



share and move to face nasty bugs

WP1 DIALOGUE AND PARTICIPATION

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION REPORT 1

ASSET Project • Grant Agreement N°612236

ASSET

Action plan on SiS related issues in Epidemics And Total Pandemics

7th RTD framework programme

Theme: [SiS.2013.1.2-1 Sis.2013.1.2-1]

Responsible partner: **Istituto Superiore di Sanità (P8 ISS)**

Contributing partners: **All Consortium Members**

Nature: **Report**

Dissemination: **PU**

Contractual delivery date: **2015-06-30 (m18)**

Submission Date: **2015-10-16 (m22)**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 612236



co-funded by the EU. GA: 612236

www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu



DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

PROJECT FULL TITLE	Action plan on SiS related issues in Epidemics And Total Pandemics
PROJECT ACRONYM	ASSET
	Coordination and Support Action: project funded under Theme SiS.2013.1.2 "Mobilisation and Mutual Learning (MML) Action Plans"
GRANT AGREEMENT	612236
STARTING DATE	01/01/2014
DURATION	48 months

D1.6 Scientific Coordination Report 1

Task: T1.4 Scientific Coordination

Leader: Istituto Superiore di Sanità (P8 ISS) – Other contributors: All Consortium Members

History of changes:

Vn	Status	Date	Organisation / Person responsible	Reason for Change
V1	Final	16/10/2015	P8 ISS	-



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	5
1. INTRODUCTION.....	6
1.1 Work progress and major achievements during the period M1-M18.....	6
WP1: DIALOGUE & PARTICIPATION.....	8
T1.1 Kick off Meeting (KoM).....	9
T1.2 Capacity Building.....	10
T1.3 Project Infrastructure.....	11
T1.4 Scientific Coordination.....	12
WP2 STUDY & ANALYSIS.....	13
T2.1 Governance of Pandemics and Epidemics.....	14
T2.2 Reference guide of unsolved scientific questions related to Pandemics and Epidemics.....	14
T2.3 Collection and analysis of experiences of participatory governance in crisis management.....	16
T2.4 Ethics, Law and Fundamental Rights in Pandemics and Epidemics.....	16
T2.5 Gender Issues in Pandemics and Epidemics.....	17
T2.6 Intentionally Caused Outbreaks.....	18
T2.7 Transdisciplinary Workshop.....	20
WP3 ACTION PLAN DEFINITION.....	20
T3.1 Strategic Plan.....	21
T3.2 Roadmap to Open and Responsible Research and Innovation in Pandemics.....	22
WP6 POLICY WATCH.....	23
T6.1 High Level Policy Forum.....	23
T6.2 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin.....	24
WP7 COMMUNICATION.....	25
T7.1 Overall Communication Strategy.....	26
T7.2 Brand Creation.....	27
T7.3 Web Portal.....	27
T7.4 MEDIA OFFICE.....	28
T7.5 Science Communication.....	29
T7.6 Summer School on SiS related issues in Pandemics.....	30
T7.7 SiS in Pandemic Best Practice Award for GPs.....	30
T7.8 Liaison with the Comenius Programme.....	31
T7.9 Gender Issue Platform.....	31



T7.10 Research and Innovation Newsletter..... 32

WP8 EVALUATION 33

T8.1 Project Monitoring and ongoing evaluation..... 33

T8.2 Ex-post Evaluation..... 34



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present scientific coordination report provides a detailed assessment of the project according to the progress and achievements made over the first 18-month period. In particular, for each ongoing Work Package and Task, it focuses on the following:

Project and WP levels:

- Work progress and overall achievements made.

Task level:

- Progress made towards the objectives;
- Significant results obtained and Key findings.



1. INTRODUCTION

This document is the first scientific coordination report covering the first 18 months of the project.

In the course of the ASSET project, scientific coordination is based on participatory methods and a continuous dialogue between the consortium members. This report is therefore the result of cooperation between the partners, primarily the scientific coordinator and all WP leaders and the Project Manager.

1.1 Work progress and major achievements during the period M1-M18

Work progress and overall achievements for the project

The ASSET project implementation, due to administrative difficulties, has started 6 months later (KoM at the end of May, 2014). To recover the delay and to facilitate effective internal communication among the numerous partners, a web based community (ASSET Community of Practice – CoP) was created. Through the CoP and the interactions made available by the web platform, a new glossary, real “common language” within the project partners, was initially designated for use within the ASSET consortium and co-operatively set up to help forging a partnership and promoting the consortium capacity building. Thereafter a broad recognition to make the state of the art on the existing research and studies about pandemics has been carried out according to the 6 main components of RRI (governance, unsolved scientific questions; past experiences of participatory governance; targeted ethical, legal and societal implications; gender issues; the risk of intentionally caused outbreaks). At the end of this process, a transdisciplinary workshop was held to consolidate the reports outcome and to cross fertilise research. For each component a final report was elaborated and the main critical aspects emerged are being considered as priority to be covered with the strategic plan for the following MML activities. Furthermore, the prominent issues emerging from this review will be conveyed in the newly constituted High Level Policy Forum that brings together European policy-makers, key decision makers in health agencies and civil society organizations, to stimulate at national and regional levels reflection on EU strategic priorities about pandemics. Communication and dissemination are crucial for pandemic preparedness and constitute the essential of the MML action plan. In this sense, after establishing a Communication Plan shared within the ASSET CoP, the project started publishing periodically the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin and the Research and Innovation Newsletter, the former addressed to the ASSET wider stakeholder community and to relevant public health authorities and policy making institutions and the latter to researchers both in academia and industry. A web portal, multilayer open web infrastructure, has been made available to communicate in 2-ways with general public, media, stakeholders, decision makers, scientific community inside and outside the project. Finally, the Summer School, to foster exchanges on foundational and methodological approaches and contemporary and educational issues in SiS related aspects of Pandemics has been planned and launched for 20 candidates.

After 18 months of activities, the ASSET project focused on two main objectives to be achieved: 1) define and test a participatory and inclusive strategy to improve bi-lateral communication aimed to succeed with crisis management, 2) after an accurate review of documents and identification of critical aspects, propose and bring them to the attention of stakeholders, scientific community, decision makers and citizens for improving preparedness and response in pandemics or crisis emergencies.

By creating and testing MMLAP strategies in different European countries, ASSET is expected to improve participatory governance of research and technological development so as to promote more sustainable and effective approaches to key challenges facing European society for pandemics and emergency management.



co-funded by the EU. GA: 612236



share and move to face nasty bugs

Furthermore, ASSET will contribute to further incorporating Science in Society issues by identifying and promote systems capacities to make European citizens (and their representatives) timely informed of the next emergency, helping them to identify trustable and accredited information sources, easing access to correct and timely information, creating channels to enable citizens to ask questions and receive timely answers from government officials and accredited sources. On the other hand, opening discussion forums with the scientific community, stakeholders and decision makers at European, national and regional levels will offer the participants the opportunity to realize what would be the best forms to promote and support such processes.

Within the strategy of MMLAP, the ASSET project is and will (be) developing a large amount of tools and products that are made available progressively in the web portal to different targeted stakeholders. Besides the 6 reports on the state-of-art of the existing studies on pandemics, and their wider societal implications, research and innovation in this area, the glossary will be soon available on the web portal. Beyond the web portal, the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin and the Research and Innovation Newsletter are sent to a mailing list of over 2,500 international addresses.



WP1: DIALOGUE & PARTICIPATION

WP Leader: NCIPD

Start month: m1 (January 2014)

End month: m48 (December 2017)

Efforts reported: 31.75 p*m – **Actual Progress:** 68%

Work progress and overall achievements for the WP

The purpose of the Kick-off Meeting (KoM – T1.1) was to create the basis for a smooth project development, to review the overall Project timetable and to fine tune the work of the Consortium. Work on T1.2 and the creation of the Glossary, through active online collaboration among partners (on the Community of Practice Forum, and by online meetings) facilitated the building in ASSET of common approach and language. Work on the Glossary allowed partners to exchange knowledge and experience. The Glossary itself provides the reference document for our common language.

