP1, the WP leader drafted a final report, and all project partners proofread, revised, and approved it. The content of the final report fully met the indicator of progress initially set in the project proposal. The report was uploaded to the RISKMAN Google under the folder WP\_1: Preparation\_ Lead Org: Zagreb University

([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IaOkY0P4xWe2yO\\_a-OdkDthDsk9UbWxP?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IaOkY0P4xWe2yO_a-OdkDthDsk9UbWxP?usp=sharing)).

The partners agreed to produce an executive summary of the WP1 final report and translate it to all national languages of the project partners. It is planned to upload the executive summary to the project's official website. The partners also agreed to produce and publish a scientific paper based on the results of WP1 to enhance the visibility and impact of the project.

### **3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 2**

The WP 2 - Identify the current status of NN Species in Western Balkan is led by the Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (ACEPSD, Project partner no. 6) and Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT, Project partner no. 8). Prof. dr. Rigers Bakiu was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*2.1. Literature Review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries*

*2.2. Interview with industry representatives*

*2.3. Combining the findings for producing online platform*

*2.4. Creating online database*

*2.5. Pilot testing and assessments reviews.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries; Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders; Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries.](#)

During M3, project partners from the Partner Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) conducted desk research. They produced a literature review about the biodiversity of main watercourses in respective countries. Species focus was on NN species and their management in the surveyed watercourses. As an added value, a literature review was also conducted for North Macedonia since it shares some watercourses and, consequently, the aquatic biota with Albania. The reviews and literature lists were uploaded to Riskman's Google Drive under the subfolder 2.1 Literature Review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16pLM\\_ZEgae4ZP9mVRaaH9ED6b3B5aUQ1?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16pLM_ZEgae4ZP9mVRaaH9ED6b3B5aUQ1?usp=sharing)). In parallel, the relevant stakeholders were identified in Partner countries, and the lists with contact information were made and uploaded to Riskman's Google Drive.

To enable comparison between the countries, the Program Countries' partners developed a standardized interview form for the industry representatives (Task 2.2) in English. The document was formatted as a questionnaire, structured in a multilevel approach. The first part aimed to collect information regarding the age, gender, and education structure of the interviewed group and the degree of knowledge about the NN species. The second part was intended for the employees of aquaculture facilities. Query aimed to understand the diversity/scope of species currently farmed in the three Target Balkan Countries and to

assess the potential risk that these species pose if released from the farms. The last part of the questionnaire was formulated for the professional and recreational anglers to collect potential new data on unknown NN species in the countries (fresh and marine waters). The concluding questions aimed at assessing the stakeholders' willingness to engage with future activities of the RiskMan Project. The English version of the questionnaire is available at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SvpzPbDSMBnLEEiktSxhUedbMN0a\\_oyh/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SvpzPbDSMBnLEEiktSxhUedbMN0a_oyh/view?usp=sharing).

The questionnaires were translated into the national languages of the partner countries to facilitate the interview process and reach as many stakeholders as possible. The questionnaires were uploaded to Riskman's Google Drive under the subfolder 2.2 Interview with industry representatives (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vOjuJzPGS7rEOTraViEQ3Vm-9sLY4ESD?usp=sharing>). According to the stakeholders' preference, questionnaires were emailed or printed out and handed in person during the field interviews. The completed questionnaires were scanned, and all were saved as pdf files in respective countries' subfolders on Riskman's Google Drive within the subfolder 2.2 Interview with industry representatives.

All the partners started evaluating the interview results, which will be gathered in national reports. The evaluation will follow the same format to facilitate data comparison. Partners also discussed the activities that needed to be taken regarding tasks 2.3.-2.5.

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*6.1. Establish the Quality committee*

*6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*

*6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[List of the Quality committee members](#); [Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site](#); [Reports of Quality activities](#).

According to the GANT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

During M1, through email correspondence, UNSA asked all project partners to delegate at least one member of the Quality Committee (QC) on behalf of their respective institutions. Based on the nominations, the following QC of the Riskman project was established:

1. Pešić Ana, University of Montenegro, Montenegro
2. Giovos Ioannis, iSea, Greece
3. Uçma Uysal Tugba, MSKU, Turkey

4. Aldemir Ceray, MSKU, Turkey
5. Troqe Ornela, Alb-Adriatico 2013, Albania
6. Špelić Ivan, University of Zagreb, Croatia
7. Trajanovski Sasho, HIO, North Macedonia
8. Zdraveski Konstantin, Ekomenlog Ohrid, North Macedonia
9. Džafić Subha, University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina
10. Durmić-Pašić Adaleta, University of Sarajevo-INGEB, Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. Hala Edmond, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania
12. Bakiu Silvia, ACEPSD, Albania
13. Dinoshi Irsida, UCB, Albania
14. Sarà Gianluca, UNIPA, Italy.

The Excel table with names, institutions, and contact information of the members of QC was created and uploaded to Riskman Google Drive into folder 6.1 Establish the Quality committee (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wMSodEzQAiXb-GWCr4ddhovSE6Rfe12z?usp=sharing>).

The structure of QC was accepted during the Kick-off meeting held online in M2.

The UNSA's team held internal meetings and consultations to recognize and draft the content of the future Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan (MEQuP). The MEQuP will be applicable in the teaching process, regular QC meetings, student and participant satisfaction evaluation, and external evaluators' monitoring visits (Task 6.2.). The Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan formalizes a guideline for partners of the RISKMAN project to ensure the highest possible quality of the project activities, outputs and outcomes, and project management. The electronic version of the MEQuP will be made publicly available on the website of the RISKMAN project.

To track if the measurable indicators are being met, the progress reports (Task 6.3.) will be regularly written to summarize the undertaken activities and achieved outcomes.

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is



published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

According to the GANT chart, activities within this WP start from M3 and last until the end of the project.

A dissemination and exploitation plan (Task 7.1.) is being developed, and various dissemination products (Task 7.2.) are also being created. For Erasmus+ RiskMan project dissemination and promotion, a blog on the official website of the Biotechnical Faculty was made available at [https://btf.unbi.ba/?page\\_id=4681](https://btf.unbi.ba/?page_id=4681). Also, an official RiskMan Facebook page (@riskman.erasmus) was created by Prof. Ass. Emir Mujić. The account administrators are Prof. Ass. Emir Mujić - University of Bihać (UNIBI, Partner no. 12), Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniela Giannetto - Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Prof. Dr. Halit Filiz - Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Nikos Doumpas – iSea (Partner no. 11), and Ioannis Giovos – iSea. Additionally, online articles, announcements on institutions' webpages, and communication channels (such as Linked In) were published in national and English languages. An Excel review table was created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime. The list is uploaded to Riskman Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>).

Tasks 7.3.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### **3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8**

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*
- 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*
- 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*
- 8.4. Reports.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

#### **3.5.1. Meetings**

The meeting in Brussels planned for M1 or M2 (GANT chart) had to be cancelled due to COVID pandemics and travel restrictions. For the same reason, the kick-off meeting



scheduled in Muğla, Turkey, had to be shifted to an online event. The kick-off meeting was held on December 10, 2020, on the Zoom platform. MSKU prepared the meeting agenda. The meeting was recorded and uploaded to Riskman Google Drive in the folder Meetings ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vx36Y\\_HN9TBLDtGBkXn8EqFK4tvhqD1Q?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vx36Y_HN9TBLDtGBkXn8EqFK4tvhqD1Q?usp=sharing)). A total of 44 project participants were present at the kick-off meeting. Meeting minutes were drafted and uploaded to Riskman Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hDjWOo4QT0ftn3tTU83zhEXBb-0V3ZcH/view?usp=sharing>).

The Erasmus+ CBHE - Regional Workshop Western Balkans organised by the European Commission was held on January 26, 2021. On behalf of the Riskman Consortium, Members of the UNBI team doc. dr. Emir Mujic, prof. dr. Azra Bakrač and Nermina Badić participated in this meeting.

### 3.5.2. Management and operational structures

The MSKU team set up an official webpage for the RISKMAN project. The site is available at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en>. It was agreed that webpage sections would be translated into all national languages of the Riskman consortium (Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, and Turkish), and the content will be available online.

All required bilateral documents were signed on time and uploaded as scanned copies to the Riskman Google Drive. MSKU prepared the Project Manual and uploaded it to the Riskman Google Drive (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UaZDKovWFOOJuZdNySsDZ2Xi-OVw2bnT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true>).

Tasks 8.3. and 8.4. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries		X		

7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders	X			
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries	X			
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature	X			
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website	X			
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages	X			
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			
14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials	X			
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site	X			
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			



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# **Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan**

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## **Progress report – February - April 2021**

### **WP6 QUALITY CONTROL**

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMENLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
01	May 2021	First draft
02	August 2022	Second draft
03	September 2022	Final version
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
CET	Central European Time
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
RISKMAN	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIBI	University of Bihać
UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package



# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Update for the Work Package 1	6
3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 2	7
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 3	8
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 6	8
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 7	9
3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 8	9
3.5.1. Meetings	10
3.5.2. Management and operational structures	10
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	11



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country



## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the following work package (WP) activities fully or partially fall within the reporting period, February – April 2021:

### **WP2 Identify the current status of NN Species in Western Balkan**

- Task 2.1. Literature Review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries
- Task 2.2. Interview with industry representatives
- Task 2.3. Combining the findings for producing online platform
- Task 2.4. Creating online database
- Task 2.5. Pilot testing and assessments reviews.

