

DPLR1\1086

Assessing and protecting marine biodiversity (Jubilee Shoals, SBAA Akrotiri, Cyprus)

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project “Assessing and protecting marine biodiversity (Jubilee Shoals, SBAA Akrotiri, Cyprus)” aims to produce the necessary information for the management and protection of the shoals’ remarkable marine habitats.

CURRENT SITUATION AND THE PROBLEM THE PROJECT ADDRESSES

According to recent estimations, over 90% of the global marine environment has been modified by human activities with negative consequences, such as diminishing biodiversity and disrupting important ecological processes. This on-going biodiversity crisis is happening quickly, much faster than we can produce information for its understanding and conservation. In the Mediterranean, submerged marine caves, seagrasses meadows, rocky reefs, and coralligenous habitats, are considered reservoirs of native biodiversity, which is threatened, unfortunately, by human activities and Climate change. In Cyprus, important coralligenous, rocky reefs and seagrass habitats are deteriorated by fishing activities (e.g., bottom nets and derelict gear), and marine caves unknowingly by divers. Making things worse, the recent series of marine heatwaves in the Mediterranean have affected significantly Cyprus’ biodiversity. The Jubilee Shoals (SBAA Akrotiri) is an example of an important place where the aforementioned habitats are under the pressure of diverse agents of deterioration. Nonetheless, the shoals’ biodiversity is remarkable, and in consequence, it is deemed pressing to take actions for their protection and management. To the best of our knowledge, there is no systematic assessment of the biodiversity of the shoal’s habitats, their health status and the human footprint. Such an assessment is with the purpose to generate the knowledge needed for the protection and management of the area in order to tackle Climate change effects and decrease degradation of the habitats.

AVAILABLE QUANTIFIED DATA AND EVIDENCE

The high biodiversity of the Jubilee Shoals observed during recent exploratory surveys of one of the cave systems (there are two), the coralligenous communities along the drop-off rocky walls, and the seagrass (*Posidonia oceanica*) patches on top of the shoals, suggest that the relatively small area of the shoals is among the most important hotspots of coastal marine biodiversity in Cyprus, making it thus a particular target for conservation. For example, two species of stony corals and one octocoral that were not observed before in Cyprus, were found in one of the shoals’ cave systems. To place these preliminary finds in context, it can be mentioned the case of the small Kakoskali Cave (a fraction of the size of the Jubilee Shoals’ cave systems) in NW coast of Cyprus; Kakoskali hosts a higher molluscan diversity, higher than the one reported from caves in the Western Mediterranean. In the shoals there are tell-tale signs of deterioration associated to human activities: damages to the seagrass patches, fragments or detached calcifying organisms and sponges on the cave floor, and abundant litter and derelict fishing gear. In consequence, the project will assess the visitation and behaviour of divers and fishers and will produce the basic socioeconomic information such as the economic importance of the shoals for diverse stakeholders. This information as well as the assessment of biodiversity will be used to elaborate specific guidelines (based on evidence) and for realistic decision-making of management actions focus to reduce and prevent the further deterioration of the shoals’ biodiversity and habitats.

CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY LOCAL PARTNERS

With the participation of one graduate student (MSc candidate), the project contributes with education and training that is not usually offered in environmental study programs. The research methods (e.g., photo-quadrats, transects), including analysis of data, elaboration of guidelines based on the results and the sharing of data (e.g., database, workshop, video) are important parts of the project that the student(s) will learn, practice and replicate elsewhere.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Carlos
Surname Jimenez
Organisation Enalia Physis Environmental
Research Centre

Website (Work) [Redacted]

Tel (Mobile) [Redacted]

Email (Work) [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

DPLR1\1086

Assessing and protecting marine biodiversity (Jubilee Shoals, SBAA Akrotiri, Cyprus)

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Assessing and protecting marine biodiversity (Jubilee Shoals, SBAA Akrotiri, Cyprus)

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Carlos
Surname	Jimenez
Organisation	Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre
Phone (Fax)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (on Cyprus)

*** if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:**

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

Yes

Please list these below and describe how they will benefit:

The methods and outcomes of the project can be replicated in the Sovereign Base Areas of Dhekelia (on Cyprus) where other similar habitats, such as marine caves, seagrass meadows, rocky reefs, and coralligenous, can be found. The geomorphology of the SBA Dhekelia's coast (e.g., cliffs, indented and submerged rocky platforms) allows the development of the aforementioned habitats with an associated biodiversity that hasn't been systematically surveyed. Furthermore, the human footprint on those habitats (e.g., fisheries) is significant and needs to be evaluated for and adequate management and protection.

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1): Carlos Jimenez

Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1):

Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre

Lead Partner Website (if applicable):

<https://enaliaphysis.org.cy/>

Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?

Yes

List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):

No other partner.

Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:


No other partner.