The web-based Community of Practice developed in T1.3 is the main tool, which allows sharing and transferring knowledge among ASSET partners. It has established itself as both a working platform for completing tasks and a place for communication, where partners discuss a number of relevant topics. The MMLAP virtual cluster, which is currently being developed, will additionally aid in knowledge transfer and in facilitating multi-actor work in the ASSET life. Ongoing scientific coordination of the project (T1.4) has so far provided careful and comprehensive overlooking of workflow on all tasks. Feedback and suggestions have been provided to task leaders and task contributors as necessary. The approach to scientific coordination has been inclusive, involving open discussion and has facilitated the better quality of the leadership of tasks.

The KoM achieved the important goal not only to gather all Consortium Partners for the first time, but also to have the planned activities really started. The Kick off Meeting, the Community of Practice, and the work on the Glossary have all facilitated active communication and teamwork among partners during the first year of project life. Partners have become well acquainted with each other and with the expert knowledge each brings to the project.

Reference common language. The Glossary is a comprehensive reference document, covering and explaining terms that span all the topics, relevant to ASSET. It has been developed, using the varied expert knowledge of partners.

A platform for work and communication. The web-based Community of practice has become an invaluable tool for everyone to follow up and participate in project activities and to easily gain an overlook of what's currently happening. As well, the platform has become a place for discussion on various topics, related to pandemics and epidemics, facilitating exchange of perspectives and knowledge.

Careful and comprehensive overlooking of all tasks, provided by the Scientific Coordination task.



More details are provided below with regards to the progress made towards the objectives, significant outcomes and major achievements, separately for each task in WP1.

T1.1 Kick off Meeting (KoM)

Task leader: ISS

Contributors: LYONBIOPOLE, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, NCIPD, TIEMS, UMFCO, HU, VITAM, ZADIG, DMI, PROLEPSIS

Start: m1 – **End:** m6

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The Meeting was called by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (P8 ISS) and took place in Rome on May 2014, 26th and 27th. The ASSET KoM dealt mainly with presentation of all Partner Institutions (14) forming the ASSET Consortium. The wider context of Mobilization and Mutual Learning Action Plan (MMLAP) in which the ASSET Project is included was presented and discussed. Particularly three main functions of MMLAP (connecting, communicating, democratizing) were described and exemplified for ASSET implementation. Having clear the methodological approach and the contents of ASSET as MMLAP project, all the Partners were invited to describe their own role in ASSET basing their presentations upon a common template that was provided by ISS and specifying a set of questions to answer in order to facilitate the common understanding and the beginning of the co-operation.

A second objective of the KoM was to receive the legacy of TELL ME (Transparent communication in Epidemics: Learning Lessons from experience, delivering effective Messages, providing Evidence), a collaborative EU-funded 7th Framework Programme project, seeking to provide evidence and to develop models for improved risk communication during infectious disease crises. The TELL ME key-question is about the communication gap during the 2009 H1N1 outbreak between global and local health organizations and the public which led to immunization non-compliance and a sense of mistrust and lack of transparency. ASSET will broaden the TELL ME information and/or communication aspects. Since pandemics and other infectious disease crises impact on mortality/morbidity as well as on socio-economic elements, several issues have been included into the ASSET review: governance of flu pandemics; unsolved scientific questions regarding influenza and pandemics; ethical, legal and societal implications of pandemics; gender issues and vulnerability, vaccines; research and innovation; risk of intentionally caused outbreaks.

To start immediately the co-operation for the project activities and recover the initial delay, the rationale of the Community of Practice (CoP) was presented. Starting from the three interrelated dimensions of CoPs (domain, community, practice), their key-functions were outlined (generating new knowledge, expertise and practice). All partners participated in a practical tutorial on how to operate the web site for making the CoP work and produce the expected results for each task/work package.



Significant results / Key findings

In order to facilitate the achievement of the main objectives of WP1, the KoM addressed the general structure and role of each partner in the implementation of the project, as outlined in the DoW, dealt with timetable issues, reviewed administrative and financial issues and management procedures while fostering the transferring of knowledge among ASSET partners. Due to the discussion about MMLAP the KoM produced a valuable common understanding of such new approaches to produce results for SiS. Finally, all partners were enrolled within the web based community of practice and enabled to use the CoP key functions (forum, database, resource upload and download) and tools.

T1.2 Capacity Building

Task leader: NCIPD

Contributors: LYONBIOPLE, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, ISS, TIEMS, UMFCD, HU, ZADIG, DMI, PROLEPSIS

Start: m2 – **End:** m11

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

To build a common approach, an inclusive strategy was selected, where everyone can participate in the coining of Glossary terms, through comments in the Glossary section by writing e-mails, directly posting in the CoP WP1 Forum, and participating in online conference call. A preliminary draft of the Glossary with about 300 terms, was amended and integrated to achieve over 450 issues. A few terms required live discussion within the consortium members to be defined in a suitable manner taking into account the context and methods of the project.

Several categories were developed through looking at specific topics, listed in WP2, as those indeed are the main fields, relevant to ASSET. A special care was taken to create a logical link between the Glossary and TELL ME results ending up many terms used within TELL ME, which should be included in the Glossary.

The methodological approach adopted for this task was as follows:

- Compiling an initial list of relevant terms and uploading the draft into the web based CoP. For each term the reference links were incorporated ;
- Collecting all partners comments, suggestion and integrations;
- Listing terms meriting further discussion and organization of 2 virtual meetings;
- Identification of the terms relevant for each area (6) of literature review planned within the WP2 and discussion with the task leaders;
- Incorporating results into the Glossary.

Significant results / Key findings

A wide glossary of relevant terms was produced and shared in the ASSET CoP to be further used for accomplishing the task of the project. A user-friendly system was set up to provide the CoP members with browsing options (search, categories) and using active link functionality (to external sources and to other terms in the Glossary).

A pdf file with all the Glossary has also been made available on the web platform.



The possibility to publish the glossary on the official ASSET web site to allow external individuals to use the terms included in the glossary and improve mutual understanding of the concepts concerning pandemics preparedness and response, is under study.

T1.3 Project Infrastructure

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: ABSISKEY, ISS

Start: m2 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 33%

Progress towards objectives

The ASSET Community of practice

During the KoM, the consortium members had a clear picture of the fact that they were building a Community of Practice (CoP), necessary to acknowledge the challenge of carrying out a MMLAP and manage its complexity. Based on the principles of social constructivism, the CoP is among the most efficient systems of co-construction, capitalization and generation of knowledge. To support this nascent CoP, a web-based infrastructure was planned and implemented. An open-source software has been adopted (Moodle), powering internet platforms allowing combining tools of concepts non-moderated, self-organized discussion process (quantified, constructive feedback) and liquid democracy (delegated or proxy voting). The CoP is at the moment restricted to project partners, yet we will progressively extend its access to stakeholder representatives as they are involved in the project. The platform is endowed with several functions tailored on ASSET CoP operational needs; each WP disposes of an open forum for discussing proposals about topics, issues, and opportunities to be addressed as they emerge; the activity leading to the expected deliverables is enriched by each WP forum space that contributes to the work in progress, so that each ASSET product is transparently available to all ASSET participants. A deliverables repository is also included as well as a common events calendar and a resources space.

The MMLAP virtual cluster

To improve the potentiality of ASSET project, a virtual cluster which may facilitate the exchange of experiences with other MMLAPs was created. A database on EU funded MMLAP projects, either still ongoing or completed, has been constructed and made available for the CoP. Contacts with the single MMLAP projects have been made and are still ongoing. A MMLAP virtual cluster meeting took place on 4th June 2015 (M18).