### **WP3 Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans**



- Task 3.1. Introducing risk management model in the literature
- Task 3.2. Providing a holistic view for risk management model
- Task 3.3. Suggesting a general implementation of risk management for all stakeholders
- Task 3.4. Publishing the model.

#### **WP6 Quality Control**

- Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
- Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

#### **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries

#### **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

### **3.1. Update for the Work Package 1**

The tasks achieved have been delivered on time, and all objectives of the WP were met. As agreed, the WP1 leader compiled an executive summary of the WP1 final report. All partners translated it into their respective national languages. The executive summary was uploaded to the project's official website and is available at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/wp1-review-and-analysing-of-existing-european-practices-7603>. The translated executive summaries were also uploaded to the respective subpages of Riskman's website in national languages.

The partners also agree to produce and publish a scientific paper based on the results of work package 1 to improve the visibility and impact of the project.



### 3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 2

The WP 2 - Identify the current status of NN Species in Western Balkan is led by the Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (ACEPSD Project partner no. 6) and Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT, Project partner no. 8). Prof. dr. Rigters Bakiu was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*2.1. Literature Review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries*

*2.2. Interview with industry representatives*

*2.3. Combining the findings for producing online platform*

*2.4. Creating online database*

*2.5. Pilot testing and assessments reviews.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries; Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders; Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries.

All partners evaluated the questionnaire results (task 2.2. Interview with industry representatives). Partners produced the national reports with statistical and graphical data and the interview results narrative interpretation. Reports for all countries were uploaded to Riskman's Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vOjuJzPGS7rEOTraViEQ3Vm-9sLY4ESD?usp=sharing>).

For tasks 2.3. and 2.4., partners created lists of aquatic NN species identified in Albania, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They contain the national language names, pathways, vectors, and the corresponding published literature. The lists are available from the Riskman's webpage under the WP2 section.

For the purpose of task 2.4., the partners used the data from the lists of the NN species to build a Google Form questionnaire to gather data about the sightings of NN species in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia from the general public. The questionnaires are permanently available on Riskman's webpage. They are available in English, Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Macedonian, and Montenegrin (<http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/wp2-identify-the-current-status-of-nn-species-in-western-balkan-7604>). The pilot testing (task 2.5.) was conducted for one month. Gathered replies were collected and evaluated, and national reports were written. They were uploaded to the Riskman Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HRI3OXXGAgroZ1N2-IJJuZi1sy4nHnkH?usp=sharing>). The partners agreed to produce a scientific article based on the activities and outcomes of the WP2.

Finally, the WP leader drafted the final report of the WP that was revised and agreed upon by all partners. WP2 executive summary was written and translated into all national languages of the consortium. The summary was uploaded to Riskman's webpage and is available at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/wp2-identify-the-current-status-of-nn-species-in-western-balkan-7604>.

[species-in-western-balkan-7604](#). The translated executive summaries were also uploaded to the respective subpages of the Riskman's website in national languages.

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 3**

The WP 3 - Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans is led by the Palermo University (UNIPA, Project partner no. 2). Prof. dr. Gianluca Sará was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 3.1. Introducing risk management model in the literature*
- 3.2. Providing a holistic view for risk management model*
- 3.3. Suggesting a general implementation of risk management for all stakeholders*
- 3.4. Publishing the model.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature; Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website.](#)

For task 3.1., the UNIPA team prepared the review of available existing literature. The scope was to clarify the basics of risk management through a short review of the available literature on NN species risk management, including a generic definition of risk, risk management, and their methodologies.

Within task 3.2., two assessment tools were identified as the most suitable, AS-ISK and MAXENT. In the following period, UNIPA will organize training sessions for all partners to master these two tools' underlying principles and usage.

Tasks 3.3. and 3.4. will be conducted based on the results and conclusions of the two previous tasks.

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 6.1. Establish the Quality committee*
- 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*
- 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.](#)

According to the GANT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

During the Steering Committee meeting on April 21, 2021, the WP6 leader reported that COVID highly impacted the activities within this work package since more than 60% of UNSA's team has been affected for most of this reporting period. Therefore, drafting the Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan (MEQuP) has also been affected. However, it is expected to meet the goal of task 6.2. in the next period.

### **3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

Partners further commented on and revised the dissemination and exploitation plan (Task 7.1.). An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the Riskman Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>).

Tasks 7.3.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### **3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 8**

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

*8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*

## *8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*

## *8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*

## *8.4. Reports.*

### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

### **3.5.1. Meetings**

MSKU prepared and held an evaluation meeting on February 18, 2021, at 11 AM CET. The meeting was held online using the Zoom platform. The meeting was recorded, and the video was uploaded to the Riskman Google Drive ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19JuD6byC1WSgpJERoX1DGQdqEymI\\_91M?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19JuD6byC1WSgpJERoX1DGQdqEymI_91M?usp=sharing)).

University of Palermo (UNIPA, Partner no. 2) prepared the agenda for the Steering Committee meeting. Due to ongoing travel restrictions caused by COVID pandemics, the meeting was not held in person in Palermo. Still, it was organized in an online format using the Zoom platform. The meeting was held on April 21, 2021, starting at 2:30 PM (CET) under the UNIPA responsibility. During the meeting, an overview of WP1 and WP2 activities and outcomes was made, the actions of WP3 were planned, and the responsible institutions gave the status update on the ongoing WP6 and WP7. The meeting was recorded, and the video was uploaded to the Riskman Google Drive ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sk1i7dz1Q65OLQ\\_oibghkwyfFpzF0J1V?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sk1i7dz1Q65OLQ_oibghkwyfFpzF0J1V?usp=sharing)).

### **3.5.2. Management and operational structures**

All Partnership Agreements were signed on time and uploaded as scanned copies to the Riskman Google Drive. The Partner Countries made the lists of the equipment to be purchased.

Based on the CBHE rules, WP5 should be completely re-designed. The change included switching activities planned initially for programme countries' beneficiaries to the professional courses that will take place in Partner Countries Universities.

The list for the purchase of equipment was updated for all eligible partners.

Riskman webpage sections were translated into all national languages of the Riskman consortium (Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, and Turkish) based on the original content in English and Turkish. The webpage (<http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en>) has the following sections: Home, Project Partners,

WPs and Outputs, Contact, and Events. All sections are available online in all national languages of the Riskman consortium.

Tasks 8.3. and 8.4. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

#### 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature	X			
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website	X			
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages	X			
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			
14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials	X			
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	

22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site	X			
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			



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# Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## Progress report – May - July 2021

### WP6 QUALITY CONTROL

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMENLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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**DOCUMENT HISTORY**



Version	Date	Comment
01	August 2021	First draft
02	August 2022	Second draft
03	September 2022	Final version
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
CET	Central European Time
EACEA	The European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIBI	University of Bihać
UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package



# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Update for the Work Package 1	6
3.2. Update for the Work Package 2	6
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 3	7
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 6	8
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 7	8
3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 8	9
3.5.1. Meetings	9
3.5.2. Management and operational structures	9
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	10



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

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2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country



## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANT chart, the following work package (WP) activities fully or partially fall within the reporting period, May – July 2021:

### **WP3 Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans**

Task 3.2. Providing a holistic view for risk management model

Task 3.3. Suggesting a general implementation of risk management for all stakeholders

Task 3.4. Publishing the model.

### **WP4 Reforming of the Curriculum**

Task 4.1. Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum

Task 4.2. Planning of pilot testing



- Task 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing
- Task 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process.

### **WP6 Quality Control**

- Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
- Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

### **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries

### **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

## **3.1. Update for the Work Package 1**

As previously agreed, the WP1 leader drafted a scientific paper based on the results of work package 1. Other consortium participants revised and further improved the manuscript. The manuscript's working title is "An assessment of regulation, education practices and socio-economic perceptions of non-native aquatic species in the Balkans". The paper was submitted to the Journal of Vertebrate biology (special issue on Invasive Aquatic Species). This paper is an added value to the WP1 and the project in general.

## **3.2. Update for the Work Package 2**

Based on the experience gained through pilot testing of the online database of NN species (tasks 2.4. and 2.5.), the consortium decided to revise the designed Google Form further and therefore organized an online meeting on July 14, 2021, on the Zoom platform. The meeting was scheduled and coordinated by Nikos Doumpas (iSea, Partner no. 11). The meeting was recorded and uploaded to the Riskman Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y0eARiCeG2m4GGBLwKnVRCncfwHZXI8P?usp=sharing>).



The revision considered further adjustments to the list of NN species (additionally updated; please refer below to the WP3 section) in the Form. The adjustment included the species that are (1) the most invasive, (2) most likely to be encountered by citizen scientists, and (3) easy to identify through photographs. Also, contacts of all partners were added to make them available to the general public, especially if the specimen has been taken and preserved in the field. For the short-listed species (available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hfbQ0OYAVrty1mTuRFFZCJJfjik3J8rC>), partners provided the photos following copyright rules. Following partners' approval of the altered Google Form in English, the Form was translated into national languages, and the final versions were uploaded to Riskman's official webpage to substitute older versions.