I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:


Unchecked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

 [DPlus-Cover letter-Jubilee Shoals-14.02.2023](#)

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Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

The project will assess the biological communities that thrive in four marine habitats at the Jubilee Shoals (SBAA Akrotiri) in Cyprus: seagrass beds, rocky reefs, submerged caves, and coralligenous. The assessment will take in account the physical characteristics (depth, geomorphology 3D), environmental parameters (temperature seasonality), and the human footprint (fishing, diving) on these habitats. With the participation of students and scientist, the project aims to produce information that is essential for management and protection actions.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project "Assessing and protecting marine biodiversity (Jubilee Shoals, SBAA Akrotiri, Cyprus)" aims to produce the necessary information for the management and protection of the shoals' remarkable marine habitats.

CURRENT SITUATION AND THE PROBLEM THE PROJECT ADDRESSES

According to recent estimations, over 90% of the global marine environment has been modified by human activities with negative consequences, such as diminishing biodiversity and disrupting important ecological processes. This on-going biodiversity crisis is happening quickly, much faster than we can produce information for its understanding and conservation. In the Mediterranean, submerged marine caves, seagrasses meadows, rocky reefs, and coralligenous habitats, are considered reservoirs of native biodiversity, which is threatened, unfortunately, by human activities and Climate change. In Cyprus, important coralligenous, rocky reefs and seagrass habitats are deteriorated by fishing activities (e.g., bottom nets and derelict gear), and marine caves unknowingly by divers. Making things worse, the recent series of marine heatwaves in the Mediterranean have affected significantly Cyprus' biodiversity. The Jubilee Shoals (SBAA Akrotiri) is an example of an important place where the aforementioned habitats are under the pressure of diverse agents of deterioration. Nonetheless, the shoals' biodiversity is remarkable, and in consequence, it is deemed pressing to take actions for their protection and management. To the best of our knowledge, there is no systematic assessment of the biodiversity of the shoal's habitats, their health status and the human footprint. Such an assessment is with the purpose to generate the knowledge needed for the protection and management of the area in order to tackle Climate change effects and decrease degradation of the habitats.

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guidelines (based on evidence) and for realistic decision-making of management actions focus to reduce and prevent the further deterioration of the shoals' biodiversity and habitats.

CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY LOCAL PARTNERS

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(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

No Response

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Checked | Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation; |
| Checked | Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities; |
| Checked | Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment |
| Checked | Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term. |
-

Please justify your selection.

The project addresses these themes by tackling the information deficit on the biodiversity and health status of selected EU Priority Habitats and by contributing to conservation actions necessary to respond and mitigate the negative effects of Climate change as well as the notorious foot-print from human activities on the Jubilee Shoals.

Measurable outcomes of the project will be the database of biodiversity to be used to elaborate recommendations for the management and protection activities on SBAA Akrotiri, the organization of a workshop with stakeholders in order to promote awareness and engagement, and the training and education of a MSc student.





Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2023	31 March 2024	12 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

-  [R1-DPlus-Local-Implementation-Timetable-14.02.2023](#)
-  14/02/2023
-  20:07:54
-  docx 39.8 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
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Staff costs:	<p>-Project Leader with long experience (ca. 40yrs) in research and conservation of marine habitats, who developed the concept, strategy and goals of the project and who will be responsible for the successful completion of activities and performance of participants.</p>	[REDACTED]
	<p>-Project Assistant experienced in marine research with technical/rebreather diving and safety measures, who will participate in all activities of the project and who will use selected data from the database for a MSc research thesis.</p>	
Overhead costs:	<p>It is a standard practice of the Leading Partner Organization to add overhead costs ([REDACTED]) for administrative use.</p>	[REDACTED]
Travel & subsistence costs:	<p>During the first 7 months of the project (Apr-Oct 2023), the project requires local travels from the capital to the study site and to conduct interviews for the socioeconomic aspects. Included here are car fuel, per diem and accommodation for the participants (between 2 and 4 depending on the activity).</p>	[REDACTED]
Operating costs:	<p>-The diving activities will follow stringent rules for safety and decompression procedures. It is necessary to rent scuba tanks with NITROX and also tanks with Oxygen.</p> <p>-Given the number of dives necessary to perform the biodiversity assessment and to comply with safety measures, it will be necessary to perform repairs and give maintenance to the dive gear.</p>	[REDACTED]
Capital equipment:	<p>-For the data storage, handling and mobility, two External Hard Drives will be purchased ([REDACTED]). The database will also be stored in the Cloud.</p> <p>-Small Temperature data loggers (10 units, [REDACTED]) will be used to track the seasonality inside the caves, the coralligenous, rocky reefs and seagrass habitats.</p>	[REDACTED]
Consultancy costs:	<p>-Since diving in the Jubilee Shoals requires high-skilled diving, resources are requested to cover the fees of certified experienced divers. The surveys will be done by means of Rebreather and Technical diving. The former will focus on the cave systems (max. dive time 3hrs) and the latter will work on the external habitats (decompression diving). The divers will survey the habitats using standard research methods in benthic ecology, such as quantitative observations (census) along transects and photo-quadrats.</p>	[REDACTED]
	<p>-For the access to the Jubilee Shoals it is necessary to charter boats large enough to accommodate the dive team (4 divers).</p>	
Total:		[REDACTED]

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will

use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

-Carlos Jimenez (M), Associate Researcher (Project Leader), time for 91 days () for management, participate in surveys, advise on database management and analysis of data, lead writing of reports.