Significant results / Key findings

The web based Community of practice

The internal communication within the CoP have been of very high intensity. Excluding the exchanges by e-mail or telephone, the volume of contacts among the consortium members is documented by the statistics automatically generated by the moodle operated web site. From July 2014 (M7) up to the end of June 2015 (M18), over 12,000 connections to the web platform by the 48 active consortium members - were recorded. On average, in a single week of CoP life more than 600 CoP vi have been registered. All PPT presentations, the deliverables, the works in progress, and overall all the ASSET products are made available on the CoP site.



The MMLAP virtual cluster

At the moment, the project disposes of a database with the more relevant characteristics of the MMLAPs completed or still active in the EC. During the first virtual meeting the strong points and the main challenges concerning MMLAP were discussed by the participants.

Further steps are needed to improve this useful dialogue:

- Gather all the useful documents on different participatory methodologies: those coming from literature that every project took as a point of reference and those directly produced within the projects (reports, handbooks, Action Plans);
- Organise a database of best practices: the indicators of the database will be shared and agreed with all the participants in order to make it easy to use and consult. The database will be hosted in the internal Community of Practice (CoP) of ASSET;
- Create a CoP sub-community dedicated to MMLAP discussion and sharing, a sort of online forum.

T1.4 Scientific Coordination

Task leader: ISS

Contributors: NCIPD, HU, TIEMS, DBT, ZADIG, VITAMIB

Start: m1 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 38%

Progress towards objectives

The Scientific Coordination (SC) is a complex task entrusted to the Scientific Coordinator, assisted by the Pool of WP leaders and the Advisory Board. For the sake of the objective achievement a strict co-operation has been studied and carried out with the Quality Manager and the Project Manager.

To build this function for the project, a few steps have been followed to ensure effective communication, transparency and participatory decision making. The project infrastructure, and in particular the web framework for the ASSET community of practice, has been planned to enable participants to have as many sub-communities as work packages. All of them dispose of a reserved space where, by means of a forum, they can exchange information, material and resources. Furthermore, a specific area has been activated for the work package leaders, in order to allow them to discuss any issues concerning the Scientific Coordinator. To ensure an active participation, the web platform automatically sends every day a digest of the discussions of the previous day to all ASSET members. Periodical Consortium meetings (held in May 2014 (M3), and February 2015 (M15),) and many virtual consortium meetings - either plenary or partially - have facilitated the exchange of the scientific information and the monitoring of the ongoing activities.

Significant results / Key findings

The 6 -month delay in the timetable of the planned tasks has been partially recovered allowing the consortium members to contain the end of the project into the deadline originally planned (December 2017). This result has been achieved also because of the high intensity of information exchanges and interrelations between the different tasks and WPs carried out within the web-based Community of Practice, which has been managed by the Scientific Coordinator.



17 out of 18 deliverables planned for the first 18 months of the project have effectively produced in about 12 months (June 2014-June 2015 (M6-M18)). All of them have reviewed or are under reviewing by the Scientific coordinator and the Quality Manager.

WP2 STUDY & ANALYSIS

WP Leader: HU

Start month: m4 (April 2014)

End month: m16 (April 2015)

Efforts reported: 40.01 p*m – **Actual Progress:** 100%

Work progress for the WP

WP2 is about the state of the art research and existing studies on pandemics, and their wider societal implications, research and innovation in this area, and the operational and regulatory environment. Its main objectives are to establish a baseline knowledge about: 1) governance of flu pandemic and other similar crises; 2) unsolved scientific questions regarding influenza and pandemic situations; 3) past experience of participatory governance, bringing research about influenza and pandemics closer to democratic institutions at all levels; 4) targeted ethical, legal and societal implications of pandemics; 5) gender issues in pandemics; 6) the research and innovation context; 7) the risk of intentionally caused outbreaks. A common feature in preparing those thematic reports was the first step to achieve, i.e. a broad literature review, followed by an in-depth analysis carried out in some cases by the experts in the field (external to the project) in some other cases by interviewing selected stakeholders.

Overall achievements for the WP

In terms of contents, the state of the art produced different results:

- A. The International Health Regulations (IHR) provided a basis for international collaboration during infectious disease crises with the WHO as the supranational health authority; B. The pharmaceutical industry's influence ranges from providing finances to "The revolving door" phenomenon; C. The journalists focused on different issues during the press conferences of WHO and CDC during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic;
- Creating the broadest overview of scientific needs that have been already identified;
- Analysis of models and experiences of participatory governance in crisis management at various levels, local, national and international;
- General taxonomy of ethics, law and fundamental rights implications of pandemics and epidemics;
- Review of various issues such as sex differences in influenza and vaccination, the risks that pregnant women face during pandemics and epidemics, and more;
- Reviewing current knowledge and main policy documents concerning intentionally caused outbreaks and a taxonomy of the main governance problems posed by the risk of intentionally caused outbreaks in democratic societies.



Furthermore, in line with the DoW, many of the reports' findings will be utilized for setting up the strategic plan for the ASSET MMLAP.

More details are provided below with regards to the progress made towards the objectives, significant outcomes and major achievements, separately for each task in WP2.

T2.1 Governance of Pandemics and Epidemics

Task leader: HU

Contributors: LYONBIOPOLE, NCIPD

Start: m7 – **End:** m14

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The objectives of this task were to review the role and performance of the WHO, ECDC and CDC in 2009 pandemic, focusing on published documents and press reports. The 2009 H1N1 pandemic was the departure point for this report, highlighting the lack of trust and perceived conflict of interests of the international organizations, that pervaded the media.

Significant results / Key findings

The findings of this study suggest that the revised IHR has provided a comprehensive basis for international collaboration during infectious disease crises and has strengthened the role of the WHO as the supranational health authority. This is particularly relevant for timely exchange of information and risk communication. Nevertheless, many countries have not yet been able to achieve the core capacities required by the revised IHR.

Particular attention was devoted to the pharmaceutical industry and its performance in the process. Mainly, the target was on the issue of Conflict of Interests (CoI) between health authorities and pharmaceutical companies, and the potential impact of those companies on the decision making process used by health authorities. Their influence ranges from providing finances to "the revolving door" phenomenon.

The role of the media in monitoring governance performance during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic was also analyzed. The communications that occurred between the media and two central health authorities: WHO and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were examined. Both authorities held virtual press conferences during the pandemic, so we could study the issues that journalists focused on. These include the declaration of the H1N1 influenza pandemic as such, the decision to hasten vaccines' production, transparency of stakeholders' conduct in the decision making process and possible conflicts of interests.

T2.2 Reference guide of unsolved scientific questions related to Pandemics and Epidemics

Task leader: LYONBIOPOLE

Contributors: IPRI, HU

Start: m4 – **End:** m15

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives



The aim of this reference guide was to outline, from the scientific and technical literature, the main unsolved scientific questions regarding pandemics, with a particular focus on influenza and, of course, by taking as a particular case study, the H1N1 2009 pandemic. The global aim was to identify key points for an optimal preparedness in case of a possible future pandemic. To structure the report, we followed the classical four-step paradigm of decision making: Decision Input, Decision Making, Decisions Output and Communication.

The analysis of decision making required to perform a review of the state of the art in surveillance of emerging pathogens with potential risk of causing pandemics;; the following step (Decisions Output) involved the review of the preparedness and response enacted during the H1N1 pandemics; Finally, the analysis of the communication involved a review of the processes of risk communication and a review of an important issue during pandemics and epidemics: the changes in human behavior (and its impact) following non-mandatory recommendations by Public Health Authorities.

In line with the DoW, we complemented our analyses by means of an appropriate questionnaire, sent to the experts in the field of pandemics and epidemics (virology, epidemiology, mathematical modelling, and social psychology). A focused workshop was then held in Lyons, in February 2015 (M14), in order to discuss the most interesting findings of the questionnaires, and to point out main research areas that they consider as “vital” for future pandemic preparedness.

Significant results / Key findings

Preparing the society to new and more efficient systems of Pandemics Surveillance is a major challenge. Thus, many recommendations for good practices in pandemic and preparedness were discussed and proposed by the reference guide.

The same guide identified, however, a selected list of key open problems/challenges of risk communication during pandemics.