A meeting between University of Sarajevo, University of Bihać, and University of Zagreb was held on June 23, 2021, chaired by Prof. Marina Piria, PhD (<https://www.facebook.com/riskman.erasmus/photos/pcb.281043120477847/281040997144726>). The meeting aimed to review the list of NN aquatic species in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the aforementioned adjustments. The list of NN aquatic species created within the RiskMan project is the first such list created for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 3**

The WP 3 - Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans is led by the Palermo University (UNIPA, Project partner no. 2). Prof. dr. Gianluca Sará was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 3.1. Introducing risk management model in the literature*
- 3.2. Providing a holistic view for risk management model*
- 3.3. Suggesting a general implementation of risk management for all stakeholders*
- 3.4. Publishing the model.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature; Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website.

For task 3.1., the UNIPA team prepared the review of available existing literature. The scope was to clarify the basics of risk management through a short review of the available literature on NN species risk management, including a generic definition of risk, risk management, and their methodologies.

Within task 3.2., two assessment tools were identified as the most suitable, AS-ISK and MAXENT. In the following period, UNIPA will organize training sessions for all partners to master these two tools' underlying principles and usage.

To maximize the benefits of implementing AS-ISK and Maxent, additional work has been done on the list of NN species compiled within WP2. Prof. dr. Marina Piria (UNIZG) coordinated the effort. The species were categorized into the following groups: naturalized aquatic species, species with only one record, and Horizon species. All data concurred with

literature citations. The revised list (available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hfbQ0OYAVrty1mTuRFFZCJJfjik3J8rC>) will serve as input for the assessments using AS-ISK and Maxent tools.

To coordinate the needed actions regarding the implementation of AS-ISK and Maxent in the risk assessment of NN species, UNIPA organized an online meeting on the Zoom platform on July 21, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the two selected assessment tools to the consortium. For the species distribution model (SDM), the partners agreed to (1) define the target species to be included in the selected approach and (2) extract occurrence data with decimal longitude and latitude from the literature and databases (GBIF, CABI, OBIS). The meeting was recorded and uploaded to Riskman's Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CcxWdrHYXH1RzNBevGjBmu5HW3ISOvx1?usp=sharing>).

Tasks 3.3. and 3.4. will be conducted based on the results and conclusions of two previous tasks. A slight delay in completion of these tasks is foreseen compared to the timeline in the GANT chart.

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*6.1. Establish the Quality committee*

*6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*

*6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.

According to the GANT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

UNSA's team drafted the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Plan (MEQuP) ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h35FQBk-CfojyTQSGAji5eW\\_2wHv5Pvo/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h35FQBk-CfojyTQSGAji5eW_2wHv5Pvo/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true)) to be revised and improved by the rest of consortium.

### **3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

- 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*
- 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*
- 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*
- 7.5. Final Conference*
- 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*
- 7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

Partners further commented on and revised the dissemination and exploitation plan (Task 7.1.). An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the Riskman Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>).

Tasks 7.3.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### **3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 8**

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*
- 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*
- 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*
- 8.4. Reports.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

### 3.5.1. Meetings

Meetings organized during this progress reporting period are stated in previous sections of this document (please refer to 3.2. and 3.3.). MSKU provided all the needed support and technical assistance.

### 3.5.2. Management and operational structures

EACEA confirmed the updated lists of the equipment to be purchased and approved the continuation of the process. The lead coordinator undertook all required administrative tasks.

MSKU continued to update the content of the Riskman official webpage (<http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en>) in sections: Home, Project Partners, WPs and Outputs, Contact, and Events.

Tasks 8.3. and 8.4. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature	X			
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website	X			
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages	X			
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			



14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials	X			
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site	X			
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			



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# **Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan**

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## **Progress report – August - October 2021**

### **WP6 QUALITY CONTROL**

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMENLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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**DOCUMENT HISTORY**



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01	November 2021	First draft
02	August 2022	Second draft
03	September 2022	Final version
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
CET	Central European Time
EACEA	The European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIBI	University of Bihać
UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Update for the Work Package 1	6
3.2. Update for the Work Package 2	6
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 3	6
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 4	7
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 6	8
3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 7	8
3.7. Progress report for the Work Package 8	9
3.7.1. Meetings	10
3.7.2. Management and operational structures	10
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	10



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country



## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the following work package (WP) activities fully or partially fall within the reporting period, August – October 2021:

### **WP4 Reforming of the Curriculum**

- Task 4.1. Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum
- Task 4.2. Planning of pilot testing
- Task 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing
- Task 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process.

### **WP6 Quality Control**

- Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan



Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

### **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries

### **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

**Note:** Due to revisions of the NN species lists that are the basis for activities within WP3, tasks 3.3. and 3.4. are a bit delayed. Therefore, this progress report also includes those activities.

### **3.1. Update for the Work Package 1**

The manuscript "An assessment of regulation, education practices and socio-economic perceptions of non-native aquatic species in the Balkans" has been accepted for publication. The article is open-access, and it is available at <https://doi.org/10.25225/jvb.21047>.

### **3.2. Update for the Work Package 2**

Based on the agreement to produce a scientific paper based on the results of WP2, AUT drafted a manuscript and uploaded it to Riskman Google Drive. Other consortium partners commented and revised the text. The consensus was to do a major revision of the text to suit the requirements and format of a scientific paper.

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 3**

The WP 3 - Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans is led by the Palermo University (UNIPA, Project partner no. 2). Prof. dr. Gianluca Sará was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 3.1. Introducing risk management model in the literature*
- 3.2. Providing a holistic view for risk management model*



*3.3. Suggesting a general implementation of risk management for all stakeholders*

*3.4. Publishing the model.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature; Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website.

To provide a holistic view of the risk management model (Task 3.2.), the Program Countries Organizations have carried out two training activities for the Partners Countries (UNIPA, MSKU, and UNIZG). The first training session on AS-ISK was organized online via the Zoom platform on August 31, 2021, by MSKU and UNIZG. The second training session MaxEnt was organized online via the Zoom platform on September 7, 2021, by MSKU and UNIPA. Trainers explained the main principles of Risk Screening, Analysis, and Management and gave an overview of two tools currently used for these purposes (AS-ISK and MaxEnt). Both meetings were recorded, and videos are available at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d3F7ZMSygtkuOdjsLXLQs\\_rT2qXVibLg?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d3F7ZMSygtkuOdjsLXLQs_rT2qXVibLg?usp=sharing) (AS-ISK session) and <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aJC3qj519UHO-P-At8o2dmYVBucsWgah/view?usp=sharing> (MaxEnt).

All teams from Partner countries chose three species relevant for their region to assess risk through AS-ISK and model their distributions using MaxEnt. The selection criteria were that species (1) had to be potentially invasive, (2) represent invertebrate, vertebrate, and macrophyte groups, and (3) could be marine or freshwater, depending on the concern in the Partner country.

Tasks 3.3. and 3.4. are behind schedule and will be conducted based on the results and conclusions of two previous tasks.

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 4**

WP 4 – Reforming the curriculum is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

*4.1. Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum*

*4.2. Planning of pilot testing*

*4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing*

*4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Content of the three proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages; Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in one of the Partner Country published on project web site; New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages.





According to the GANTT chart, this WP spans from M9 until M23.

For task 4.1., partners from PCs drafted initial proposals for three new courses to update the existing curricula. It was agreed that these proposals would be evaluated during the meeting in Muğla in November at which point a consensus would be made.

Tasks 4.2., 4.3., and 4.4. will be conducted after completion of task 4.1.

### **3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*6.1. Establish the Quality committee*

*6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*

*6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.](#)

According to the GANTT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

The project partners revised and improved the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Plan (MEQuP) ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h35FQBk-CfojyTQSGAji5eW\\_2wHv5Pvo/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h35FQBk-CfojyTQSGAji5eW_2wHv5Pvo/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true)). Partners agreed that the final version would be officially adopted during the Steering Committee meeting in November in Muğla.

### **3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

Belma Kalamujić Stroil (UNSA) presented the Riskman project as a part of her oral presentation, "Two-decade's experience of genetic monitoring of broodstock from several fish farms in Bosnia and Herzegovina" at the 2nd Congress of Geneticists in Bosnia and Herzegovina with international participation held in online format September 13-17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (<https://journal.genapp.ba/index.php/genapp/article/view/145/89>).

Partners further commented on and revised the dissemination and exploitation plan (Task 7.1.). An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the Riskman Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>). The webpage's content was updated with the current materials in English and translated into all the Riskman consortium national languages.

The MSKU team prepared PowerPoint dissemination slides to be used for the presentation of the project at meetings/symposiums/webinars, etc.

Tasks 7.3.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### **3.7. Progress report for the Work Package 8**

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 8.1. *Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*
- 8.2. *Establishment of management and operational structures*
- 8.3. *Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*
- 8.4. *Reports.*

### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANTT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

### 3.7.1. Meetings

Meetings organized during this progress reporting period are stated in previous sections of this document (please refer to 3.3.). MSKU provided all the needed support and technical assistance. In October, MSKU also launched the preparations for the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in November in Muğla, Turkey.

