



TALANOA

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Deliverable 5.4: SECOND 12-MONTH EXPLOITATION, DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION REPORT

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Title	SECOND 12-MONTH EXPLOITATION, DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION REPORT
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Organization(s)	CMCC
Deliverable number	5.4
Submission date	30/06/2023

Prepared under contract from the PRIMA Foundation

Grant Agreement no. 2023

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Start of the project: 01/06/2021
Duration: 48 months
Project coordinator organization: Universidad de Salamanca
Related Work Package: 5
Type of Deliverable: Report

Due date of deliverable: Month 25
Actual submission date: June 30th, 2023 (month 25)

Dissemination level

- PU = Public, fully open, e.g. web
- CO = Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement
- CI = Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC.

Executive summary

The second annual Dissemination and Communication report covers the initial half of the project and presents an analysis of the communication and dissemination activities conducted during the 24 months since the beginning of the TALANOA WATER project. The report acknowledges that effective communication and dissemination are fundamental to project success, facilitating the transmission of information, engaging stakeholders, and achieving desired results. By assessing the effectiveness of project communication and dissemination strategies, activities, and outcomes, the report informs future strategies, and makes recommendations on how to improve communication and dissemination efforts.

During the second reporting period, the project consortium conducted the second round of the science poly workshop and Talanoa Dialogues, focusing on presenting initial socio-hydrology modelling results. These workshops incorporated interactive activities such as a serious game, exploratory co-evaluation, and co-identification processes. Moreover, the partners contributed to advancing scientific knowledge by publishing seven scientific journal articles, complementing the initial four articles published in the first year. They demonstrated increased engagement by participating in a total of 16 different scientific events during the second year. This showcases the dedication of the entire team to knowledge sharing, exchange of ideas, and expanding their professional network within the field.

As the project progresses into its second phase, with a focus on tangible outputs, the evaluation and enhancement of our dissemination and outreach efforts become paramount. This report provides a comprehensive overview of our self-assessment, emphasizing our accomplishments and acknowledging the challenges faced. Based on this experience, we have learned valuable lessons and found areas for improvement. The recommendations for the second half of the project include:

- Promote participation in science-policy workshops across the pilots to leverage collective expertise and drive transformative change in water resource management,
- Explore ways of enhancing and leveraging the ambition of international workshops to amplify project impact,
- Foster cross-linkages with projects contributing to or funded by EU Missions,
- Organize joint conference sessions explaining progress made and lessons learned across many pilot basins to leverage the collective expertise of multiple partners,
- Strategically refocus social media presence for greater effectiveness,
- Integrate communication and dissemination indicators with existing performance indicators for comprehensive project impact assessment.

The above recommendations are used as a starting point to update and refine the Project exploitation, communication and Dissemination Plan (PEDR) and to create conditions for greater societal impact and legacy of the project.

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1. Introduction

The TALANOA-WATER project aims to develop robust transformational adaptation strategies for water scarcity under climate change, aligned with integrated water resources management goals. It combines interdisciplinary socio-hydrologic modelling with inclusive stakeholder engagement. Socio-hydrologic modelling explores the interactions between human systems and hydrological processes, informing holistic water management. Inclusive stakeholder approaches, inspired by the Talanoa Dialogues, promote participatory dialogue and collaborative solutions. The project examines integrated strategies, including nature-based solutions, technological innovation, and economic incentives, to address water scarcity challenges in six pilot laboratories.

This report represents the second in a series of four annual reports focused on exploitation, dissemination, and communication. The previous report (deliverable D5.3) expanded on the purpose, principles, and objectives of communication and dissemination activities. Building upon the Plan for the Exploitation and Dissemination of Results (PEDR, deliverable D5.1) which established effective communication and dissemination principles for the project, the previous report provided further details on the strategies and target audience for dissemination efforts. These principles include aligning objectives, utilizing SMART strategies, employing storytelling techniques, diversifying content, inspiring action, co-designing communication products, and leveraging partner organizations' strengths. The intended recipients of these communications encompass academic communities, public authorities, policymakers, user associations, industry sectors, civil society organizations, and the general public. Inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms and existing networks facilitate engagement with these audiences to maximize impact and knowledge transfer.

The project's communication and dissemination activities are strategically designed to share the project's outcomes, knowledge, and innovations with diverse stakeholders. Central to these efforts is the Water Agora Hub, a comprehensive communication platform that integrates a project website and mobile app. This hub offers a range of valuable features, including real-time access to workshops and events, timely news updates, access to scientific publications and a digital library, seamless integration with social media platforms. To ensure widespread dissemination, the consortium has developed a dynamic and ever-growing digital dissemination package. This package encompasses a variety of impactful materials, such as presentations, visually engaging infographics, informative videos, and interactive tools. These resources effectively convey the project's findings, methodologies, and innovative solutions to target audiences, enabling knowledge exchange and fostering informed decision-making. Social media platforms, including Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram, play a role in communication, collaboration, and knowledge dissemination. These platforms enable the project to share ongoing work, project updates, findings, and achievements through various forms of content, enhancing visibility and impact.

