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WP 2 - Study and Analysis D2.7 Transdisciplinary Workshop Report

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: **Data Mining International SA**

Contributing partners: **LYONBIOPOLE; PROLEPSIS; EIWH; DBT; FFI; IPRI; ISS; NCIPD;
TIEMS; UMFCD; HU; ZADIG.**

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DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

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WP 2: Study and Analysis – Report – Transdisciplinary Workshop

Task: T2.7

Leader: Data Mining International SA (DMI) – Other contributors: LYONBIOPOLE; PROLEPSIS; EIWH; DBT; FFI; IPRI; ISS; NCIPD; TIEMS; UMFCD; HU; ZADIG.

History of changes:

Vn	Status	Date	Organisation / Person responsible	Reason for Change
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Table of Contents

1. Objective	5
2. Attendees	6
3. Agenda	7
4. Summary of the discussions.....	11
4.1. Primary aims of the ASSET project.....	11
4.2. Strengths of the ASSET project	11
4.3. Deliverables	12
4.3.1. Glossary of terms	12
4.3.2. Governance of Pandemics and Epidemics.....	12
4.3.3. Unsolved scientific questions related to pandemics and epidemics	12
4.3.4. Collection and Analysis of experiences of participatory governance in crisis management"	13
4.3.5. Ethical and legal aspects.....	13
4.3.6. Gender differences.....	13
4.3.7. Intentionally Caused Outbreaks	13
4.4. Unsolved scientific questions.....	14
4.4.1. WP3 activities.....	14
4.4.2. WP6 activities.....	14
4.4.3. WP8 activities.....	14
5. Conclusion.....	15



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DELIVERABLE 2.7

TRANSDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP REPORT

Geneva, 24 Feb 2015





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1. Objective

The objective of the Transdisciplinary Workshop (TDW) has been to conclude the task carried out in the frame of the Workpackage 2 (WP2). In particular, the participation of every partner to this workshop allowed to -

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

The organization of the TDW was an important opportunity to synthesize the state of the art research and to review existing studies on pandemics with their wider societal implications. The ASSET consortium is composed by partners from various disciplines, leveraging their huge experience and skills to establish a baseline knowledge about:

- 1) governance of flu pandemics and other similar crises;
- 2) unsolved scientific questions regarding influenza and pandemic situations
- 3) past experiences 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
- 6) intentionally caused outbreaks

Of particular importance, the TDW was a pivotal task to discuss and organize who the outcomes of WP2 will cross fertilize the other Work-packages in particular WP3, WP6, WP8 and WP10.



2. Attendees

Every partners of ASSET responded positively to the invitation and were represented to the workshop, namely:

CHAIR	Ariel BERESNIAK (DMI)
ATTENDEES	<p>Agoritsa BAKA (PROLEPSIS) Eva BENELLI (ZADIG), Celine BLANCHON (ABSISKEY) Kjersti BRATTEKAS (FFI),</p> <p>Barbara DE MEI (ISS),</p> <p>Veronika DIMITROVA (NCIPD), Alberto DONOFRIO (IPRI), Kåre Harald DRAGER (TIEMS), Donato GRECO (ZADIG), Manfred GREEN (HU), Kailash GUPTA (TIEMS), Pania KARNAKI (PROLEPSIS), Vanessa MOORE (EIWH), Elisabeth MARCHI (IPRI) Emmanuel MUHR (ABSISKEY) Alberto PERRA (ISS), Mircea Ioan POPA (UMFCD), Valentina POSSENTI (ISS), Mitra SAADATIAN (LYONBIOPOLE), Jeanne SVALEBECH JORGENSEN (DBT) Youssoufa TAHIROU (ABSISKEY), Estelle VINCENT (LYONBIOPOLE)</p>



3. Agenda

09:00 – 09:15	Welcome	PRESENTER: ARIEL BERESNIAK (DMI)	
	Introduction	PRESENTER: ALBERTO PERRA (ISS)	
09:15 – 09:30	WP2 objective - Objectives and methods	PRESENTER: MANFRED GREEN (HU)	
09:30 – 09:45	T2.1 Governance of Pandemics and Epidemics Summary of T2.1 findings	PRESENTER:	MANFRED GREEN (HU)
09:45 – 10:00	T2.2 Reference guide of unsolved scientific questions related to Pandemics and Epidemics Summary of T2.2 findings	PRESENTER:	ESTELLE VINCENT/MITRA SAADATIAN (LYONBIOPOLE)
10:00 – 10:15	T2.3 Collection and analysis of experiences of participatory governance in crisis management Summary of T2.3 findings	PRESENTER:	KAILASH GUPTA (TIEMS)
10:15 – 10:30	T2.4 Ethics, Law and Fundamental Rights in Pandemics and Epidemics Summary of T2.4 findings	PRESENTER:	DONATO GRECO (ZADIG)
10:30 – 10:45	T2.5 Gender Issues in Pandemics and Epidemics Summary of T2.5 findings	PRESENTER:	VANESSA MOORE (EIIWH)
10:45 – 11:00	T2.6 Intentionally Caused Outbreaks	PRESENTER:	KJERSTI BRATTEKAS (FFI)