### 3.7.2. Management and operational structures

Since the University of Bihać is facing the problem of not having the Steering Committee, which prevents them from conducting the public procurement process for the equipment purchase, they sent a formal request to the University of Sarajevo to conduct a joint procurement for both institutions within the Riskman project. Several meetings and communications took place between MSKU, UNSA, UNIBI, and EACEA to solve this issue.

Tasks 8.3. and 8.4. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature	X			
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website	X			
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages	X			
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			

14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials	X			
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site	X			
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			



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# **Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan**

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## **Progress report – November 2021 - January 2022**

### **WP6 QUALITY CONTROL**

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMENLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



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HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
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WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 3	6
3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 4	7
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6	7
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7	8
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8	9
3.5.1. Meetings	9
3.5.2. Management and operational structures	10
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	10



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

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2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country





## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the reporting period, November 2021 – January 2022, includes the following work package (WP) activities:

### **WP4 Reforming of the Curriculum**

- Task 4.1. Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum
- Task 4.2. Planning of pilot testing
- Task 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing
- Task 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process.

### **WP6 Quality Control**

- Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan



Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

### **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries

### **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

**Note:** Due to revisions of the NN species lists that are the basis for activities within WP3, tasks 3.3. and 3.4. are a bit delayed. Therefore, this progress report also includes those activities.

### **3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 3**

The WP 3 - Implementation of Risk Management Model for Western Balkans is led by the Palermo University (UNIPA, Project partner no. 2). Prof. dr. Gianluca Sará was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 3.1. Introducing risk management model in the literature*
- 3.2. Providing a holistic view for risk management model*
- 3.3. Suggesting a general implementation of risk management for all stakeholders*
- 3.4. Publishing the model.*

### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature; Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website.](#)

During the WP3 session at the Steering Committee (StC) meeting in Muğla (November 10-13, 2022), UNIPA, with other partners, conducted the risk assessment through AS-ISK and

modelled the distributions using MaxEnt for three previously chosen species (Task 3.3.). At the session, additional training on using the selected software and interpreting the results was provided by UNIPA. After reviewing the progress within WP3, partners agreed to do MaxEnt analysis for a total of ten freshwater species (four more species to be modelled) and ten marine species (six more species to be modelled). Partners agreed to publish the results of this analysis in the form of a scientific paper. All materials were uploaded to Riskman's Google Drive ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gk\\_m1\\_oXc9oqWP-hBRKZRV9G8Ug-550Q?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gk_m1_oXc9oqWP-hBRKZRV9G8Ug-550Q?usp=sharing)).

The completion of 3.4. is behind schedule, and therefore partners agreed to intensify the efforts within this WP.

### **3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 4**

WP 4 – Reforming the curriculum is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 4.1. Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum*
- 4.2. Planning of pilot testing*
- 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing*
- 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Content of the three proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages; Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in one of the Partner Country published on project web site; New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages.

According to the GANTT chart, this WP spans from M9 until M23.

Based on the previous proposals for three new courses to be introduced in the curriculum (Task 4.1.) and after the discussion during the WP4 session in the Muğla StC meeting, PCs agreed to adopt the following courses: (1) Biology of aquatic NNS, (2) Impacts of aquatic NNS, and (3) Risk Analysis and management of aquatic NNS. Partners also defined lecture topics for 15-week-long courses. Partners agreed to conduct a curriculum pilot testing (Task 4.2.) at the University of Sarajevo (UNSA) in March 2022.

Due to COVID restrictions that affected the work process at universities, the completion of task 4.2. is a bit behind schedule, according to GANTT. However, partners agreed to intensify the activities within this WP. Tasks 4.3. and 4.4. will be conducted after completion of task 4.2.

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*6.1. Establish the Quality committee*

*6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*

*6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.

According to the GANTT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

The final version of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Plan (MEQuP) (Task 6.2.) was officially adopted during the StC meeting in November in Muğla. Partners agreed to make the MEQuP publicly available from Riskman's official web page at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/wp6-quality-control-7602>.

The QC and the StC accepted all reported activities from WPs (Task 6.3.) during the meeting in Muğla. It was agreed that UNSA would produce the trimestral reports in a written format for all adopted activities and outcomes and upload them to Riskman's Google Drive.

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

The StC officially adopted the final version of the dissemination and exploitation plan (Task 7.1.) during a meeting in November in Muğla. The dissemination and exploitation plan is

publicly available on Riskman's official web page at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/dissemination-plan-7624>.

The MSKU team organized a series of Workshops to disseminate the results of the RiskMan project in Muğla on November 11-12, 2021 (<https://www.facebook.com/riskman.erasmus/photos/pcb.375900920992066/375900727658752/>;  
<https://www.facebook.com/riskman.erasmus/photos/a.331090008806491/373748084540683/>;  
<https://www.facebook.com/riskman.erasmus/photos/a.140516801197147/375895210992637/>)

On December 9, 2021, Riskman team member AnaPešić (UMo) presented the RiskMan project during the meeting "Synergy effects of Erasmus+ projects for better cooperation with the economy" organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro in cooperation with the National Erasmus+ Office.

On December 24, 2021, Riskman team members Emir Mujić (UNIBI) and Daniela Giannetto (MSKU) presented the Riskman project during the hybrid event "Promotion of project activities of the University of Bihać".

An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the Riskman Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>). The webpage's content was updated with the current materials in English and translated into all the Riskman consortium national languages.

Tasks 7.3.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### **3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8**

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*
- 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*
- 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*
- 8.4. Reports.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANTT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

### 3.5.1. Meetings

On November 7, 2021, UNSA organized a national workshop on AS-ISK assessment to provide additional training for the project participants from UNSA and UNIBI team (<https://twitter.com/ingebunsa/status/1457441628700958721?s=20&t=DZlz-0lgJ13xh59d-gy37A>).

MSKU organized the StC meeting in Muğla, Turkey, on November 10-13, 2022. During the meeting, partners reviewed the results of WP2-WP8 and agreed on future tasks, responsibilities, and deadlines. MSKU drafted the meeting minutes (available on Riskman's Google Drive, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BADfBrf-9UYACHbwZdXW3OiRSuD3ZOB6/view?usp=sharing>). More details regarding the agenda for particular WPs are given earlier in this report.

On November 30, 2021, an online meeting was organized by EKOMENLOG using the Zoom platform. The conference aimed to discuss additional activities within WP2. Minutes of the meeting are available on Riskman Google Drive ([https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KV3s3EN4aHtWAE0UrF\\_lRgQddj5PYBhh4/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KV3s3EN4aHtWAE0UrF_lRgQddj5PYBhh4/view?usp=sharing)).

On December 9, 2021, an online meeting was held between MSKU, UNSA, UNIBI, and EACEA representatives Anna Grelli and Luigi Saia ([https://drive.google.com/file/d/13UzN50lwYFPMSELafE4oWYih21eOh\\_wk/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13UzN50lwYFPMSELafE4oWYih21eOh_wk/view?usp=sharing)) to discuss the issues regarding the joint equipment procurement. UNSA should conduct the joint procurement process with the University of Bihać due to the hindrance of this process at UNIBI caused by the lack of the University's Steering Committee.

### 3.5.2. Management and operational structures

MSKU informed the partners of the upcoming interim report due in March 2022. Partners agreed on the tasks and deadlines regarding the interim reports.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	

7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature	X			
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website	X			
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages	X			
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			
14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials	X			
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site	X			
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			





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# Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## Progress report – February - April 2022

### WP6 QUALITY CONTROL

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMENLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



UNIVERSITY  
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**DOCUMENT HISTORY**





Version	Date	Comment
01	May 2022	First draft
02	August 2022	Second draft
03	September 2022	Final version
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
CET	Central European Time
EACEA	The European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIBI	University of Bihać
UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Update for the Work Package 3	6
3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 4	7
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 5	8
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 6	8
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 7	9
3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 8	10
3.6.1. Meetings	10
3.6.2. Management and operational structures	11
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	11



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country



## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the reporting period, February – April 2022, includes the following work package (WP) activities:

### **WP4 Reforming of the Curriculum**

Task 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing

Task 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process.

### **WP5 Development of Tailored Course for Unemployed Young Adults**

Task 5.1. Deciding tailored courses contents

Task 5.2. Developing tailored courses' materials.



## **WP6 Quality Control**

Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan

Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

## **WP7 Dissemination activities**

Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan

Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products

Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report

Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report

Task 7.5. Final Conference

Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation

Task 7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries

## **WP8 Project Management**

Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)

Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures

Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)

Task 8.4. Reports

**Note:** Task 3.4. and 4.2. are a bit delayed so this progress report also includes these activities.

### **3.1. Update for the Work Package 3**

Tasks 3.1. to 3.3. were previously completed.

Task 3.4. was completed during this reporting period. According to the Risk Management Models proposed in the literature, partners designed the risk management process, composed of five elements: (1) Identify the Risk, (2) Analyse the Risk, (3) Evaluate the Risk, (4) Treat the Risk, (5) Monitor and Review the Risk. UNIPA drafted the final report on WP3 activities and outcomes (available at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bG-05OE2pofVxcC4XRszHddREz5AFvTs/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107280468953693138016&rt=pof=true&sd=true>). An executive summary in English and national languages was also produced, and it is publicly available on RiskMan's web page at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/wp3-implementation-of-risk-management-model-for-western-balkans-7605>.