-Vasilis Resaikos (M), MSc degree student, time for 202 days () to organize and participate in surveys, meetings, workshops and to manage the data base and perform analysis of the data, writing of reports.

-No funds are required for the participants Magdalene Papatheodoulou (F) statistics, Valentina Fossati (F) analysis photo-quadrats, Marios Papageorgiou (M) ichthyology.

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

It is a standard () of the overall cost for administrative use ().

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

-Transportation cost (fuel) for the surveys to the study site: 14 round trips () calculated as () each ()/km).

- Transportation cost (fuel) to perform interviews for the socioeconomic aspects: 8 round trips () calculated as () each ()/km).

-Per diem field work and interviews: 108 times (), calculates as the official rate of ()/person.

-Accommodation during field work: 13 nights or 22 rooms () calculated as ()/room.

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

- Dive equipment rentals (NITROX, Oxygen): 28 sets () calculated as 2 divers x 14 dives x ()/set.

- Repair and maintenance dive gear: 3 service kits () calculated as ()/kit.

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Costs below ().

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

- Rebreather divers for the survey of the cave systems: 14 dives () calculated as 2 divers x 14 dives x ()/diver.

-Technical divers for the surveys of the coralligenous, rocky reefs and seagrass habitats: 14 dives () calculated as 2 divers x 14 dives x ()/diver.

-Boat charters for the surveys at the shoals: 20 charters () calculated as ()/charter (half a day).

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

This budget line was missing above.

-Resources () are requested to produce the photographic/video material (10 panels,), to print and bind final report of the project (3 copies,) and for the catering (20 participant,) of the final Workshop with the stakeholders. This workshop is necessary to present the results of the project as well as to raise awareness and engagement.

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
Euros	1.13EUR/GBP	https://www.google.com/finance/quote/GBP-EUR?hl=en	14 February 2023

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs?

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

The OT area where the Jubilee Shoals are located, is far from the Lead Partner's headquarters and research facilities. In consequence, the budget lines Per diem field work (), Accommodation (), Boat charters (), and Catering final Workshop () are to be spent in the area.

Other items in the budget lines, such as Staff Costs, Operating Costs, purchase of Capital equipment, Consultancy Costs will be spent mostly in Nicosia, the capital.

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities


Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

Given the small area of Jubilee Shoals, it is remarkable that four important habitats, such as rocky reefs, coralligenous bioconstructions, submarine caves, and seagrass (Posidonia) beds, are found at the shoals. These habitats are relevant for the European Union (Habitat Directive 92/43 EEC) and the Barcelona Convention (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2008, 2015). The Republic of Cyprus follows those European Union environmental strategies as well as the Water Framework Directive. In consequence, the project will comply and follow national and EU targets for the marine environment.


Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?


Yes


Please attach evidence that you have Government support i.e. Letter of Support.

 [DPlus-NOTICE-Support letter-lubilee Shoals-1](#)

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Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Delays in the field activities due to bad weather including rough-sea conditions.	Use of available weather forecast tools (e.g., Windy.com, Kithasweather.com) and consultation to locals in order to select the best possible dates for the activities.
Logistical problems with diving gear and instruments.	Regular service of diving gear; spare gear and instruments will be available.
General delays field and office work due to health (e.g., COVID) related issues.	Participants regularly checked for COVID; replacement personnel available to fulfil the activities in the field and the office.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Low participation of stakeholders in the presentation and discussion of the project's outcomes during the final Workshop.	Interactions with the individuals and organizations, particularly during the field activities, will increase motivation and engagement.
No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name:	Carlos Jimenez
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Associate Researcher
Signature (please upload e-signature)	📎 R1-DPlus-Local-Application-Certification-Signed-14.02.2023 📅 14/02/2023 🕒 20:47:05 📄 pdf 119.38 KB
Date:	14 February 2023

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Unchecked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Unchecked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Unchecked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title:

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Projects are based on UK Financial Years (**1 April – 31 March** - therefore starts April 2023).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
1	Meeting with Sovereign Base Areas Administration and Environmental Centre in order to present the project and receive feedback	1													
2	Organization of participants and collaborators and kick-off meeting	1													
3	Survey of the biodiversity inside the two cave systems	3													
4	Survey of biodiversity in the seagrass, rocky reefs and coralligenous habitats	3													
5	Survey for the human footprint on the Jubilee Shoals rocky reefs, coralligenous and cave habitats	4													
6	Geomorphology and 3D mapping of the cave systems	1													
7	Interviews for the Socioeconomic Aspects of the Jubilee Shoals (e.g., access services, cost of the experience)	1													

Project Title:

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
8	Communication and dissemination of the project: Creation project webpage (?), add the project to partners' webpages, and updates	5													
9	Management of database (including creation, collection, storage protocols)	9													
10	Analysis (statistical, descriptive) of database	9													
11	Organizing open workshop/seminar to stakeholders to present the outcomes of the project	1													
12	Producing financial & technical reports of the project results	2													