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	Summary of T2.6 findings		
11:00 – 11:45	WP2 Overall Discussion	ALL	ALL
11:45 – 12:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
12:15 – 12:30	T2.7 Wrap up Transdisciplinary workshop	PRESENTER:	ARIEL BERESNIAK (DMI)
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00– 14:10	SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL STATUS OF PROGRESS FOR ASSET	PRESENTER: ALBERTO PERRA (ISS)	



14:10– 14:20	WP1 PROGRESS and T1.2 Capacity Building - Objectives and methods - highlights and achievements	PRESENTER: VERONIKA DIMITROVA (NCIPD)	
14:20– 14:30	T1.3 Project Infrastructure - Objectives and methods - Current progress & work for upcoming months	PRESENTER:	EVA BENELLI (ZADIG)
14:30– 14:35	WP3 ACTION PLAN DEFINITION - Objectives, methods and perspectives	PRESENTER: HARALD DRAGER (TIEMS)	
14:35– 14:40	T3.1 Strategic Plan - Objectives and methods	PRESENTER:	ALBERTO PERRA (ISS)
14:40– 14:45	T3.2 Roadmap to Open and Responsible Research and Innovation in Pandemics - Objectives and methods	PRESENTER:	ESTELLE VINCENT/MITRA SAADATIAN (LYONBIOPOLE)
14:45– 14:50	T3.3 Action Plan Handbook - Objectives and methods	PRESENTER:	EVA BENELLI (ZADIG)
14:50– 14:55	T3.4 ASSET Tool Box - Objectives and methods	PRESENTER:	KAILASH GUPTA (TIEMS)
14:55– 15:10	<i>Discussion</i>		
15:10– 15:15	WP6 PROGRESS - Objectives and methods	PRESENTER: BARBARA DE MEI (ISS)	
15:15– 15:20	T6.1 High level Policy Forum	PRESENTER:	HARALD DRAGER (TIEMS)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods - Current progress & work for upcoming months 		
15:20– 15:25	<p>T6.2 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Bulletin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods - Current progress & work for upcoming months 	PRESENTER:	VALENTINA POSSENTI (ISS)
15:25 - 15:40	<i>Discussion</i>		
15:40 - 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:00– 16:05	<p>WP8 Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods 	PRESENTER: YOUSOUFA TAHIROU (ABSISKEY)	
16:05 – 16:15	<p>T8.1 Project Monitoring and ongoing evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods - Current progress & work for upcoming months 	PRESENTER:	DONATO GRECO (ZADIG)
16:15– 16:30	<i>Discussion</i>		
16:30– 16:45	<p>T8.2 Ex-Post Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods - Current progress & work for upcoming months 	PRESENTER:	ODYSSEAS CARTALOS/ MONIKA ZABEL (EXTERNAL EVALUATOR)
16:45– 17:00	<i>Discussion</i>		
17:00 – 17:05	<p>WP10 Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods 	PRESENTER: YOUSOUFA TAHIROU (ABSISKEY)	



17:05 – 17:20	<p>Management Initiation and Cruise mode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives and methods - Current progress & work for upcoming months 	PRESENTER:	YOUSOUFA TAHIROU (ABSISKEY)
17:20 - 17:30	<i>Discussion</i>		
17:30	<i>Closing TDW</i>		

4. Summary of the discussions

A general project update has been presented by the scientific coordinator. Some delay compared to initial plans is explained by the submission of a grant agreement to officialise the involvement of few new partners, budget allocation and the new name of the administrative coordinating partner "Absiskey".

4.1. Primary aims of the ASSET project

- forge a partnership with complementary perspectives, knowledge and experience to address scientific and societal challenges raised by pandemics
- explore and map SiS-related issues in global pandemics
- define and test a participatory and inclusive strategy
- identify resources to make the project sustainable

4.2. Strengths of the ASSET project

The strengths of the ASSET project have been discussed between partners. The "transdisciplinary" perspective appears to be the most significant strength, but also a challenge for coordinating the various activities and skills from various partners.

A "community of practice" platform has been created to facilitate exchanges and internal communication between partners. The sequence of 10 work packages has been presented and descriptive statistics of communication activities between partners have been discussed.