Stakeholder engagement is a fundamental component of the project's communication strategy. The project's communication approach incorporates the principles of the Talanoa Dialogues, including storytelling, diversified content and form, inspiration, co-designing communication products, and

leveraging partner organizations. The project organizes various workshops and science-policy dialogues to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and dissemination of project outcomes. The stakeholder pilot workshops provide a collaborative platform for input and engagement from relevant stakeholders, ensuring their perspectives are incorporated into the project's development. Science-policy dialogues delve into the implications of the project's findings on policy development, promoting interchange and informed decision-making.

Structure of the report. This report marks the completion of the first half of the project and offers an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments thus far. It also provides a chance to realign the project's dissemination and outreach efforts to adapt to the continually evolving context in which the project operates. Section 2 summarizes what has been accomplished so far, while Section 3 explores lessons learned and offers recommendations for improvement. Section 4 presents the revised Plan for the Exploitation and Dissemination of Results (PEDR) for the project's remaining duration.

2. Communication and Dissemination activities in the second year of the project

Science-policy workshops. The Talanoa Dialogues are structured in form of four annual science-policy workshops. The first workshop reported in the D5.3 and D1.2 aimed to set the scene and generate momentum by addressing research gaps, co-designing scenarios, establishing sustainable water allocations, and developing transformational adaptation strategies. During the second reporting period, the project conducted the second round of workshops, which centred on the presentation of socio-hydrology modelling results. These workshops included engaging activities such as a serious game, exploratory co-evaluation, and co-identification processes. The aim was to refine the research through iterative stock-taking and additional iterations of the modelling framework. Further details on the workshop structure and insights gained can be found in deliverable D1.3, covering the pilot laboratories.

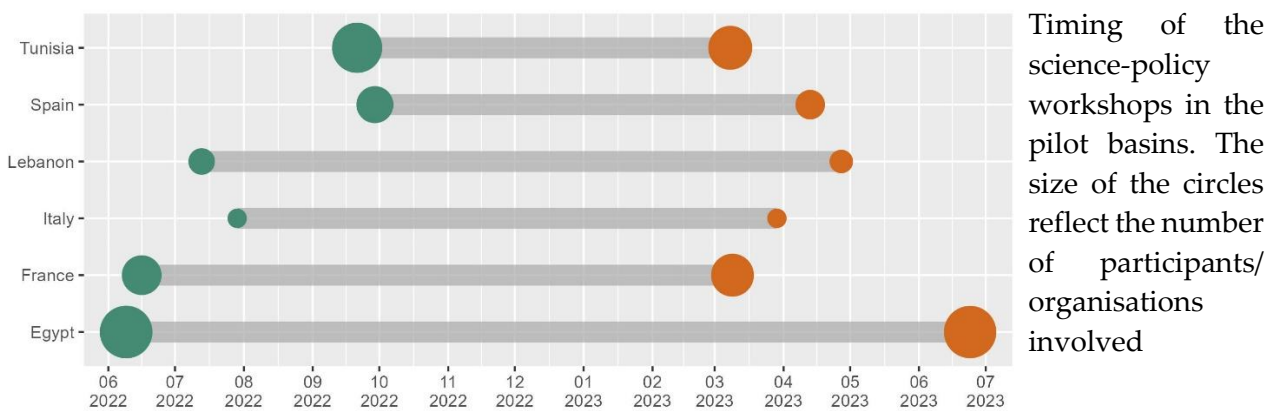














Figure 1 Lollipop Diagram: Pilot Workshop Timing, Time Span, and Audience Size

Figure 1 shows the timing of the pilot workshops, the time span between them, and the audience size. It provides a clear and concise representation of the workshop schedule, highlighting key dates and the duration between each workshop. The lollipop diagram also incorporates the size of the audience, indicating the level of participation and engagement for each workshop. This visual representation allows for easy comparison and analysis of audience trends throughout the project's timeline.

Table 1 shows the list of science-policy workshops conducted during both rounds of the project. It shows that the total attendance and average audience size slightly declined in the second round compared to the first round. This decline can be attributed to the different objectives and a narrower technical focus of the second workshop, as well as the progress towards forming a consistent partnership with individuals and organizations committed to the overall objective of the pilot. Despite the decline in numbers, the workshops maintained their value in terms of engagement and collaboration among the participating stakeholders. In countries where pre-existing institutional partnerships and successful collaborations have been established, the number of participants and institutions involved in the workshops may be lower and remain constant. This is a sign of consistent engagement and active involvement of key stakeholders who have already established a strong working relationship prior to this project. The focus in these countries is on addressing specific challenges and uses other venues for broader disseminations.