### **3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 4**

WP 4 – Reforming the curriculum is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 4.1. *Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum*
- 4.2. *Planning of pilot testing*
- 4.3. *Analysis of the results of pilot testing*
- 4.4. *Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process*

#### **Indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Content of the three proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages; Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in one of the Partner Country published on project web site; New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages.

According to the GANTT chart, this WP spans from M9 until M23.

In the period March 14-17, 2022, a pilot testing of the new courses (Task 4.2.) was conducted at the University of Sarajevo-Faculty of Science. Partners from the PgCs created the learning materials and PowerPoint presentations (available on RiskMan's Google Drive [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MQ7P3mdVI2na8X-ci7uGYm1kp0PX\\_N4T?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MQ7P3mdVI2na8X-ci7uGYm1kp0PX_N4T?usp=sharing)). A total of five lectures in Croatian or English were given over two days:

- 1) Title: *General Characteristics of Aquatic Organisms*; Lecturer: Marina Piria (UNIZG); Language: Croatian; Presentation: online.
- 2) Title: *Biological Characteristics of Aquatic NNS*; Lecturer: Sasho Trajanovski (HIO); Language: English; Presentation: in person.
- 3) Title: *Introduction to Risk Assessment Tools – AS-ISK*; Lecturer: Ali Serhan Tarkan (MSKU); Language: English; Presentation: online.
- 4) Title: *Introduction to Risk Assessment Tools – MaxEnt*; Lecturer: Guillaume Marchessaux (UNIPA); Language: English; Presentation: online.
- 5) Title: *Economic Impacts of Invasive Species*; Lecturer: Konstantin Zdraveski (EKOMENLOG); Language: English; Presentation: in person.

During the pilot testing, students' attendance was documented (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10lyQmNIs0vXC2T1wB2GTICy25nGvFtXF?usp=sharing>). To assess the training, students completed the evaluation forms (Annex 2, available at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mrvDukdeUOlyW6gnqy6N\\_geM9yMVR9M6?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mrvDukdeUOlyW6gnqy6N_geM9yMVR9M6?usp=sharing)). A total of 17 – 20 students from the University of Sarajevo and the University of Bihać participated in pilot testing.

Results of the student evaluation were analysed by UNSA (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1h7cotDtZ9FIHbxT8P-I9P2Xdm-W-b1rN/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true>). The students' feedback for all aspects of the given lectures was very good. The main detected shortcoming of the pilot testing was a lack of practical lessons. Although the pandemic prevented the organization of practical lessons, they are included in the courses' programs.

For task 4.4. (Finalizing the new courses and starting the implementation process), all relevant partners, the University of Sarajevo and University of Bihać (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania), and University of Montenegro

(Montenegro), started the process of introducing new courses in the curriculum according to the national regulations. In all cases, the courses will be elective and included in the Master's studies. The documents are available on RiskMan's Google Drive at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bgirU-GtML8xGxze3DpxY3M-Cr1fuses?usp=sharing>. Universities' bodies are expected to adopt suggested courses and include them in the curriculum.

The lessons' plan for three newly developed courses was published on RiskMan's web page, available at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/wp4-reforming-of-the-current-curriculum-7606>.

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 5**

WP 5 – Development of Tailored Course for Unemployed Young Adults is led by iSea (Partner no. 11) . It consists of the following tasks:

- 5.1. Deciding tailored courses contents*
- 5.2. Developing tailored courses' materials*
- 5.3. Trainees' Training in Partner countries in English*
- 5.4. Finalizing the new courses after trainings*
- 5.5. Training activities in partner countries*
- 5.6. Producing final reports for tailored courses*
- 5.7. Producing policy framework for creating new occupation "Risk Manager".*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

*Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials; Training to trainers' activities report published on website; Tailored course activity report published on website.*

According to the GANTT chart, activities within this WP span over M17 to M21.

iSea, assisted by MSKU and UNIPA, took initiative to devise the content of the courses within this WP (Task 5.1.). It was agreed that they would produce the learning materials (Task 5.2.) until the Kotor meeting in June when trainees' training will take place (task 5.3.).

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 6.1. Establish the Quality committee*
- 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*
- 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

## **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.

According to the GANTT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

The midterm report for WP6 was given on March 16, 2022, during the hybrid session at the Sarajevo meeting.

The foreseen forms to control the quality of events and activities were completed and are available on RiskMan's Google Drive, as stated in relevant sections of this report.

### **3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

## **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

A dissemination meeting with stakeholders was held during the Sarajevo meeting on March 14, 2022, at the University of Sarajevo-Faculty of Science. The meeting aimed to present the RiskMan project, establish the long-term collaboration between academia and stakeholders, but also between different stakeholders, and present the possibility of establishing a new profession of Risk Manager. Besides RiskMan project members, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the Agency for the Water Basin of the Sava River, The Cantonal Public Institution for Protected Natural Areas, and the Sports Fisherman Association "Ilidža".

On April 1, 2022, a final graduate BA thesis, entitled "General characteristics of invasive species", was defended before the commission by a candidate Nejra Halkić at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Bihać. The defense was rewarded maximum



points/grade - excellent (10). The idea for the final graduate thesis was brought as the project result, and the mentor was full professor Azra Bakrač, a RiskMan team member from UNIBI.

An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the RiskMan Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>). The webpage's content was updated with the current materials in English and translated into all the RiskMan consortium national languages.

Tasks 7.3. was completed fully and on time by the lead partner of WP7. Dissemination Interim Report has been published on RiskMan's official web page, and it is available at <http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/en/dissemination-plan-7624>.

Tasks 7.4.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### **3.6. Progress report for the Work Package 8**

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*
- 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*
- 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*
- 8.4. Reports.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANTT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

#### **3.6.1. Meetings**

On March 14-18, 2022, UNSA organized a curriculum pilot testing meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting was held in a hybrid form (in-person and online). During the meeting following activities were carried out: Dissemination meeting (Round table with stakeholders); Management meeting; Curriculum pilot testing (task 4.2.); Midterm reporting from WP6; Midterm reporting from WP7; Midterm reporting from WP8; Interproject coaching: Joint Meeting with teams of other EU project and dissemination of results – Meeting with Prof. dr Snežana Radulović, the principle coordinator of ERASMUS+ project “Development of master curricula in ecological monitoring and aquatic bioassessment for Western Balkans HEIs” (ECOBIA, Project reference No. 609967-EPP-1-

2019-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP); Meeting regarding the current tender status related to the acquisition of equipment. All documentation regarding this meeting is uploaded to RiskMan's Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IXGbOk0c3N-Q0eDZilB86C3GlsIthp8k?usp=sharing>).

### 3.6.2. Management and operational structures

MSKU coordinated the collection of all required documents and proofs from the partners for the interim report due at the end of March 2022. All documents were uploaded into corresponding folders on RiskMan's Google Drive. Based on RiskMan's activities, outcomes and documentation, MSKU wrote the interim report and submitted it on time.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature			X	
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website			X	
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages			X	
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			
14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials			X	
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			

16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site			X	
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			

**GENERAL REMARK:** Although some reports have been completed (and therefore graded as “fully met” in the previous table), they are available only internally through Google Drive. To make them publicly available, they must be uploaded to the project’s official web page (e.g., indicator #3). It is recommended to upload such documents to the official website to maximize the impact and visibility of the project.



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# Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## Progress report – May - July 2022

### WP6 QUALITY CONTROL

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMONLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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**DOCUMENT HISTORY**



Version	Date	Comment
01	August 2022	First draft
02	October 2022	Final draft
03		
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
CET	Central European Time
EACEA	The European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIBI	University of Bihać
UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 4	6
3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 5	7
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6	8
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7	9
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8	10
3.5.1. Meetings	11
3.5.2. Management and operational structures	11
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	11



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country



## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the reporting period, May – July 2022, includes the following work package (WP) activities:

### **WP4 Reforming of the Curriculum**

Task 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing

Task 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process.

### **WP5 Development of Tailored Course for Unemployed Young Adults**

Task 5.1. Deciding tailored courses contents

Task 5.2. Developing tailored courses' materials

Task 5.3. Trainees' Training in Partner countries in English





- Task 5.4. Finalizing the new courses after trainings
- Task 5.5. Training activities in partner countries
- Task 5.6. Producing final reports for tailored courses
- Task 5.7. Producing policy framework for creating new occupation “Risk Manager”.

#### **WP6 Quality Control**

- Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
- Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.

#### **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries

#### **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

### **3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 4**

WP 4 – Reforming the curriculum is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 4.1. *Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum*
- 4.2. *Planning of pilot testing*
- 4.3. *Analysis of the results of pilot testing*
- 4.4. *Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process*

#### **Indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal’s Logical Framework Matrix:**

Content of the three proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages; Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in one of the Partner Country published on project web site; New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages.



According to the GANTT chart, this WP spans from M9 until M23.

Tasks 4.1.-4.3. have been completed, except for publishing the results of pilot testing on RiskMan's web page.