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4.3. Deliverables

The ASSET project will deliver a set of products, namely:

- policy forum
- research and innovation newsletter
- web portal and social media outlets
- best practice platform
- glossary
- reference guide of unsolved scientific questions
- roadmap to open and responsible research and innovation
- action plan hand book
- tool box

4.3.1. *Glossary of terms*

The project of Glossary of terms has been presented. A significant activity has been carried out to select the topics and the entries. Discussion occurred about the mechanisms for fine tuning and updating the proposed definition. New terms could be added by any partners through the community of practice. However, a frozen version will be uploaded on the ASSET website soon.

4.3.2. *Governance of Pandemics and Epidemics*

Governance of Pandemics and Epidemics has been presented by the WP2 leader, in particular the respective roles of the World Health Organization (WHO), the pharma industry, and the media. Some suspicions regarding key stakeholders have been discussed, such as suspicions regarding the organizations competence and suspicions regarding the manufacturing of the new vaccines and anti-viral drugs.

4.3.3. *Unsolved scientific questions related to pandemics and epidemics*

Unsolved scientific questions related to pandemics and epidemics have been presented, underlying five key issues:

- decision making process
- nature and adequateness of preparedness plans
- pandemic surveillance
- risk communication



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- impact of human behavioural changes.

4.3.4. Collection and Analysis of experiences of participatory governance in crisis management"

The activity of this task has been presented, leading to key learning such as the need for adapting plans to local conditions through continuous feedback, or the need to genuinely engage in effective participation of policy makers and health professionals during a crisis. The question about how to make epidemic and pandemic resilient preparedness plans flexible enough to accommodate different scenarios for the spread has been discussed. Also, the issue of disseminating crisis information to the general public appears to be a very important factor.

4.3.5. Ethical and legal aspects

Ethical and legal aspects have been raised, presented and discussed with the objective to propose a general taxonomy of ethics, law and fundamental rights implications of pandemics and epidemics. It has been suggested that findings will be used to inform and serve as input for the development of the ASSET action plan handbook, but also to enrich the debates in the frame of the planned citizen meetings.

4.3.6. Gender differences

Gender differences were the topic of another task, which the main objective was to look at gender differences affecting exposures to infection diseases. This has been investigated by literature review and stakeholder interviews and led to recommendations such as promoting more research dedicated to the gendered effect of influenza and vaccination, improve communication, increase awareness among health professionals, promoting statistical analyses stratified by genders.

4.3.7. Intentionally Caused Outbreaks

The risk of biological warfare and terrorism has been presented, based on analyses of 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. A synthesis of the main documents consulted has been discussed, and a classification of identified governance problems has been proposed.



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4.4. Unsolved scientific questions

Then unsolved scientific questions regarding influenza and pandemic situations have been listed in the frame of a reference guide validated by experts interviews.

4.4.1. WP3 activities

The objective of WP3 has been presented: Create an Action plan, with associated handbook and tool box, that guides activities to establish open and responsible citizen-driven research and improvements in governance and communication to address issues identified in WP2. The strategic plan of WP3 has been discussed including prioritization and acting mobilization and mutual learning (MMLAP). A roadmap to open and responsible research and innovation in pandemics has been presented, and includes a review of existing experience of user-driven citizen-driven research and innovation in infectious disease prevention, and recommendations. Then an action plan handbook and a tool box for WP3 has been proposed.

4.4.2. WP6 activities

The next discussion concerned the presentation of the WP6 activities which include the organization of a high level policy forum and the issue of a pandemic preparedness and response bulletin.

The organization of a summer school on SiS related issues in pandemic have been presented in the frame of WP7 activities, which will start in summer 2015 in Rome with a target audience of 28 participants.

4.4.3. WP8 activities

Evaluation activities have been presented by the administrative coordinator in the frame of WP8, aiming to carry out an in-depth independent evaluation of the methodology and implementation progress of ASSET.

Finally management activities including financial tasks were presented by the administrative coordinator, followed by a general discussion.



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5. Conclusion

The Transdisciplinary workshop was considered a success by meeting its objective. An intense activity has been deployed to carry out a number of tasks and key deliverables have already been completed. This workshop was the first opportunity of the project life to present the ASSET activities carried out by the consortium.

The following subjects have been particularly discussed and will lead for specific deliveables:

- policy forum involving stakeholders and citizens
- best practice platform, tool box and glossary
- unsolved scientific questions
- roadmap to open and responsible research and innovation

The number of discussions following each presentation has significantly contributed to the fact that each partner seems to have a clear view of its mission and connecting activities with other partners.