Finally, it was highlighted that classical statistical methodologies in epidemiology nowadays have to be complemented by mathematical models describing the spread of infectious diseases also from the point of view of the human behaviour and how the information and the rumours on the spread of a disease (and on vaccine-related side-effects) induce such changes.



T2.3 Collection and analysis of experiences of participatory governance in crisis management

Task leader: TIEMS

Contributors: DBT

Start: m7 – **End:** m14

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The term Crisis Participatory Governance was coined to include citizens and civil society in risk communication and organized response to a crisis (i.e., epidemic and pandemics threats) so as to pioneer citizen engagement in policy making and implementation.

To prepare this report, the literature on research in participatory governance during crisis, including epidemics and pandemics, was broadly reviewed. The aspects of governance at the local, national and international levels for crisis in general were discussed and related to infectious disease crisis such as epidemics and pandemics.

Significant results / Key findings

Crisis participatory governance in the context of case studies including the South Sudan Secession Crisis, the present Ebola epidemic, the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, and 2015 H1N1 outbreak in India were discussed and selected recommendations headed to support the ASSET ongoing strategic plan. To contribute to expand responsible research and innovations, some methods about how to empower marginalized groups in society (i.e., women, ultra-poor, illiterate, physically and psychologically challenged, with lower social capital, and some ethnic groups) were pointed out. Another recommended research area is how to improve willingness and capacity of state actors in participatory governance since it is a matter of culture, tradition, religion, legacy, and existing practices.

T2.4 Ethics, Law and Fundamental Rights in Pandemics and Epidemics

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: PROLEPSIS

Start: m7 – **End:** m15

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The emergence of new pandemics demands novel solutions and particular attention to ethical issues, which include: solidarity; protection of personal autonomy versus public good; informed consent under emergency circumstances; stigmatization, resource allocation, prevention vs. treatment, and human rights.

The report on Ethics, Law and Fundamental Rights focused on relevant ethical, legal and fundamental rights considerations in situations of public health emergencies, such as epidemics and pandemics. Starting from the international policy landscape on what constitutes fundamental human rights, both at EU and world level, the international policy instruments were outlined so as to provide a concrete framework for the formulation of national policies in the event of a large scale public health emergency.



Significant results / Key findings

An ethical ASSET strategy has been prepared not only as an ongoing tool for all the ASSET activities, but more as a working tool for all stakeholders confronting with pandemic-epidemic emergencies. References to formal EU docs do offer protection against deviation from the EU approved ethical policy.

Coming to an operational phase the ethical issues principles must be incorporated into the strategic plan as well as into the following MMLAP operations. A particular care will be considered in dealing with civil society and with stakeholders. A dedicated part has been devoted to media operators.

T2.5 Gender Issues in Pandemics and Epidemics

Task leader: EIWH

Contributors: ISS

Start: m7 – **End:** m14

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

T2.5 aimed to look at gender differences affecting exposures to infectious diseases as well as access to, information on, and use of, vaccinations in pandemics and epidemics. By using a targeted gender approach, as well as including different population groups for example by age, socioeconomic status, minority status, and gender, a societal perspective is to be presented that connects with a scientific approach. This also helps highlight existing inequalities in health, as well as focusing on prevention and viewing issues across the lifespan and not in isolation.

A literature review was carried out and summarized to systematically study the available literature regarding gender issues in pandemics and epidemics. The goal was to gather information on current research as well as to identify gaps where more research is needed. Interviews were also conducted with stakeholders from various areas concerned with pandemics, epidemics, and vaccinations, in order to gain more insight into gender issues.

Furthermore, interviews were conducted with stakeholders from various areas concerned with pandemics, epidemics, and vaccinations, in order to gain more insight into gender issues. Methods and findings from these made up the second part of the report. A total of seven stakeholders agreed to participate in interviews discussing gender perspectives of influenza epidemics/pandemics and vaccination. The stakeholders interviewed were selected so as to represent different point of view within the Civil Society: the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), the International Longevity Centre UK (ILC-UK), the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunisation, WHO, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European COPD Coalition (ECC), the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (COMO) and the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO).

Significant results / Key findings

Literature review findings indicate that biologically, females and males differ in their immunological responses to seasonal influenza virus vaccines. Particularly, pregnant women are at risk due to unique factors connected to pregnancy. In general, vaccination of pregnant women serves to protect both the woman and the foetus. As for Health care workers and Carers, they tend to be predominantly female,



and there is little consensus on how to target the low vaccination rates of HCW, and how to reach out to carers. Hard to reach groups may have adverse health outcomes and the complex interplay of gender and social and economic marginalisation makes this a particular issue for women. Stakeholder interviews showed that only one stakeholder reported having a specific focus on gender issues. Many stakeholders were of the opinion that influenza does not discriminate by gender but continuously stressed the importance of effective communication, making it the largest issue identified in the survey data. The report issued at the end of the task shows the importance of the gender issue and the priority for including such a issue in the ASSET strategic plan to improve preparedness for pandemics and emergencies management.

Evidence compiled in this report from both the literature and the stakeholder interviews clearly show that there is a need for a more gendered approach to influenza pandemics/epidemics and vaccination. A life-course approach to influenza is important for all groups; however, the specific needs detailed for women in general, and for particular groups, are crucial for the efforts to work towards more cohesive and effective protection against influenza pandemics and epidemics, and the increased reach of vaccinations. Suitable communication, identifying subgroups and their specific needs, and clear and properly directed health promotion strategies are needed if women's position relating to these issues is to be successfully addressed.

T2.6 Intentionally Caused Outbreaks

Task leader: FFI

Contributors: LYONBIOPOLE, HU

Start: m7 – **End:** m14

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The objectives for the task was to make a governance relevant deliverable with an overview of governance problems in democratic societies related to intentionally caused outbreaks. The study includes a collection and analysis of the main policy documents concerning Intentionally Caused Outbreaks and a taxonomy of the main governance problems posed by the risk of Intentionally Caused Outbreaks in democratic societies, chiefly the tension between secrecy and transparency, freedom of research and security, citizen involvement and experts' decisions. In the scope of WP2, this deliverable covers the issues and background for intentionally caused outbreaks, including bioterrorism and use of biological weapons as well as existing mechanisms to mitigate these issues and gaps/problems in handling this aspect of governance.

Significant results / Key findings

The main findings from the analysis and taxonomy concerning “the tension between secrecy and transparency” are problems related to state biological weapons programs, international agreements with vague repercussions and loose implementation, dual-use research, stockpiles, biological agents' reservoirs and public communication. In “freedom of research and security”, problems mainly relate to dual-use issues, movements of agents and equipment, laboratory safety and security and the security of the public. “Citizen involvement” problems are mainly within the areas of protection of citizens, their say in decision-making processes, involvement in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery as well as public communication aspects. As for “experts' decisions” the main governance problem areas lie within expert involvement in policy, expert involvement that is required for decisions and complex



co-funded by the EU. GA: 612236



share and move to face nasty bugs

problem areas not possible to solve without expert advice and communicating complex areas to policy-makers and the public.



T2.7 Transdisciplinary Workshop

Task leader: DMI

Contributors: LYONBIOPOLE, PROLEPSIS, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, ISS, NCIPD, TIEMS, UMFCD, HU, ZADIG

Start: m12 – **End:** m16

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The objectives of the Transdisciplinary Workshop were to discuss and synthesize the main findings of the 6 thematic reports prepared within WP2. The participation of all the ASSET consortium partners to this workshop allowed to:

- consolidate the WP outcomes
- cross-fertilize research
- make progress in the establishment of an original, transdisciplinary, common, approach.

The ASSET consortium is composed by partners from various disciplines, leveraging their huge experience and skills to establish a baseline knowledge about the studied thematic areas.

Significant results / Key findings

The TDW constituted an important opportunity to synthesize the state of the art research and to review existing studies on pandemics with their wider societal implications.