As discussed during the Kotor meeting (June 13-18, 2022), for task 4.4, all partners were asked to update the project team about any new activities regarding finalizing and implementing new courses into the official curriculum.

### **3.2. Progress report for the Work Package 5**

WP 5 – Development of Tailored Course for Unemployed Young Adults is led by MSKU (Partner no. 1) and UNIPA (Partner no. 2). It consists of the following tasks:

*5.1. Deciding tailored courses contents*

*5.2. Developing tailored courses' materials*

*5.3. Trainees' Training in Partner countries in English*

*5.4. Finalizing the new courses after trainings*

*5.5. Training activities in partner countries*

*5.6. Producing final reports for tailored courses*

*5.7. Producing policy framework for creating new occupation "Risk Manager".*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials; Training to trainers' activities report published on website; Tailored course activity report published on website.

According to the GANTT chart, this WP's activities span M17 to M21.

iSea, MSKU, and UNIPA defined the content of the courses within this WP (Task 5.1.) and produced the learning materials (Task 5.2.), available on RiskMan's Google Drive at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a6J0GtjMJkPujsQ3Q5jibUCa\\_he5o\\_6I?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a6J0GtjMJkPujsQ3Q5jibUCa_he5o_6I?usp=sharing). The material was presented during the Kotor meeting (June 13-18, 2022) when iSea, MSKU, and UNIPA representatives conducted trainees' training for the meeting participants, in person and online (task 5.3.). After the discussion, the partners agreed that produced learning materials should be revised to suit better the circumstances in the partner countries where the training activities should take place (task 5.4.). During the Kotor meeting, MSKU agreed that training could take place between 3 to 5 days, depending on the possibilities in the partner countries.

Task 5.5. was conducted in all three partner countries. In Montenegro, the training for all three units took place between June 27 and July 1, 2022, at the Faculty of Natural Science and the Institute of Marine Biology, University of Montenegro (UMo). The responsible persons were Dragana Milošević Malidžan (Faculty of Natural Science) and Ana Pešić (Institute of Marine Biology). All relevant documentation regarding the training in Montenegro is available on RiskMan's Google Drive at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hvjb3GmwBb3SaAXlOnaVEAeMCW2eyQSG?usp=sharing>. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the training for all three units took place between June 28 and June 30, 2022, at the Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo (UNSA). The responsible persons were Adi Vesnić and Samir Đug. All relevant documentation regarding the training in Bosnia and Herzegovina is available on RiskMan's Google Drive at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UMbpAP\\_ZYLRH\\_DKjxO9sgcupwKQDbGOv?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UMbpAP_ZYLRH_DKjxO9sgcupwKQDbGOv?usp=sharing). In Albania, the training for all three units took place between July 4 and July 8, 2022, at the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT). The responsible persons were Rigers Bakiu and Edmond Hala. All relevant documentation regarding the training in Albania is available on RiskMan's Google Drive at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13BQi9tSLmBU9Ya1Wx52-CA7TS1MtiRWT?usp=sharing>.

Tasks 5.6. and 5.7. are a bit behind schedule, so partners should make additional effort to finalize these tasks in due time.

### 3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*6.1. Establish the Quality committee*

*6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*

*6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.](#)

According to the GANTT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

UNSA reported on WP6 during the Kotor meeting (June 13-18, 2022). As stated in The Project Implementation Report - Comments and Recommendations by EACEA (available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T-JWZTEFCMSt5Ki6UBjh-ntbYeUk3G1Y/view?usp=sharing>), "Consortium has set up appropriate managing bodies (i.e., Quality Committee, Management Team and Scientific and Supervising Committee) and developed an effective and complete Quality Assurance Plan, which includes a timetable, list of deliverables and persons in charge".

It is planned that the Quality Committee will review and evaluate all QC reports along with the corresponding documentation and officially adopt the final versions of the reports at the Steering Committee meeting to be held in Thessaloniki, August 28 – September 1, 2022.

### 3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.

In the scope of the Seventh International Scientific Conference "June 5th - World Environment Day", organized by the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Bihać, prof. dr. Marina Piria, from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, held a plenary lecture entitled "Analysis of legislation on the management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species in the western Balkans". During the presentation, prof. dr. Piria presented the results of the RiskMan project related to the assessment of regulation, educational practice and socio-economic perception of allochthonous aquatic species in the Balkans.

To enhance the project's dissemination and to present some of the scientific results of the RiskMan consortium, several oral and poster presentations were given by project partners at the AdriBioPro2022 conference, held in Kotor in June 14-15, 2022 (Book of Abstracts available

at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PF9T31fVgthhyYlfiueKVj\\_y8aVfHeWi/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PF9T31fVgthhyYlfiueKVj_y8aVfHeWi/view?usp=sharing)):

- *Action plan for management of invasive alien species at St. Naum springs in the National Park Galicica* (Konstantin Zdraveski, Sasho Trajanovski, Angela Taseska, Kliment Nanev, Dejan Dimidzievski)
- *Analysis of the results of the survey on the knowledge and prevalence of invasive species in B&H* (Subha Avdić, Azra Bakrač, Maida Delić, Emir Mujić, Samir Đug, Belma Kalamujić-Stroil, Lejla Ušanović)
- *Autochthonous and allochthonous fish species in Prespa lakes* (Trajče Talevski, Blagoja Trajčeski, Orhideja Tasevska)
- *Horizon scanning of invasive alien species in St. Naum springs in National Park Galicica with the application of AS ISK* (Konstantin Zdraveski, Sasho Trajanovski)
- *Invasiveness assessment of European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*) and northern pike (*Esox lucius*) in Albanian freshwater ecosystems by*



*using the Aquatic Species Invasiveness Screening Kit (AS-ISK)* (Rigers Bakiu, Edmond Hala, Elvis Kamberi, Jerina Kolitari, Edlira Sadiku, Silvia Bakiu)

- *Level of knowledge in Bosnia and Herzegovina: the concept of non-native species and their presence* (Lejla Ušanović, Azra Bakrač, Emir Mujić, Subha Avdić, Samir Đug, Maida Delić, Belma Kalamujić Stroil)
- *Preliminary research on distribution of Elodea canadensis in Lake Prespa* (Marina Talevska)
- *Risk screening of the potential invasiveness of non-native species in aquatic ecosystems in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Samir Đug, Sadbera Trožić-Borovac, Enad Korjenić, Sabina Trakić, Adi Vesnić, Aldijana Mušović, Mahir Gajević, Senad Šljuka, Azra Bakrač, Belma Kalamujić Stroil, Subha Avdić, Lejla Ušanović, Emir Mujić, Maida Delić)
- *The presence of the portunid alien, Callinectes sapidus in Boka Kotorska Bay (South Adriatic Sea)* (Olivera Marković, Zdravko Ikica, Ana Pešić, Aleksandar Joksimović, Ilija Četković)
- *Assessment of macrozoobenthos, macrophytes communities and environmental quality in Lake Prespa* (Biljana Budzakoska Gjoreska, Sasho Trajanovski, Sonja Trajanovska, Marina Talevska)
- *Seasonal changes and correlations in the density and distribution between the macrophytic and macrozoobenthos communities in Lake Prespa* (Sasho Trajanovski, Biljana Budzakoska Gjoreska, Sonja Trajanovska, Marina Talevska, Konstantin Zdraveski).

Besides scientific presentations, a series of dissemination products were also made, including posters, flyers, brochures, bilten, and a roll-up. The content was written in English, while brochures and flyers were produced in national languages for better outreach. The materials are available from <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19xLW2KzRlw9FgkrNTI2sPGrLshrdDAYT?usp=sharing>. Additionally, to raise awareness about the NN species among the youngest population, UMo created a stuffed toy in the form of a Lionfish, an NN species in the Mediterranean Sea, to be used as educational material for the visitors of the Aquarium Boka.

An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the RiskMan Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org: Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>). The webpage's content was updated with the current materials in English and translated into all the RiskMan consortium national languages.

Based on The Project Implementation Report - Comments and Recommendations by EACEA, RiskMan's Dissemination Interim Report was accepted, with a recommendation to document the various dissemination activities on the project's website.

Tasks 7.4.-7.7. will be completed at the relevant time points within the project.

### 3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*
- 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*
- 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*
- 8.4. Reports.*

**Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANTT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

**3.5.1. Meetings**

On June 13-18, 2022, UMo organized a RiskMan meeting in Kotor, Montenegro, coupled with the AdriBioPro2022 conference. The meeting was held in a hybrid form (in-person and online). During the meeting following activities were carried out: Analysis of task 4.3. results; Scheduling of task 4.4.; Training within Task 5.3.; Planning of Tasks 5.5-5.7.; Meeting on the organization of RiskMan Final conference; Overview of WP8 activities - Interim report feedback assessment; and Interproject coaching: Joint Meeting with teams of other EU project and dissemination of results Interreg Conference exhibition - "Water as inspiration". All documentation regarding this meeting is uploaded to RiskMan's Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PhtvJgEkLWrC9GxJcJR0QiZncSjVBw3J?usp=sharing>).

**3.5.2. Management and operational structures**

In May, the interim report assessment was sent by EACEA to MSKU. Following the Grant Agreement and Erasmus+ Programme Guide, the RiskMan project implementation has been qualified as "GOOD". The general remark for the improvement stated that the results were not always quantified or supported by evidence, nor had project deliverables been uploaded to the project's website to show progress towards more concrete elements.