Table 1 – Participation statistics from the first round of local and regional science-policy workshops

	COUNTRY	FROM	TO	# PARTICIPANTS	% FEMALES	# ORGANISATIONS
SECOND WORKSHOP						
	 Egypt	2023-06-24	2023-06-24	75	53	15
	 France	2023-03-09	2023-03-09	44	34	9
	 Italy	2023-03-29	2023-03-29	12	33	6
	 Lebanon	2023-04-27	2023-04-27	13	46	11
	 Spain	2023-04-13	2023-04-14	18	11	8
	 Tunisia	2023-03-08	2023-03-09	47	19	10
Total				209	196	59
Average				35	33	10
FIRST WORKSHOP						
	 Egypt	2022-06-09	2022-06-09	76	21	9
	 France	2022-06-16	2022-06-16	36	39	8
	 Italy	2022-07-29	2022-07-29	12	67	6
	 Lebanon	2022-07-13	2022-07-13	15	27	11
	 Spain	2022-09-29	2022-09-30	30	20	15
	 Tunisia	2022-09-21	2022-09-23	67	19	7
Total				236	193	56
Average				39	32	9
Total both rounds of workshops				445	389	115
Average of boths rounds of workshops				37	32	10

Publication record. During the second reporting period, the project partners published seven additional scientific articles, building upon the four articles published in the first year. These publications contribute to the growing body of scientific knowledge generated by the project, further disseminating the project's findings and research outcomes.

Table 2 – List of scientific journals in first and second reporting period (RP1 and RP2)

RP	JOURNAL	IMPACT FACTOR	QUARTILE Q	PUBLISHER	PUBLICATION DATE
RP1	Journal of Environmental Management	8.910	Q1	ELSEVIER	2021-11-15
RP1	Agricultural Water Management	6.611	Q1	ELSEVIER	2022-01-01
RP1	Water Resources research	6.159	Q1	AMER GEOPHYSICAL UNION	2022-02-02
RP1	Journal of Cleaner Production	11.072	Q1	ELSEVIER	2022-08-01
RP2	Ecological Economics	6.536	Q1	ELSEVIER	2023-03-01
RP2	Water Economics and Policy	1.333	Q3	WORLD SCIENTIFIC	2022-10-01
RP2	Agricultural Water Management	6.611	Q1	ELSEVIER	2022-01-01
RP2	Environmental Research Letters	6.947	Q1	IOP Publishing	2021-11-01
RP2	Journal of Hydrology	6.708	Q1	ELSEVIER	2023-06-01
RP2	Environmental Science & Policy	6.424	Q1	ELSEVIER	2023-03-01
RP2	Agricultural Water Management	6.611	Q1	ELSEVIER	2022-12-01

With one exception, all these articles were published in journals that are ranked within the top 25% in their respective fields (JCR Q1), as indicated in Table 2. This achievement demonstrates the high quality and relevance of the research conducted within the project. The only non-Q1 journal is relatively new and focused on water economics and governance, which has recently obtained an impact factor. Although it may not be classified as a Q1 journal, it is recognized as a rapidly growing and impactful publication in its field.

Scientific conferences and workshops. Compared to the four scientific conferences and workshops attended in the first year of the project, the consortium members significantly increased their participation in the second year, taking part in a total of 20 unique events. This reflects the growing engagement and active involvement of the project partners in the scientific community and their commitment to sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and expanding their network within the field. Figure 2 illustrates the temporal distribution of these events, while Table 3 provides a comprehensive list of the major named events. The latter also includes events (highlighted in the table) that are scheduled for the third reporting period, i.e., after June 2023. Over 2000 attendees were present at the project presentations. The majority of the audience (more than 60%) consisted of academic experts, followed by public authorities and agencies (20%), civil society organizations (10%), and other participants, including farmers and business entities.

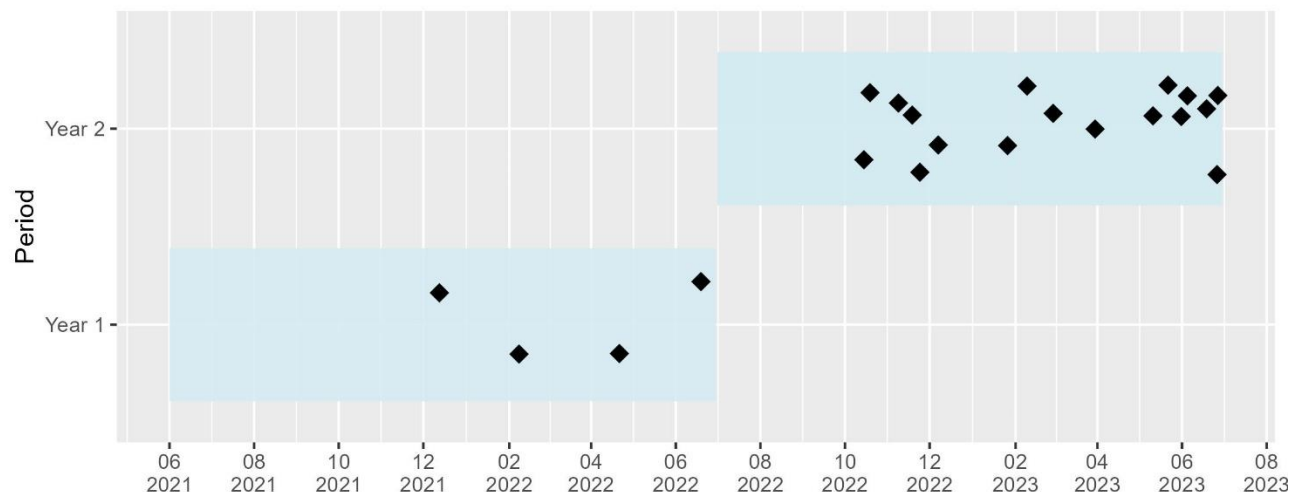

















Figure 2 Timeline of Workshops and Conferences Listed in Table 3.