The number of discussions that followed each presentation significantly contributed to the clarification of the role of each ASSET partner has to play for a better integration and synergy in implementing the tasks required by the MMLAP. In this sense, the TDW contributed to identify WP2 main outcomes and the ways they are expected to feed other tasks particularly in WP3, WP6, WP8 and WP10.

WP3 ACTION PLAN DEFINITION

WP Leader: TIEMS

Start month: m13 (January 2015)

End month: m27 (March 2016)

Efforts reported: 11.65 p*m – **Actual Progress:** 33%

Work progress and overall achievements for the WP

The activities included in this WP have started in the last two months of the reporting period and aim to define the overall architecture of the Action Plan, a roadmap towards the incorporation of user-driven open innovation in the area of pandemic preparedness and response, an handbook of the action including also detailed timetable and a collection of tools for its implementation.

The ASSET CoP started to define the ASSET Strategic Plan (SP) as a high-level plan that aims to provide a framework for MML strategy and, consequently, actions and activities (i.e. action plan) overall in the project. Then the **mission** was termed as to connect decision makers and researchers with citizens by trust-building processes in order to facilitate science in society (SiS) and responsible research and innovation (RRI) in the field of pandemics and crisis management. The **vision** was defined as to promote mobilization and mutual learning (MML) among decision makers, researchers, healthcare workers, and citizens to increase participatory and evidence based preparedness and response capacity in the field of pandemics and crisis management.



The ASSET partners implemented an extensive and inclusive process to develop a strategic plan aimed to outline in the field of Pandemics or Infectious Emergencies the priorities for the MML Plan of Action following 6 main cross cutting themes indicated by the RRI, which are the governance, the unsolved scientific questions and open access to scientific outcome, the participatory governance and science education, the ethics, law and fundamental rights, the gender issues and inclusiveness, the intentionally caused outbreaks. For the aspects considered as a priority, a strategy action line will be consequently developed.

More details are provided below with regards to the progress made towards the objectives, significant outcomes and major achievements, separately for each task in WP3.

T3.1 Strategic Plan

Task leader: ISS

Contributors: LYON, PROLEPSIS, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, NCIPD, TIEMS, DMI, UMFCD, HU, ZADIG

Start: m13 – **End:** m21

Actual progress: 67%

Progress towards objectives

The ASSET consortium is given the mandate to contribute in tackling the state of uncertainty and confusion that characterized the official communication during the last pandemic. This element was recognized as a risk factor affecting trust between citizens and decision makers and scientists.

The main SP objective is to propose a model of change so as to make easier the acquisition of mastery in terms of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in case of a threaten conditions, like a pandemic, to build a more resilient society.

The main steps to set up the SP are as follow:

- Definition of the ASSET mission, as from the DoW and the main ASSET goals;
- The Problem Setting for selected action lines emerged by the 6 specific WP2 reports in form of a list of main issues inventoried;
- Consequential Strategy of Action for each action line aims to identify and develop specific action to be developed by the ASSET MML action Plan;
- Then, basing on the amount of information retrieved, we will establish general objectives for the identified strategies, specify decision making processes, put down a timetable (PERT or Gantt chart), elaborate evaluation process and criteria to clear indicate a roadmap to achieve the goals.

In building the ASSET strategy (and, consequently, the also action) plan, partners considered that all ASSET actions will be encompassed by the overall approach of mobilization and mutual learning strategy.

A first Joint Design Workshop to revise the results of this plan was called and others are under further arrangement.

The completion of the Strategic Plan (SP) is particularly relevant for the tasks T3.2 (Roadmap to Open and Responsible Research and Innovation in Pandemics), T3.3 and T3.4 (Action Plan Handbook and tool box) and for the entire WP4, concerning the citizen consultation.

Significant results / Key findings

The delivery date of the SP is planned for the end of September 2015 (M21).



At present, 28 main issues were identified by means of the discussion made on the web based platform and during the Joint Design Workshop. A consolidation of such topic is in progress to prepare the following step of identification of consequential specific strategies of action.

T3.2 Roadmap to Open and Responsible Research and Innovation in Pandemics

Task leader: LYONBIOPOLE

Contributors: IPRI

Start: m13 – **End:** m21

Actual progress: 66%

Progress towards objectives

The objective of task T3.2 of the ASSET project is to design a roadmap towards responsible and open, citizens-driven, research and innovation on vaccines and antiviral drugs to answer the question to what extent, and according to which conditions, user innovation is possible in the field of research and innovation on epidemic infectious diseases prevention and response. According to the objectives of the ASSET project, the CoP is convinced that open innovation in pandemic related research requires initial investments because it demands a shift in the traditional, technology centred, approach. The general aim is to complement the strategic plan developed in task T3.1 and provide the background for the Task 5.2 « Best Practice Platform and Stakeholder Portal ».

Preliminarily, general concepts and methodological approaches that have been employed to set-up and/or improve interactions between users and health care professionals are reviewed. Particularly, a review of the existing experiences of user involvement is ongoing in the health and pharmaceutical sector, to assess to what extent and according to which conditions user-driven innovation is possible. Unfortunately, in the majority of cases these experiences are either under tailed or they entail a relatively minor involvement of users. In particular, no evidence is available concerning such participation in vaccine research. Conversely, more information is available on methodological aspects, on which thus trying to construct a realistic roadmap of recommendation to open and responsible research and innovation in pandemics.

Significant results / Key findings

- There is a significant increase in knowledge of the relevance of patients and public involvement (PPI) in health research;
- PPI can be an important tool to overcome the current distrust towards public health authorities and towards biomedical scientists;
- The public collaboration in research until now has been accidental whereas it should be systematic;
- Insufficient level of details on practical cases of PPI is available in the literature. In particular no examples of PPI in vaccine research are available.

To promote a progressive involvement of these topics within the frame of the Responsible Research and Innovation, ASSET will share this findings with relevant stakeholders and, to achieve that, utilize the opportunities offered by the MML Action Plan, like the High Level Policy Forum.



WP6 POLICY WATCH

WP Leader: ISS

Start month: m6 (June 2014)

End month: m48 (December 2017)

Efforts reported: 15.64 p*m – **Actual Progress:** 29%

Work progress and overall achievements for the WP

At the moment, the progress of the overall work in WP6 can be described mainly with regard to the methodology that is being applied in developing its two activities of policy watch (HLPF and PPRB). WP6 is in fact being developed according to a methodological approach that is in line with the overall ASSET (MMLAP) strategy particularly based on three main vectors which, as recalled within “Progress towards objectives” of T1.1, i.e. KoM, are:

- **Connecting** (referring to the relation “Science and Society”),
- **Communicating** (meaning an open and active listening, and common understanding),
- **Democratising** (advocacy building).

Beside contents to be developed, the 43-month long WP6 is fundamental in the economy of ASSET because it implied an effective start-up for the interactions among Partners who have begun to know one each other as working on this specific WP as well as on the whole project. The participatory approach adopted is witnessed by the huge exchange about the WP6 issues on the Community of Practice (CoP) web platform.

The two WP6 tasks can be considered both as results and tools to accomplish WP objectives:

T6.1 High level Policy Forum: the first meeting out of four was held in Brussels on March 12th 2015 (M15). It was crucial to better define potential subjects of interest, topics to be discussed and approaches. Overall, four meetings of the Forum are supposed to be developed and will be described in three Reports.

T6.2 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin: the first issue out of seven was published and disseminated both to a mailing list of relevant stakeholders and on the ASSET website.

More details are provided below with regards to the progress made towards the objectives, significant outcomes and major achievements, separately for both WP6 tasks.

T6.1 High Level Policy Forum

Task leader: TIEMS

Contributors: ISS, DBT, FFI, NCIPD, EIWH

Start: m6 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 30%

Progress towards objectives

During the first reporting period, the first members of the HLPF were gathered, and the first HLPF meeting was held in Brussels on Thursday 12th March, 2015 (M15).