Regarding the Management and operational structures, the assessment stated that the Consortium had set up appropriate managing bodies (i.e., Quality Committee, Management Team, and Scientific and Supervising Committee) and had developed an effective and complete Quality Assurance Plan, which includes a timetable, list of deliverables and persons in charge. Also, the assessment confirmed the project's solid management structure and partner cooperation. EACEA expressed approval that work packages had been shared between the European and Partner Countries, as such a practice helps to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the involvement of less experienced partners and, more importantly, ensures that PCs take ownership of the project's results.

MSKU and partners took the necessary steps to mitigate the shortcomings that EACEA recognized in the assessment as soon as possible.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature			X	
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website			X	
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages			X	
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site	X			
13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			
14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials			X	
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site			X	
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			

24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site	X			
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			

**GENERAL REMARK:** Although some reports have been completed (and therefore graded as “fully met” in the previous table), these are available only internally through Google Drive. To make them publicly available, they must be uploaded to the project’s official web page (e.g., indicator #3). It is recommended to upload such documents to the official website to maximize the impact and visibility of the project.





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# **Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) - RiskMan**

Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education  
Reference N.: 619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

## **Progress report – August - October 2022**

### **WP6 QUALITY CONTROL**

Prepared by: University of Sarajevo



Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo



EKOMONLOG OHRID  
Association for ecology



Albanian Center for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development



UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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**DOCUMENT HISTORY**



Version	Date	Comment
01	November 2022	First draft
02	November 2022	Final version
03		
04		

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEPSD	The Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
CET	Central European Time
EACEA	The European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HE	Higher Education
HIO	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
INGEB	University of Sarajevo-Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
M	Month
MEQuP	Monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan
MSKU	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University
NN	Non-native
PC	Partner Countries
PgC	Programme Countries
QC	Quality Committee
StC	Steering Committee
TTG	Training and Technical Group
UCB	University College of Business
UNIBI	University of Bihać
UNIPA	University of Palermo
UNIZG	University of Zagreb
UNMo	University of Montenegro
UNSA	University of Sarajevo
WP	Work Package

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

1. Project information	4
1.1. General Information	4
1.2. Project partnership	4
2. Project context	5
3. Report content	5
3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 4	6
3.2. Update for the Work Package 5	7
3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6	7
3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7	8
3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8	10
3.5.1. Meetings	10
3.5.2. Management and operational structures	10
4. Evaluation of progress indicators	11



## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

Project acronym:	RISKMAN
Project full title:	Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)
Project reference No:	619384-EPP-1-2020-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Funding scheme:	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Coordinating institution:	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey
Project coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Ali Serhan Tarkan
Project duration:	15/11/2020 – 14/11/2022

### 1.2. Project partnership

The project consortium includes 13 international partners from EU countries and Western Balkans; six (6) are from five ERASMUS+ programme countries (PgC; Turkey, Italy, Greece, Croatia and North Macedonia), and the remaining seven (7) from three partner countries (PC; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro). The RISKMAN consortium members are:

1. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Project Coordinator, Turkey, programme country
2. University of Palermo, Italy, programme country
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, programme country
4. Ekomenlog, North Macedonia, programme country
5. Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid, North Macedonia, programme country
6. Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Albania, partner country
7. ALB ADRIATICO 2013, Albania, partner country
8. Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania, partner country
9. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
10. University of Montenegro, Montenegro, partner country
11. iSea, Greece, programme country
12. University of Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, partner country
13. University College of Business, Albania, partner country



## 2. Project context

The project "Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-native Aquatic Species in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) - RISKMAN" is ERASMUS+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education joint project, selected within 2020 - EAC/A02/2019 call for proposals. The project runs between November 2020 and November 2022. The project's general aim is to promote the education of stakeholders, modernize higher education (HE) in the risk assessment of non-native (NN) species and to stimulate research and cooperation on the management of non-native species in the Western Balkan Region.

Specific project objectives are:

- To harmonize the HE system on management of aquatic NN species in the partner Countries of Western Balkans with the international guidelines given by FAO and IUCN, and with the strategies of European Policy Cooperation.
- To support the Partner Countries in addressing the challenges that face their HE institutions and systems concerning the management NN species, including risk assessment, stakeholders' participation, planning and governance of aquaculture facilities and industries;
- To promote communication and awareness of stakeholders (students, workers in aquaculture and tourism sectors, and fishers) about the threat that NN species pose to biodiversity;
- To promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in HE and fisheries industry and contribute to cooperation among the Consortium Partners on the management of NN species;
- To develop risk management model for NN aquatic species for Western Balkans;
- To produce policy framework for creating new occupation through the suggestion of the new position "Risk Manager".

## 3. Report content

According to the GANTT chart, the reporting period, August – October 2022, includes the following work package (WP) activities:

### **WP4 Reforming of the Curriculum**

Task 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process.

### **WP6 Quality Control**

Task 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan

Task 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.



## **WP7 Dissemination activities**

- Task 7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan
- Task 7.2. Preparation of dissemination products
- Task 7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report
- Task 7.5. Final Conference
- Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation
- Task 7.7. Implementation of sustainable strategy in partner countries

## **WP8 Project Management**

- Task 8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)
- Task 8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures
- Task 8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)
- Task 8.4. Reports

### **3.1. Progress report for the Work Package 4**

WP 4 – Reforming the curriculum is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

- 4.1. Suggesting 3 new courses for the curriculum*
- 4.2. Planning of pilot testing*
- 4.3. Analysis of the results of pilot testing*
- 4.4. Finalizing the new courses and starting implementation process*

#### **Indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Content of the three proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages; Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in one of the Partner Country published on project web site; New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages.

According to the GANTT chart, this WP spans from M9 until M23.

Tasks 4.1.-4.3. have been completed, including publishing the results of pilot testing and content of all three courses on RiskMan's web page.

For task 4.4, all partners were asked to finalize and implement new courses into the official curriculum. Until the completion of this report, the University of Montenegro published new courses on the University's webpage, and the content is available at <https://www.ucg.ac.me/studprog/7/3/3/2022-biologija-2017>.

MSKU prepared the draft of the Final Report of WP4 and delivered it to the consortium for comment and evaluation. The document is available from

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K19Rxq-2om91-stsJyDbSouf\\_Y57lj3w/edit?usp=share\\_link&ouid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K19Rxq-2om91-stsJyDbSouf_Y57lj3w/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true).

### **3.2. Update for the Work Package 5**

WP 5 – Development of Tailored Course for Unemployed Young Adults is led by MSKU (Partner no. 1) and UNIPA (Partner no. 2). It consists of the following tasks:

- 5.1. Deciding tailored courses contents*
- 5.2. Developing tailored courses' materials*
- 5.3. Trainees' Training in Partner countries in English*
- 5.4. Finalizing the new courses after trainings*
- 5.5. Training activities in partner countries*
- 5.6. Producing final reports for tailored courses*
- 5.7. Producing policy framework for creating new occupation "Risk Manager".*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

[Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials; Training to trainers' activities report published on website; Tailored course activity report published on website.](#)

According to the GANTT chart, this WP's activities span M17 to M21.

During the Thessaloniki Steering Committee meeting (August 29-31, 2022), iSEA presented the overview of the WP5 activities along with the results of participants' evaluation of the tailored courses. However, the final report (Task 5.6.) has yet to be written. iSEA drafted policy recommendation steps for the Policy framework (Task 5.7.). The document is available from [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kBEglxAu6r5wnZnjkc6WpQwCP22-PG65/edit?usp=share\\_link&ouid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kBEglxAu6r5wnZnjkc6WpQwCP22-PG65/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=107280468953693138016&rtpof=true&sd=true).

### **3.3. Progress report for the Work Package 6**

WP 6 – Quality Control is led by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA, Project partner no. 9). Prof. dr. Adaleta Durmić-Pašić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

- 6.1. Establish the Quality committee*
- 6.2. Develop a monitoring, evaluation, and quality plan*
- 6.3. Write progress reports that elaborate on the progress of the project and address it to the project coordinator.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

List of the Quality committee members; Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site; Reports of Quality activities.

According to the GANTT chart, all three activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

All trimestral progress reports were completed and sent to the project consortium for final commenting and evaluation before the Steering Committee meeting in Thessaloniki (August 29-31, 2022). UNSA reported on overall WP6 activities and outcomes during the Thessaloniki meeting. With the present report, Task 6.3. has been completed. All trimestral reports are available at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RZBSackN5g59OWsnxpRoQaCUBjyvo\\_hn?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RZBSackN5g59OWsnxpRoQaCUBjyvo_hn?usp=share_link).

For the final report, the Quality Committee (QC) should evaluate all project outcomes, as stated in the MEQuP. Based on the agreement from the Thessaloniki meeting, MSKU drafted the evaluation table for the members of the QC, based on which UNSA created a Google form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uqotGUY2D3-8OymD5M4UHPgvgiUmuyt1JvQyFoLFOEs/edit>) to facilitate and centralize the collection of evaluation results. By completing this report, only three evaluations were received from the QC members from the Association for ecology EKOMENLOG Ohrid, University of Montenegro, and University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture.