Table 2 – Overview of the major conferences and workshops

EVENT	EVENT NAME	FROM	TO	LOCATION	COUNTRY
	AGU American Geophysical Union	2021-12-13	2021-12-17	New Orleans	United States
NA	Risk KAN Knowledge Action Network on Emergent Risks and Extreme Events	2022-02-08	2022-02-10	Online	Online
	IAERE Italian Association of Environmental and Resource Economists	2022-04-21	2022-04-22	Cagliari	Italy
	IAHR International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research	2022-06-19	2022-06-24	Granada	Spain
	CWW Cairo Water Week	2022-10-15	2022-10-20	Cairo	Egypt
	SISC Italian Association of Science for the Climate	2022-10-19	2022-10-19	Rome	Italy
NA	Hydrologie de l'Anthropocène	2022-11-09	2022-11-09	Lyon	France
NA	Assises de l'eau	2022-11-18	2022-11-18	Carcassonne	France
NA	General assembly of ARTERRIS Coop	2022-11-24	2022-11-24	Narbonne	France
NA	Systèmes Agricoles et Eau	2022-12-07	2022-12-07	Avignon	France
NA	XII Congreso Ibérico de Gestión y Planificación del Agua	2023-01-26	2023-01-28	Murcia	Spain
NA	IX Jornadas de investigadoras de Castilla y León. La aventura de la ciencia y la tecnología	2023-02-09	2023-02-10	Salamanca	Spain
NA	Salon de l'Agriculture	2023-02-28	2023-02-28	Paris	France
	LIFE Program CLIMAX-PO General Assembly	2023-03-30	2023-03-31	Rome	Italy
NA	Water and viticulture: The Mediterranean at the forefront?	2023-05-11	2023-05-11	Montpellier	France
	International Conference on Meteorology and Climatology of the Mediterranean	2023-05-22	2023-05-22	Genoa	Italy
NA	French-speaking Doctoral Conference on the Social Sciences of Water	2023-05-31	2023-06-02	Rennes	France
	IPCC Workshop on Climate Information for Risk Assessment and Regional Adaptation	2023-06-05	2023-06-09	Trieste	Italy
	ECCA European Climate Change Adaptation Conference	2023-06-19	2023-06-21	Dublin	Ireland
	EVA Extreme Value Analysis	2023-06-26	2023-06-30	Milan	Italy
	EAERE European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists	2023-06-27	2023-06-30	Limassol	Cyprus
	EAAE European Association of Agricultural Economists	2023-08-29	2023-08-30	Rennes	France
	MedGU Mediterranean Geosciences Union	2023-11-27	2023-11-30	Marrakesch	Marocco
	MedGU Mediterranean Geosciences Union	2023-11-27	2023-11-30	Marrakesch	Marocco
	AGU American Geophysical Union	2023-12-12	2023-12-16	Chicago	United States

3. Lessons learned and Recommendations for Improvement

As the project enters the second half of the implementation period, it is paramount to review and reflect on how to improve dissemination and outreach activities. In this section, we provide a summary of the self-assessment conducted on the successes and challenges encountered thus far and draw insights from our past experiences. We identify key lessons learned and areas for improvement, highlighting what worked well and where adjustments can be made. Based on these insights, we provide recommendations for revising the PEDR moving forward.

Science policy workshop and regional Talanoa water dialogues

So far, the science-policy workshops in the pilot areas have been successful and have achieved their goals. A strong working relationship has been established with stakeholder organizations, which has contributed to refining the methodologies and tools used and adapting them to the challenges and priorities of policy practice (for more details, refer to deliverable D1.3). The cross-fertilisation between the pilots has been enhanced through the reciprocal engagement of team members in workshops held in other pilots. This active collaboration has facilitated the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among the different pilot projects. However, this collaboration has primarily been driven by the willingness and interest of water lab leaders of importing some of the methods and techniques used in other labs/by other partners in the Consortium (e.g., adoption of the serious game implemented in the Cega lab by the Djefara and Litani labs), rather than being systematically encouraged or facilitated. While the teams have demonstrated their eagerness to engage and collaborate, there is an opportunity to further strengthen and formalize this cross-fertilization process.