In August 2014 (M8), a discussion was initiated by the Task T6.1 leader, TIEMS, which presented an initial plan for the HLPF, and asked for suggestions for enrolling potential members. A document was drafted by TIEMS and further developed by the Task T6.1 ASSET partners, to explain the objectives of the HLPF, present the initial HLPF membership, and announce the agenda and plans for the Brussels



HLPF meeting (M15). 6 HLPF members were recruited, from Norway, Sweden, UK, Denmark, Italy, and France.

During the Brussels HLPF meeting considerable time was spent discussing on how to focus on the activities of the Forum to maximize its value, considering the many aspects affecting pandemic response, the many organizations involved, and the limited resources of the Forum. While it will certainly be valuable for the participants to share best practices, it will probably be even more valuable for the group to take advantage of its unique structure to address what is needed beyond best practices to improve pandemic response.

Significant results / Key findings

Following the Brussels meeting, the HLPF Secretary prepared a draft of D6.1, High Level Policy Forum Report 1, which was circulated, discussed, and improved upon by meeting participants. The conclusions of this discussion were published in the final version of this report. The report has been distributed through ASSET and TIEMS websites, and it is being used as background information when recruiting new members to HLPF.

Since the EU Health Security Committee seems to have some activities similar to those of the ASSET HLPF, it was decided to contact this committee, to understand their work and how it relates to the ASSET HLPF. We plan to participate in the next EU Health Security Committee Conference, which will be held in Luxembourg 12-14 October 2015 (M22).

T6.2 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin

Task leader: ISS

Contributors: NCIPD, UMFCD, HU

Start: m6 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 27%

Progress towards objectives

Context and main objectives

The ASSET Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin (PPRB) is addressed to relevant stakeholders in the field, and aims to collect and disseminate information on policy initiatives devoted to pandemics and related crisis management and developments at local, national and European levels.

After the establishment of an Editorial Committee, a dedicated discussion thread was started on the Community of Practice (CoP) web platform [a total of 42 contributions posted in the time interval: June 2014-June 2015 - (M6-M18)].

By sharing ideas among the editorial board and Consortium members overall, it was decided that the PPRB contents are not only focused on governmental decisions on Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and management of Emergent Communicable Diseases, but also on statements/recommendations, public discussions such as those going on on the main social networks.

The first issues concerning the ASSET Bulletin were discussed and finalized. A list of potential users was identified and approved as well.

Significant results / Key findings

The first issue of PPRB was finalized by April 2015 (M16) with an editorial approach supported by the official template released within WP7 activities. Its contents have been scheduled according to the “*What’s new (from the world)..*” formula covering 6 areas: Pandemic Preparedness and Response , Public Health Institutions, Web in the field of PPR, Social Networks, ASSET, SnapShot news.

PPRB is downloadable in a .pdf version from the ASSET website as well as spread out to relevant stakeholders in the field at international level.



WP7 COMMUNICATION

WP Leader: ZADIG

Start month: m1 (January 2014)

End month: m48 (December 2017)

Efforts reported: 48.72 p*m – **Actual Progress:** 35%

Work progress and overall achievements for the WP

In regards to the WP7 major achievements, these are summarised as follows:

All the WP7 activities are designed to last for the entire duration of the project and are therefore, by definition, continuously in progress. However, at the end of month 18, despite the late start of the project, we can say that all the objectives have been achieved and have already begun to bear fruits, or are in a position to give them in a short time period.

The cultural approach and the ASSET vision are reflected in the communication strategy; the exchange of ideas and experiences are made possible to the partners through the Community of Practice; the image of the project is established in the brand which is now firmly used by all partners; the website is a working instrument for the dissemination of project contents, and again, XXX the philosophy of the project; The ASSET communication staff (P15 - ZADIG) began to build relationships both with stakeholders and decision makers, and also with other communication professionals.

Many efforts have been made to share with all partners the overall view of the project, so that communication takes place even locally according to the principles of a single cultural framework. We also tried to promote the idea that it is essential to use in an integrated way the different instruments and communication opportunities.

Most of the expected results for WP7 have been achieved, thus cancelling the six-month initial delay:

- the communication strategy, the brand and the website were completed by the beginning of January 2015 (M13).
- New content for the website are produced and published on a weekly basis, including videos, banners and infographics.
- The media office has started its work, and also started the activities related to the summer school, the liaison with the Comenius Program, the gender platform.
- The first issue of the Research and Innovation Newsletter has been created and distributed to the mailing list of 2,500 addresses.

For example P15 ZADIG has developed an algorithm for the analysis of the contents of Twitter that will be presented during the first edition of the summer school (M21) and will be used as of autumn 2015.

More details are provided below with regards to the progress made towards the objectives, significant outcomes and major achievements, separately for each task in WP7.



T7.1 Overall Communication Strategy

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: LYON, PROLEPSIS, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, ISS, NCIPD, TIEMS, DMI, UMFCD, HU, ABSISKEY

Start: m1 – **End:** m6

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The Communication Strategy (CS) is set to serve the relevant goal of the ASSET partnership: the convergence between Science and Society in epidemics and total pandemics. Internal and external communication is at the core of the ASSET project mission.

The CS is extensive with regard to the involvement of all the partners and the project as a whole. In terms of target groups to be considered, a large part of society is addressed to contribute to preparedness in case of infectious threats, notably epidemics and pandemics. According to the ASSET's DoW, communication activities is supposed to:

- Ensure the project's visibility by using either traditional or new media tools;
- Document every major advancement of the project; encompass a bi-directional dialogue, allow educational opportunities and knowledge transfer among partners, stakeholders, policy makers and the general public.

So, the “Communication and dissemination strategy” represents the frame of the ASSET communicative approach, but it can be also seen as a guide to be used by project partners to plan and develop coordinated communication activities.

To better address the overall consistency of the CS, an interesting case is to be envisaged in the example of T6.2 “Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin”.

Even if it has been conceived as a policy watch tool, namely in WP6, the Bulletin was included in the Strategy, being pooled with the Newsletter (T7.10).

Significant results / Key findings

The following drafts of the Communication and Dissemination strategy were enriched by six months of discussions within the web based platform of the Community of practice. Eighteen different contributions were integrated into the final version, showing the effective co-operation produced by the ASSET consortium members within the CoP.

In early January 2015 (M13), the Communication strategy was completed and made available to all partners by publishing it on the Community of practice (CoP) web platform.

The related deliverable (D7.1) is available and downloadable on the ASSET website, as well as all other ASSET Deliverables. In this way, according to the communication plan, most of the information already produced by ASSET is available for the internal as well as for the external communication.

Overall, communication activities developed during the first 18 months of the project have been developed on the basis of methods, techniques, indications on language and style, formats studied and established by the Communication Strategy.



T7.2 Brand Creation

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: -

Start: m1 – **End:** m6

Actual progress: 100%

Progress towards objectives

The creation of the ASSET brand constitutes one of the core elements of communication-related activities within the wider frame of the ASSET project, and specifically the WWP7. As specified in the ASSET Communication Strategy, it is fundamental for the project consortium to be identified as a new actor in the field of communications for infectious disease threats. As such, it has required not only to build a corporate identity to accurately convey the salient characteristics of the project, but also to develop a brand around its name that embodies the spirit and values of the ASSET project as a whole. The task started quite early and collected 13 contributions in 2 months of discussion in the CoP before being delivered on January 15.

Significant results / Key findings

The ASSET brand reflects the results of a creative process, based on the different type of contributions made by the partners and through a process of crowdsourcing. ASSET has been successful in creating a highly evocative and well-defined identity in an effort to unify the internal and external communication materials. The various devices and project templates that form part of the ASSET identity are distilled into a Reference Manual (“Guideline”) developed by P15 ZADIG that sets the standards for use of the different visual elements and dissemination material. These print and brand guidelines as well as the various communication vehicles that constitute part of the ASSET brand are available for download by partners and can be retrieved from the project’s internal communication platform, the Community of Practice (CoP).