It was agreed that the MSKU team would invite external quality evaluators to review and assess the quality of the entire project implementation, as foreseen by the MEQuP.

### **3.4. Progress report for the Work Package 7**

WP 7 – Dissemination is led by the University of Montenegro (UNMo, Project partner no. 10). Prof. dr. Ana Pešić was established as the WP Leader. It consists of the following tasks:

*7.1. Defining dissemination and exploitation plan*

*7.2. Preparation of dissemination products*

*7.3. Preparation of the interim dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.4. Preparation of the final dissemination and exploitation report*

*7.5. Final Conference*

*7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation*

*7.7. Implementation sustainable strategy in partner countries.*

### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site; Website and social media promotion and updating; Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site; Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site.



MSKU organized the Final conference at Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Campus (Turkey) from September 12-15, 2022. On behalf of the consortium, part of the project participants presented the results of various project work packages to different stakeholders and disseminated the major outcomes and recommendations. The Book of abstracts is available from the project's web page at [http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/Belgeler/1054/1054/Book%20of%20abstracts\\_RiskMan\\_Final%20conference\\_Mugla.pdf](http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/Belgeler/1054/1054/Book%20of%20abstracts_RiskMan_Final%20conference_Mugla.pdf).

RiskMan project was presented at the Italian Society of Ecology Annual Conference on October 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (<https://www.ecologia.it/>).

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, the team from the Agricultural University of Tirana, Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries and Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, participated in the Erasmus+ Days held in Tirana, Albania, to present the RiskMan Project and disseminate the results obtained within the project about the distribution of the NN species in Western Balkans (<https://www.facebook.com/100066100508789/posts/pfbid02e27W6hXiSXW56gefHk1ujLTRNParYKnUge4DZ6GBNkrAqVGtyJbxTp8EfAiAusM8l/?sfnsn=mo>).

RiskMan project was also presented at the SEEIC2022 conference held in Brač, Croatia, on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As part of her oral presentation, Belma Kalamujić Stroil, a project participant from Bosnia and Herzegovina, talked about the implications of introducing non-native fish lineages and species and the role of the RiskMan consortium (<https://www.facebook.com/118375043411323/posts/pfbid0GRTuE9Ygzy3wSzyofDvnHHnwL2sTQ1xXnHLBZjZ6bnE4bUYxm6WcAoQrDFrpHhFql/?sfnsn=mo>).

To disseminate the information and results of the Balkan tour (for more information, refer to 3.5.1. of this report) and the project in general, a news article was drafted by the project participants and published in the Eurofish magazine, issued by Eurofish International Organization. The article was published in issue 5 (September/October 2022) and is publicly available at <https://eurofishmagazine.com/magazine-issues/item/893-eurofish-magazine-issue-5-2022-september-october>.

Dissemination activities were intensified in this reporting period, especially in media presence, with participants from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina presenting the project on TV and radio shows ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RVgehhp\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RVgehhp_w); [https://www.facebook.com/100063562691702/videos/533702888515748/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN\\_GK0T-GK1C](https://www.facebook.com/100063562691702/videos/533702888515748/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C); <https://radiokotor.info/clanak/drustvo/dr-ana-pe%C5%A0i%C4%86:-ribolovni-turizam-nova-kategorija/0>).

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Sarajevo, announced the call for RiskMan student open day to be held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, aiming to present the purchased equipment and its use in the detection of non-native species and lineages. A dissemination class was previously organized on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the students at the Faculty of Science to use the computer equipment purchased through the project and showcase how bioinformatic analysis can be used in the early detection of non-native species and lineages (<https://twitter.com/ingebunsa/status/1581938649389625344?s=20&t=aOdbcng7NJEcv5F5WfFG9g>).

An Excel review table, created to collect all dissemination activities within the project over its lifetime, was updated with relevant dissemination activities. The list is available from the RiskMan Google Drive in folder WP\_7: Dissemination and Exploitation\_\_ Lead Org:



Montenegro University (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SssfuCHO5Nr6vYT-GvT1AjLPP5ZAV0Nw?usp=sharing>).

Task 7.6. Development of sustainability plan and implementation was agreed to be completed by the end of October, but by the time of report drafting, it still needed to be made available.

### 3.5. Progress report for the Work Package 8

WP 8 – Project Management is led by the Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (MSKU, Project partner no. 1). It consists of the following tasks:

*8.1. Organizing the Kick-off Meeting and other consortium meetings (StC Meeting & Local Committee Meeting)*

*8.2. Establishment of management and operational structures*

*8.3. Establishment of Training and Technical Group (TTG)*

*8.4. Reports.*

#### **Measurable indicators of progress as stated in the project proposal's Logical Framework Matrix:**

Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site; Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings; Reports of the StC committee meetings; Reports of the TTG committee meetings; Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site.

According to the GANTT chart, all four activities within this WP span over the project's lifetime.

#### **3.5.1. Meetings**

Under the working title "The Balkan tour", a series of back-to-back meetings were organized in Kotor (Montenegro), Tirana (Albania), and Ohrid (North Macedonia) on 21-27 August 2022, based on the approval of EACEA. As stated in the justification document sent to EACEA, the budget analysis showed that there were unspent funds for the realization of the planned meetings that were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Therefore, partners proposed to organize bilateral and multilateral meetings as an added value to the Project's outcomes. The activities conducted during the tour were linked to the successful realization of the WP3, WP4, and partially WP7 of the Project Proposal. The full agenda with a detailed list of conducted activities is available at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rjvJl65YOTf6DTuZhDIlujYnNPjNCUC6/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rjvJl65YOTf6DTuZhDIlujYnNPjNCUC6/view?usp=share_link).

The final Steering Committee meeting was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, August 28 – 31, 2022, hosted by iSEA. Agenda of the meeting included the overview of activities and results of WP4 and WP5, drafting of the policy framework for creating new occupation of "Risk Manager" (Task 5.7.), reporting on WP6 and WP7 progress together with drafting the final reports, as well as organization of activities regarding the RiskMan Final conference in Mugla. Detailed agenda is available at

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c1vV2CpaumPSjTCdJ3pBn5QAQT\\_mvGa8/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c1vV2CpaumPSjTCdJ3pBn5QAQT_mvGa8/view?usp=share_link).

MSKU organized the Final conference at Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Campus (Turkey) from September 12-16, 2022. It was the opportunity to present the results of various project work packages to different stakeholders and disseminate the major outcomes and recommendations. The book of abstracts is available from the project's web page at [http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/Belgeler/1054/1054/Book%20of%20abstracts\\_RiskMan\\_Final%20conference\\_Mugla.pdf](http://www.riskman.mu.edu.tr/Belgeler/1054/1054/Book%20of%20abstracts_RiskMan_Final%20conference_Mugla.pdf).

### 3.5.2. Management and operational structures

MSKU coordinated the communication with EACEA for the approval of additionally devised activities. The MSKU team also initiated the preparations for the final project reporting.

## 4. Evaluation of progress indicators

Evaluation of the measurable indicators of the project's progress as stated in the project application at the end of the current reporting period

#	Measurable indicators of progress	In progress	Partially met	Fully met	Not met
1	Final report with the results of the analysis of the policy level documents and principles addressing NN species in Western Balkans			X	
2	Final report reporting the results of the analysis of existing European practice and principles for NN species Education in Western Balkans			X	
3	Report with results of the analysis of existing practice in Western Balkans and cross-matching with European practices and standards			X	
4	Final report on developed policy and planned roadmap for implementing and managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
5	Report of good practices on Managing risk for NN species in Western Balkans Education			X	
6	Report of Literature review and survey of main watercourses of Partner Countries			X	
7	Results of Interview with industry representatives and stakeholders			X	
8	Online platform and database reporting the results of WP2 activities in Partner Countries			X	
9	Report of the literature background of risk management model in the literature			X	
10	Report reporting the implemented model of Risk management of NN species for Western Balkan published on the project website			X	
11	Content of the 3 proposed new courses for the curriculum of HEI of Western Balkans available in the HEI webpages			X	
12	Report reporting the results of pilot tests carried on in 1 of the Partner Country published on project web site			X	

13	New courses available in the HEI of Western Balkans Partner Countries webpages	X			
14	Report summarizing the content of the Tailored courses materials	X			
15	Training to trainers' activities report published on website	X			
16	Tailored course activity report published on website	X			
17	List of the Quality committee members			X	
18	Quality and evaluation strategy published on the project web site			X	
19	Reports of Quality activities	X			
20	Dissemination and Exploitation Plan published on the project web site			X	
21	Website and social media promotion and updating			X	
22	Interim dissemination and exploitation report (IDER) is published on the project Web site			X	
23	Final dissemination and exploitation report (FDER) is published on the project web site	X			
24	Proceedings from the Final Conference published on the project web site			X	
25	Report and documents of the activities of the Kick Off Meeting and other Consortium Meetings			X	
26	Reports of the StC committee meetings			X	
27	Reports of the TTG committee meetings	X			
28	Interim and Final Evaluation Reports are published on the project web site	X			

**GENERAL REMARK:** Some reports still need to be uploaded to the official website to maximize the impact and visibility of the project and meet EACEA requirements.