The international cross-pilot workshops, scheduled for the second half of the project – see also further below – play a crucial role in promoting valuable learning and knowledge exchange among participants contributing to different pilots. These workshops serve as a platform for fostering collaboration and sharing best practices between the different pilot related research and innovation activities. However, the cross-fertilization of ideas and instruments, which extends beyond the scope of these workshops, has the potential to enhance the overall effectiveness and success of the pilot projects. Consequently, it is recommended to promoting participation in science-policy workshops among the pilots to leverage collective expertise and insights for driving transformative change in water resource management.

International cross-pilot workshops stimulating the exchange of knowledge and networking

The international cross-pilot workshops are scheduled for months 25 and 43, specifically in June 2023 and December 2024, respectively. The first workshop, although slightly delayed to early October 2023, provides an excellent opportunity to leverage our ambition by expanding the dialogue to include international science and policy experts. It can also serve as a collaborative platform making it possible to exchange with and cooperate across diverse European and international projects. By embracing a hybrid format, the workshop can attract a larger audience of science and policy experts, gathering valuable insights to advance the pilot studies and stimulate further progress. Hybrid workshops may face challenges related

to limited internet connectivity and increased demands on on-site equipment, but these challenges can be overcome and effectively addressed. The second international workshop, scheduled at the end of the project in 2024, has an even greater potential to attract the attention of and engage a wider audience. This workshop presents a unique opportunity to showcase the achievements, lessons learned, and best practices from the pilot-driven research and innovation initiatives. The innovative and engaging cross-pilot activities that were tested during the first international workshop can be fully utilized and built upon for the second workshop. It is recommended to thoroughly explore how the ambition of the international workshops can be further enhanced and leveraged to amplify the impact of the project.

Collaboration with other EU and internationally funded projects

During the second reporting project, the consortium managed to establish collaborations with other European and international projects. A non-exhaustive list of these projects includes

- TRANSCEND project, funded under the Horizon Europe Cluster 6 and aimed at developing transformational pathways and robust adaptation to water scarcity and climate change under deep uncertainty
- Water4All Partnership, known as "Water Security for the Planet," Water4All Partnership is a seven-year initiative co-funded by the European Union under Horizon Europe to tackle water challenges, support climate change resilience, help achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and boost EU competitiveness and growth,
- Climax-Po Integrated Life project, funded by the European Commission's LIFE program, aimed to enhance district-level governance, generate shared climate knowledge, build stakeholder capacity, enhance water security and climate resilience within the Po River basin District,
- G-EAU project focussed on understanding of the functioning of socio-hydrosystems both under normal conditions and in times of crisis (water shortages, flooding, pollution),
- BIO-CIVAM project of the Centres for Initiatives to Promote Agriculture and the Rural Environment - nonprofit organizations or networks that focus on promoting sustainable agriculture and the development of rural areas.
- IRENE project of the Spanish R&D Plan that focuses on mainstreaming remote sensing data into water resources management and planning.
- NATURA project of the Spanish R&D Plan which aims at co-creating transformational Nature-based Solutions to adapt to climate change in water scarce areas in Slovakia, Italy and Spain.

While the TALANOA WATER consortium has engaged in formal and informal interactions with the aforementioned projects, aimed at enhancing the project's outreach and impact, these interactions have taken various forms. They range from sharing work in progress to aligning work plans and activities for mutual benefit and collaboration. These interactions are vital to leverage expertise and ensure a coordinated approach towards achieving common goals in the field of water resource management and climate adaptation. In some cases, these projects have been designed as extensions of TALANOA WATER, as happens with NATURA, which adopts the ecosystem of innovation of TALANOA WATER to achieve

transformational adaptation across three inspiration labs, thus contributing to enhancing the impact of TALANOA WATER.

Another opportunity for Talanoa Water is to engage closer with the EU Mission Adaptation to climate change and Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters. Horizon Europe – the EU research and innovation funding program for the period 2021-2027 – introduced the concept of mission-oriented research and innovation, which involves addressing specific, bold, and transformative goals that have the potential to bring about significant positive impacts on society and the environment. These missions are designed to mobilize multidisciplinary efforts and resources across sectors and borders, fostering collaboration and innovation. The Mission Adaptation focuses on accelerating adaptation to climate change and promoting strategies to ensure resilience and sustainability. The Mission supports the development and implementation of innovative solutions that enable societies, ecosystems, and economic sectors to cope with climate risks, including through sustainable water resource management. The Mission Ocean and Water promotes sustainable and integrated management of water resources, ensuring their protection, restoration, and responsible use. This includes key areas such as achieving healthy inland waters, transitioning to a climate-neutral and sustainable blue economy, and promoting water-related research and innovation. It is recommended to foster cross-linkages with projects contributing to or funded from these EU Missions.

Leveraging Talanoa Water Insights: Engaging Scientific and Science-Policy Conferences

As a notable strength, the consortium has disseminated the early insights and preliminary results through major multi- and interdisciplinary scientific and science-policy events. These include Earth sciences – American, European and Mediterranean Geosciences Unions; environmental economics – such as European and Italian Associations of Environmental and Resource Economists, hydrological sciences and engineering – such as International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research, Cairo Water Week; climate and climate change impact sciences – such as Italian Association of Science for the Climate, International Conference on Meteorology and Climatology of the Mediterranean, and many more. However, despite the high number of conferences attended, rarely more than one or two partners contributing to the same event.