The ASSET brand reflects the results of a creative process, based on the different type of contributions made by the partners and through a process of crowdsourcing. ASSET has been successful in creating a highly evocative and well-defined identity in an effort to unify the internal and external communication materials.

All documents, deliverables, slide sets and any communication products, such as the graphic design of the website and the flyer to present the project, were made by applying the instructions of the Reference Manual.

T7.3 Web Portal

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: ISS, ABSISKEY

Start: m1 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 38%

Progress towards objectives

The ASSET website (<http://www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu/>) has been fully operative since January 2015 (M13).

This website is a key tool for external communication, even if it has proven to be useful for internal communication as well. The website follows the main lines indicated by the communication strategy



(clarity of language, reaching both experts and the general public, transparency, interaction with different parts of society, plenty of pictures, videos, infographics) and it is completely open access.

The website plays 3 main roles:

- 1) “library”, where everybody (experts, media, general public) can find key documents (abstracts and links to the source) on outbreak preparedness developed by international organizations (such as ECDC, CDC and WHO), by other projects such as TELL ME, ECOM and other cognate programs; by other reliable sources (i.e. scientific journal’s infographic or national TV video interviews with relevant stakeholders on general issues); by ASSET staff on general issues (historical, socioeconomic, epidemiological pages of context);
- 2) “window for project outputs”: such as the Glossary (WP1), project deliverables, introduced by short abstracts; published papers; lessons and presentations at conferences, meetings minutes, events announcements; bulletins and newsletters; local activities (reports, pictures, videos, leaflets,); special events (like the ongoing Summer school);
- 3) “witnessing the real project life”: news, articles, press review; viewpoints, comments by partners, stakeholders, policymakers; links to selected blogs by relevant opinion leaders in the field (posts filtered by editors); links to what’s going on and/or achieved within other EU-funded projects and MMLAPs; updates on ASSET’s social media accounts and their own activity.

Significant results / Key findings

The website has been online since January 2015 (M13) and is regularly operating, with an average rate of renovation of six new contents per month.

The website is being developed and updated on a continuous basis, which, as indicated in the DoW, will have enabled all the planned sections and contents by the end of the project. After the first six months of activity, the following contents were already accessible: more than 18 articles and many news, six videos, dozens of documents and information materials. The website also has published all the deliverables provided by the project and implemented by partners, and the first issue of the Research and Innovation Newsletter and of the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin was sent to a mailing list of over 2,500 international addresses. ASSET is also present on the main social media, disseminating the most interesting contents of the website.

T7.4 MEDIA OFFICE

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: ISS, ABSISKEY

Start: m1 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 38%

Progress towards objectives

Strategic objectives and developmental approaches for the media office are described in the ASSET communication strategy (WP1). The media office has to work in synergy with the website, social media activities and initiatives involving citizens and stakeholders to build an appropriate visibility for the project. To achieve this, several dissemination activities have been launched, taking all possible opportunities to inform about ASSET and build national and international relationships with the media. Indeed, in this initial phase of the project, the work of the media office focused on the creation of a mailing list with the names of the leading journalists internationally active on the issues of the project. The partners have been invited to report interesting contacts for their country. This mailing list, continuously updated, provides the basis for the dissemination of press releases and others news and products from the project.

During the upcoming project activity period, the regular activity of production and distribution of press releases will be undergone and, in the meantime, the website will host a number of specific functions



and activities like strengthening links to social networks (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube Channel), a media gallery containing audio-visual productions and a virtual library, a platform for proposition development and decision making, the Best Practice Platform and the Stakeholder Portal, a Innovation Showcase and the nascent Gender Platform.

Significant results / Key findings

In accordance with the DoW, the ASSET project is establishing its presence on major social media. In spring 2015, some relevant networking and press office activities have been performed:

- At the International Journalism Festival in Perugia, international health journalists and other stakeholders involved in infectious outbreaks, notably Ebola epidemic in West Africa, were interviewed (Boseley, Cooper and O'Hara). Interviews have been made available on the ASSET website;
- At Digital Pharma Europe 2015, in Rome, multichannel marketing strategies adopted by industries for their commercial communication were analysed in-depth and their feasibility to strengthen the dissemination within the ASSET project was assessed;
- At a round table of the World Federation of Science Journalists in Paris, a groundwork for cooperation for new projects related to infectious outbreaks (notably bird flu in Africa) was established.

T7.5 Science Communication

Task leader: PROLEPSIS

Contributors: LYON, DBT, IPRI, NCIPD, DMI, UMFCD, HU, ZADIG

Start: m12 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 19%

Progress towards objectives

The task includes the start of a research paper series that holds an ISSN number, available on the project's website, and features the main outputs from the project in the form of research papers.

The research and innovation community is the main target for the paper series as well as for academic papers published in peer reviewed open journals.

At project completion, the book of the project will be submitted for publication to a major international publishing house.

The research and innovation community is being targeted by hosting the international science web portal "Scienceontheweb" (www.scienzainrete.it/en), a series of articles, videos, data-visualizations and news related to ASSET and its main topics.

Significant results / Key findings

- P17 PROLEPSIS has suggested a number of proposed titles for the journal - currently the consortium is deciding on the title which will be available in the next weeks ;
- Contents of the first issue are being proposed and agreements have been reached with the leaders of WP2 (P13 HU) to include scientific articles for the first issue.



T7.6 Summer School on SiS related issues in Pandemics

Task leader: ISS

Contributors: LYON, PROLEPSIS, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, NCIPD, TIEMS, DMI, UMFCD, HU, ZADIG

Start: m12 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 25%

Progress towards objectives

Context and main objectives

The ASSET Summer School is thought as a three-edition appointment for better addressing, analysing and discussing on “Science in Society” issues occurring within pandemics and related crisis management, including communication and other responses.

The transdisciplinary perspective that constitutes the basis for the Summer School is retrievable both in topics to be covered and in the potential applicants’ profiling (with regard to education and work experience).

This annual training course is developed in fact according to a transdisciplinary perspective that includes social sciences, science communication, public health, vaccinology, bioethics, gender issues, clinical ethics, political science. Furthermore, the ASSET Summer School is addressed to people with different background: public health, medicine, philosophy, social science, media, health care administration. The Summer course is conceived within the WP7 (Communication) so it is mainly supposed to further disseminate scientific achievements in the field of SiS related issues in Pandemics. This is the reason why, in the field of SiS related issues in Pandemics, the first edition (2015) will cover six main topics which are the WP2 study areas (Governance; participatory governance; gender issues; intentionally caused outbreaks; unsolved questions; Ethics and Laws).

A dedicated discussion thread has been started on WP7 forum of the Community of Practice (CoP) web platform; all Consortium members have been solicited to be actively involved, giving lessons and engaging in discussions with other prominent international experts. A storyboard (complete with a rationale, tentative programme, an opinion survey and a timetable) has been shared and filled in by each Partner. Comprehensive documents have been uploaded on the CoP including notes, comments and suggestions by all.

Significant results / Key findings

The First edition of the ASSET Summer School is to be held in Rome from 21 to 24 September 2015 (M21).

T7.7 SiS in Pandemic Best Practice Award for GPs

Task leader: PROLEPSIS

Contributors: LYON, EIWH, IPRI, ISS, NCIPD, TIEMS, DMI, UMFCD, HU, ZADIG

Start: m12 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 12%

Progress towards objectives

The task aims to raise awareness of SiS themes among general practitioners in Europe. The project is offering a prize to give recognition to individuals or groups of general practitioners who have best included SiS aspects in pandemic preparedness in order to improve the quality of communication with



their patients and the local community active participation. Three 3.000€ prizes is planned to be assigned each year, starting from the second year of the project life as educational grants to be used at any of the partner organization.

The context is open to all GPs and GP registrars working in any Member States and is going to be advertised through GP European societies and national medical associations. The task leader (P17 PROLEPSIS) is in charge of organizing and advertising the context, and to establish an independent jury.

Significant results / Key findings

- The prize is planned to be awarded at the end of each year starting from the end of 2015;
- Lists of GPs from across the EU are being compiled and updated continuously.