In order to enhance the exceptional strengths of the consortium, it is recommended to leverage the collective expertise of multiple partners by organizing joint sessions that highlight the progress achieved in different pilot basins. This collaborative approach will maximize the impact and effectiveness of the consortium's presentations and foster a comprehensive understanding of the project's advancements. This has been done for example for the Annual conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in Cyprus, June 2023 where the TALANOA WATER Consortium (including scientists and stakeholders) held a dedicated policy session on Water Dialogues for Sustainability (<http://www.eaere-conferences.org/index.php?p=369>) that was also streamed online. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen the consortium's participation in conferences organized by North African Mediterranean countries. By increasing involvement in these events, the consortium can enhance its

regional presence, foster collaboration with partners from these countries, and broaden the dissemination of its research findings and expertise.

Refocusing Social Media Presence: Optimizing Reach and Engagement

The consortium currently utilizes various social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. However, the overall performance of the project's social media presence has been less satisfactory. This can be attributed to several factors, such as diverse preferences for social media platforms among the pilot countries and fragmented usage across consortium partners (e.g., the Facebook platform is used by the Djefara lab, while the Aude lab use a separate website that complements that of the Consortium). To enhance the effectiveness of project's social media presence and use, a strategic refocusing is recommended. This involves revisiting our social media objectives, target audience, content strategy, and engagement tactics. By aligning social media efforts with the project's goals and target audience, it is possible to optimize the reach and increase engagement. Regularly monitoring and analysing social media metrics should provide insights for refining the social media strategy.

Measuring the project's impact

The TALANOA WATER consortium has established project-related KPIs aligned with the PRIMA impact framework, focusing on transformational adaptation strategies, technological assessment, and progress in Integrated Water Resources Management. Additional KPIs ensure balanced and inclusive engagement in Talanoa dialogues. The indicators related to communication and dissemination activities should be closely integrated with the previous performance indicators to comprehensively assess the project impacts. It is recommended to align the various performance indicators more effectively and establish quantitative targets for key impact and performance criteria. This alignment will provide a clearer framework for evaluating the success and effectiveness of the project's communication efforts. By setting specific targets, the project can track its progress, measure the desired outcomes, and make informed decisions to optimize communication strategies.

4. Revised Dissemination Plan

4.1. Scope of the revision

The initial Plan for Exploitation, Communication, and Dissemination (PEDR, D5.1) was developed eighteen months ago, in month M6. It is structured into three sections covering dissemination and exploitation, intellectual property rights, and communication.

The first part of the PEDR focuses on key engagement methods, such as Talanoa Dialogues and serious games, which aim to foster mutual understanding among project stakeholders. These methods facilitate open and inclusive discussions, allowing diverse perspectives to be heard and enabling effective collaboration. Additionally, the section explores the policy leverage, business exploitation, and legacy of

the project, highlighting the strategic use of project outcomes to influence policies, promote commercial opportunities, and create a lasting impact beyond the project's duration.

The second part of the initial PEDR describes the management of knowledge and intellectual property rights (IPRs). We prioritize open and inclusive knowledge sharing, with all important project deliverables and results made publicly available through gold open access. The consortium agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of all partners regarding intellectual property rights. It ensures that the ownership and management of intellectual property generated during the project are clearly defined and agreed upon by all consortium members.

The third PEDR part is dedicated to communication strategy. It outlines the principles and organization that guide the communication efforts. The target audience for the project's communication is identified, ensuring that the messages and information reach the intended recipients. Various communication channels are used, including scientific publishing, project brochures, leaflets, policy briefs to disseminate project findings to relevant stakeholders. Stakeholder training and courses are offered to enhance their understanding and involvement. Additionally, academic training, such as summer and winter schools, is provided to foster knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Much of the initial content remains relevant in guiding the project activities. But as the project reaches its halfway point, it's crucial to revisit the mechanisms that ensure the project's relevance and impact. **This applies specifically to the first and third sections of the initial PEDR**, as the rules regarding intellectual property rights remain unchanged. A further detailed PEDR helps the project adapt to changes and seize new opportunities. It allows for creative ways to share information and makes it easier to track progress and assess the project's impact. By setting clear goals and measuring results, it helps make informed decisions, identify areas to improve, and use resources wisely.

4.2. Policy leverage, business exploitation and legacy

Policy leverage

The EU [Mission Adaptation](#) and [Mission Oceans & Waters](#), as described in section 3, provide transformative opportunities in terms of their ambitious goals and accelerated actions. The agenda of both Missions sets new standards and generates significant momentum in mobilizing support from and for stakeholders involved in water management and collaborative projects. All European river basins are comprised in or partially extends over the territories of regions that have signed the Mission Adaptation Charter and participate in the activities of the Mission Adaptation: Occitania region in France, Castilla y León in Spain and Emilia Romagna in Italy. The Talanoia Water pilots have the potential to serve as examples of transformative approaches to water management, demonstrating successful outcomes that can be replicated in other regions. The EU Mission provides opportunities to scale up these achievements in other contexts. Additionally, the Mission projects [Pathways2Resilience](#), [Climaax](#), and [Agora](#) can benefit from the progress made in the Talanoia Water project, leveraging the methodologies and tools developed for regional climate risk assessment and user engagement. This collaboration allows for the sharing of

knowledge and the enhancement of frameworks and toolboxes for designing transformational pathways in water management. The Mission Adaptation has recently established the Mission Implementation Platform (MIP4Adaptation), which is coordinated by Ramboll. The platform serves as a hub for coordinating activities and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. The Mission Forum events, including the second event held in June 2023, play a crucial role in facilitating communication and cooperation within the Mission. These events provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and advance the objectives of the Mission. Close collaboration and active engagement with both the Mission Adaptation and the Mission Ocean and Water can serve as a valuable leverage to maximize the impact of the project. By aligning efforts and sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise, synergies can be created to address the interconnected challenges of water management and climate adaptation more effectively. This collaboration offers an opportunity to leverage collective efforts and achieve greater results in promoting sustainable and resilient water systems.

Business exploitation

Many of the modelling tools developed in the Talanoa Water qualify as hydrological, climate, adaptation or resilience services – all commonly referred to as climate services. The European Roadmap for Climate Services is a strategic framework that aims to enhance the development and use of climate services across Europe and beyond. It provides guidance and direction for effectively translating climate science into actionable information for decision-making and adaptation planning. The roadmap promotes the integration of climate services into existing policy frameworks and supports capacity building efforts to strengthen the climate services community. Overall, the [European Roadmap for Climate Services](#) plays a crucial role in advancing climate resilience and enabling informed decision-making in the face of climate change impacts.

The EU Horizon Europe [Climateurope2](#) project plays a vital role in fostering the community of climate services users, providers, and stakeholders. Through its coordination and supporting actions, the project brings together diverse actors to collaborate and exchange knowledge on climate services. It organizes innovation festivals and webstivals every six months, providing a platform for showcasing innovative approaches, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration within the climate services community. These events promote the development and adoption of effective climate services, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions and take proactive measures in response to climate change. The EU Horizon Europe Climateurope2 project is instrumental in advancing the field of climate services and supporting Europe's efforts in building climate resilience. In addition to its community activities, the project also plays a role in the standardization of climate services. It builds upon agreed bottom-up principles and best practice examples to develop and deliver community pre-standards in the field. By establishing common frameworks and guidelines, the project aims to enhance the quality and consistency of climate services across different sectors and regions.

TALANOA Water team can collaborate with Climateurope to develop climate services for water challenges. Through participation in events and sharing best practices, TALANOA Water can connect with

a diverse community, contributes to standardization, and enhances its ability to deliver effective climate services for informed decision-making and adaptive water management.

Legacy

As part of its initial legacy plans, Talanoa Water committed to preserving and scaling up innovation activities in at least three project pilot basins. Despite the original plan for implementation in the fourth year of the project, the consortium has already achieved successful participation of pilots in Lebanon, Spain, and Italy, in extensive complementary and follow-up activities. These activities have significantly contributed to complementing and enhancing the project's overall objectives, further strengthening its impact and success. The TALANOA WATER labs in these countries are involved in and contribute to the innovation agenda pursued by [TRANSCEND](#) (Transformational and Robust Adaptation to water Scarcity and Climate Change under Deep uncertainty). This project has been awarded funding under Horizon Europe's Cluster 6 and the topic of Climate-sensitive water allocation systems and economic instruments. Another project awarded under the same topic is [WE-ACT](#) (Water Efficient Allocation in a Central Asian Transboundary River Basin). A collaboration between all three projects has already been established.

Another legacy project of Talanoa Water is the [Climax-Po](#) project, an integrated LIFE project awarded to the Po River Basin Authority and partner institutions. This project aims to design and implement an ambitious climate adaptation agenda. The Italian Talanoa Water pilot, located within the Po River Basin District (RBD), serves as an early mover in this initiative, showcasing proactive efforts in addressing climate challenges. The innovative methods and tools developed in Talanoa Water will be preserved and applied in other basins of the River Basin District (RBD). This ensures the transferability and testing of these approaches in different contexts, allowing for broader application and potential scalability.

A third legacy project of TALANOA-WATER is NATURA, funded by the Spanish R&D Plan, which aims to implement the TALANOA WATER ecosystem of innovation in three inspiration labs in Italy, Spain and Slovakia, with a specific focus on transformational processes through Nature-based Solutions. The project will start the 1st July 2023, and last until June 2026.

Building on the successes of these legacy projects in Europe and the Middle East, the Talanoa Water team will focus on ensuring long-term sustainability and expanding their impact to other pilot basins, particularly in North African countries. The aim is to replicate and scale up the project's achievements in these regions, addressing water-related challenges and fostering resilience to climate change as a part of Climate dialogues fostered by the EU External Actions.