A search of existing best practices on SiS issues concerning infectious diseases is ongoing

T7.8 Liaison with the Comenius Programme

Task leader: EIWH

Contributors: ISS

Start: m12 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 10%

Progress towards objectives

Information about ASSET and its findings through collaboration with the Comenius programme will be disseminated. The Comenius Programme focuses on the first phase of education, from pre-school and primary to secondary schools. It is relevant for all members of the education community.

Part of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme, Comenius seeks to develop knowledge and understanding among young people and educational staff; it helps young people acquire the basic life skills and competences necessary for their personal development, for future employment and for active citizenship.

Significant results / Key findings

Those in receipt of the Comenius grant awards for Multilateral projects under the priority “Support to make science education more attractive” for 2011, 2012 and 2013 will be identified. Contacts with the European Commission are currently ongoing for information about the grant recipients, as these projects are a centralised action managed directly by the Commission, and not by each Member States national education agency. Once full contact has been established, it will be discussed how to best approach the task with the result of designing targeted dissemination initiatives in schools.

T7.9 Gender Issue Platform

Task leader: EIWH

Contributors: ISS

Start: m12 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 5%

Progress towards objectives

It will focus on gender-sensitive and women-specific research on pandemics. The findings from ASSET will be disseminated to allow for increased awareness regarding flu pandemics related risk, notably for



pregnant women and infants, and enable women to make informed decisions. Also, the focus will be on promoting gender awareness within pandemic-related research; pandemic preparedness; as well as advocating for increasing European support at different levels for health service research focusing on gender and age inequalities with respect to infectious outbreaks.

Significant results / Key findings

A completed Draft outline of the implementation Plan has circulated to Consortium Members in May 2015 (M17). A brief outline of the planned approach is as follows:

- A targeted stakeholder listing is under development consisting of a broad spectrum of European groups and organisations including NGOs, health professionals, public health and health promotion representatives .
- A policy brief on gender issues in pandemics and epidemics for the general public and for health professionals is being developed.
- EIWH will plan and host a seminar on Gender Issues in Pandemics and Epidemics for relevant stakeholders. The date will be towards the end of the task and confirmed at a later date

T7.10 Research and Innovation Newsletter

Task leader: LYONBIOPOLE

Contributors: ISS, IPRI, HU, ZADIG

Start: m12 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 10%

Progress towards objectives

A conference call was organized on 4th May 2015 (M17), during which was discussed the format and the main points the newsletter should point at, taking into account the targets (industrial and academic researchers). A particular attention was given to the links with other current ASSET activities, such as the following tasks T1.2 “Glossary of terms”, T2.2 “Reference guide of unsolved scientific questions”, T2.5 “Report on gender issues in pandemics and epidemics”, T3.2 “Roadmap to open and responsible research and innovation in pandemics”, T7.4 “Media office”, T7.5 “Science communication, research paper series”, T7.9 “Gender issue platform”, WP4 “Citizen consultation”. It was then decided to create this newsletter, setting up a routine watch on news published on responsible research and innovation in drugs and vaccines. This implies defining key words and sources to regularly gather news on the subject.

Significant results / Key findings

The first newsletter issues will be issued in a few weeks and will present the ASSET project, define the RRI concept and give concrete RRI cases taking them from other European RRI initiatives but will also be based on the ASSET own experience.



WP8 EVALUATION

WP Leader: ABSISKEY

Start month: m3 (March 2014)

End month: m48 (December 2017)

Efforts reported: 8.1 p*m – **Actual Progress:** 23%

Work progress and overall achievements for the WP

The ASSET project, with 10 work packages and 59 deliverables expected from 14 beneficiaries located in 11 countries, has a quite complex Pert chart. Most deliverables and work packages involve nearly all the project participants and thus this constitutes a challenge for proper coordination and monitoring. Moreover, as the project has started its activities with a 6-month delay (but with the determination by all the partners to recover for the time lost and achieve the project's objectives by the end of the planned original 48-month duration). To make the monitoring as efficient and useful as possible for the tasks and work packages leaders, a document on quality monitoring (quality plan setting the project standards and procedures) was posted on the web-based CoP, and amended by the partners during the first three months of the project activities. Then, different tools (3 distinct Forms to be completed by the partners) for monitoring were implemented. During the first year of the project activities (June 2014-June 2015) the quality of all the ongoing tasks was monitored and the results made available on the ASSET platform.

As for the external evaluation, a draft of the Terms of Reference (ToR) was proposed by the Project Coordination to the ASSET partners via the CoP platform prior to be advertised as a call for tenders in the "European Evaluation Society" website (<http://www.europeanevaluation.org/home.htm>). The Crossculture Consulting Company was selected on the basis of the quality of their proposal and the appropriate analysis and understanding of the ToR. The Crossculture Consulting Company and ABSISKEY signed a contract in February 2015 (M14).

More details are provided below with regards to the progress made towards the objectives, significant outcomes and major achievements, separately for each task in WP8.

T8.1 Project Monitoring and ongoing evaluation

Task leader: ZADIG

Contributors: LYON, PROLEPSIS, EIWH, DBT, FFI, IPRI, ISS, NCIPD, TIEMS, DMI, UMFCD, HU, ABSISKEY

Start: m4 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 31%

Progress towards objectives

Three different questionnaires were set up to carry out internal evaluation: a general quality plan questionnaire (Form 1), a self-assessment form (Form 2), and a continuous monitoring tool (Form 3). A strong input to the internal evaluation came also from the level and quality of the changes of ideas, documents and other resources in the CoP platform. The statistics generated by the Moodle web-



based platform have facilitated the monitoring by offering a quantitative dimension of the relevant activities.

To date, 20 Form 3 (continuous monitoring tool) have been collected and reported on all the tasks effectively active in the reporting period 1. In general, the Logical Framework Analysis table included in Form 3 has not been filled out by the partners. However, the interactions between the Quality Officer and the Scientific Coordinator have permitted to gather the necessary information in the Form 3, thus allowing an efficient monitoring. From the content analysis of this first questionnaire, it has been observed that each ASSET member, after an initial running phase, has understood well his/her tasks and the interactions between them, especially through the web-based CoP (which has been operational 3 months after the beginning of the project). Since then, the total volume of exchanges among the different members has varied globally from 7,000 to over 9,000 posts or views per quarter.

Significant results / Key findings

Following the concise quality Plan set up for ASSET, the planned deliverables were first made available on the CoP platform for the ASSET consortium members. Then, after the approval by the Quality Officer, followed by the Principal Investigator's, and finally by the Project Manager's, 11 deliverables have been completed and submitted to the Commission until the end of June 2015 (M18). Many deliverables have been completed with an average delay of 5 months (range 3-9), as a consequence of the postponement in the implementation of the overall project activities.

T8.2 Ex-post Evaluation

Task leader: ABSISKEY

Contributors: External Independent Evaluator (subcontracted)

Start: m5 – **End:** m48

Actual progress: 15%

Progress towards objectives

At the end of March 2015 (M15), an Inception Report has been prepared and submitted by the Crossculture Consultant Company's evaluator. The report has been discussed in the CoP platform and the evaluation activities have started. To facilitate the work of the evaluators, they have been invited to partake to the ASSET consortium meeting in Geneva (Transdisciplinary Workshop - February 2015 – M14) and follow all the exchanges in the CoP platform, where they have been granted total access authorization.

Significant results / Key findings

Data collection (documents, interviews, posts, resources and deliverable analysis) have been collected to produce the final version of the 1st External Evaluation Report.

The planned schedule for the subsequent External Evaluation Reports are:

ER2 is started end of January 2016 (M25) and delivered end of Febr 2016 (M26).

ER3 is started end of January 2017 (M37) and delivered end of Febr 2016 (M38).

One last External Evaluation Report is scheduled between month 45 and 48 (ER4). The exact date remains to be defined.



co-funded by the EU. GA: 612236



share and move to face nasty b