4.3. Enhanced communication strategy

Digital dissemination package and scientific publishing

The PEDR committed the consortium partners to producing policy briefs based on the major deliverables of the project. While not specifying them, most of these deliverables are expected to be completed towards the end of the project:

- D3.3: Final database of simulations and sourcebook (M36)
- D4.3: Report comprising results from ST7-8 and draft business plan (M41)
- D4.4: Options paper for stakeholders (focus on potential end-users) to support the integration of transformational adaptation into their decision-making processes, based on the results of D4.2-4.3 (M43)
- D4.5: Final water laboratories synthesis report (M44)
- D5.7: Policy Notebook (M48)

However, the format and layout of the policy briefs should be determined and developed beforehand and discussed during the pilot and cross-pilot science policy workshops. To boost the project's impact, these policy briefs should be organised to be released during major events such as UNFCCC Conference of Parties and EU Mission's Forums. Co-designed with major international organisations such as United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) and Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF), these policy briefs can be part of the knowledge packages designed to inform major international policy discourses and negotiations.

Furthermore, while the TALANOA WATER team values scientific publishing and has a strong track record in this regard, it may not be feasible to achieve the initial target of publishing at least 10 scientific articles per year. The team acknowledges that the actual number of publications may vary based on various factors, including the progress of the project and the complexity of the research findings. The focus will remain on maintaining high-quality publications and ensuring the dissemination of project results through appropriate channels. In any case, the number of publications is expected to increase during the third and fourth years as project final results are obtained, which makes feasible to achieve this number.

Scientific conferences

The Talanoa Water project has exceeded initial expectations in terms of the number of scientific conferences and workshops in which team members have participated and presented their work in progress. The level of engagement and collaboration with the scientific community has been remarkable, showcasing the project's commitment to knowledge exchange and sharing. In the second half of the project, the focus should shift towards prioritizing quality over quantity when it comes to participating in scientific conferences and workshops. Instead of aiming for a high number of individual presentations, the emphasis should be on achieving critical mass by having multiple team members participate in the same event – as achieved with the TALANOA WATER high-level policy session in the EAERE 2023 Conference. This approach ensures a stronger presence and maximizes the impact of the project's research and findings. By strategically coordinating participation, the project can enhance collaboration, foster interdisciplinary discussions, and promote the sharing of knowledge and expertise within the team and with the wider scientific community. For example, prioritizing the design and organization of entire conference sessions during major events such as the European or Mediterranean Geophysical Unions and the International Society for Environmental Modelling and Software should be emphasized.

One area where the project had room for improvement was in the participation and knowledge sharing at conferences in North Africa and the Middle East. Although efforts were made to engage with stakeholders and experts from these regions, the level of participation and knowledge exchange in conferences held in these areas such as African Climate Summit and African Climate Weeks could have been increased. Recognizing the importance of these regions in water management and climate adaptation, future activities should prioritise events in these countries.

One of the major events organized by the Talanoa Water consortium includes two international, cross-pilot workshops. These workshops serve as important platforms for bringing together stakeholders and experts from different pilot basins to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and collaborate on addressing water-related challenges. The workshops provide a valuable opportunity for participants to learn from each other's experiences, discuss best practices, and identify innovative solutions.

Performance indicators for comprehensive project impact assessment

A harmonized set of dissemination and communication indicators should be developed for each pilot basin individually. These indicators will help assess the effectiveness of dissemination and communication activities in reaching the target audience and achieving the desired impact. By tailoring the indicators to the specific context and needs of each pilot basin, the project can better evaluate the success of its dissemination efforts and make informed decisions for improvement. This approach ensures that the dissemination and communication strategies are tailored to the local stakeholders and maximizes the project's impact in each basin.

5. Conclusion and outlooks

This report marks the halfway point of the project's lifespan and presents an opportunity for reflection on the performance of the PEDR (Plan for Exploitation, Communication, and Dissemination of Results). It is an important milestone to review and further refine the activities outlined in the PEDR to ensure their effectiveness and alignment with the project's objectives. This assessment allows for adjustments and enhancements that will better support the project's goals and maximize its impact. By revising and detailing the activities included in the PEDR, the project can strengthen its communication and dissemination efforts and ensure they remain relevant and impactful throughout the remainder of the project.

This report provides specific recommendations to improve project performance. It identifies areas where performance can be enhanced and highlights areas that are already exceeding expectations. By addressing the areas for improvement and leveraging the strengths of the project, the team can further optimize its outcomes and achieve even greater success. These recommendations serve as valuable guidance for the project's future actions and enable targeted efforts to enhance overall performance. The upcoming annual report, D5.5, will assess the implementation of these recommendations and evaluate their impact on project

activities. It will provide insights into the extent to which the recommendations have been adopted and translated into actionable steps. Additionally, the report will offer further recommendations to guide the project in its final year, focusing on activities that maximize impact and contribute to the project's overall objectives.