



European
Commission



STRONG-2020: Project Review
28 September 2022
COVID -19 impact on the Project



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- ✓ Activity of most of **Transnational Access Infrastructures** was severely limited. Consequently, many TAs could deliver only a limited amount of access, especially in the first Reporting Period
 - ✓ Several WPs have been affected
 - realization of certain tasks was delayed
 - resulted in the delay of submission for a number of deliverables and in the achievement of some milestones

The accumulated delays led to the request of a six-months extension of the project (accepted with the second Amendment)

1) TA2: Transnational Access to MAMI

Min. quantity of access to be provided in Annex I (Unit of access: Beam hour): 1 750

Access provided in RP1: 178

Access provided in RP2: 152

Difference (to be provided): 1 420

2) TA3: Transnational Access to LNF

Min. quantity of access to be provided in Annex I (Unit of access: Beam hour): 2 500

Access provided in RP1: 820

Access provided in RP2: 1 170

Difference (to be provided): 510

3) TA4 : Transnational Access to FTD/ELSA

Min. quantity of access to be provided in Annex I (Unit of access: 1 AU) : 1 400

Access provided in RP1: 0

Access provided in RP2: 677

Difference (to be provided): 723

4) TA5: Transnational Access to GSI

Min. quantity of access to be provided in Annex I (Unit of access: Beam hour): 1 450

Access provided in RP1: 0

Access provided in RP2: 860

Difference (to be provided): 590

5) TA6: Transnational Access to ECT*

Min. quantity of access to be provided in Annex I (Unit of access: Access-day): 1 900

Access provided in RP1: 253

Access provided in RP2: 611

Difference (to be provided): 1 036

6) TA7: Transnational Access to CERN

Min. quantity of access to be provided in Annex I (Unit of access: 1h): 3 000

Access provided in RP1: 235

Access provided in RP2: 672

Difference (to be provided): 2 093

Consequences for the project

- ✓ Inaccessibility or very limited access to Transnational Infrastructures had as a consequence:
 - TAs of the project could not fulfill their tasks and provide the amount of access foreseen in the GA
 - several JRA and NA members were unable to access the facilities necessary for the tasks described in the GA
- ✓ Postponement of a number of Deliverables as a result of COVID-19 restrictions
- ✓ Rescheduling of the due dates for a number of milestones
- ✓ Impossibility of organizing in-person meetings and exchange of experience especially important for NAs but also JRAs
- ✓ Deviations in the use of budget (more Personnel costs spending and very limited Travel costs use)
- ✓ Human effort revisions and budget transfers for a number of WPs following Work Plan modifications

Possibility of a second extension:

Arguments for:

- For TAs: carry out the work plan and fulfill the obligations set out in the GA
- For VAs: ensure the follow-up and maintenance of services/databases created during the project
- Other WPs: some WP leaders have expressed their desire to have another extension to finish delayed (due to COVID-19) tasks
- For the whole Consortium: maintain the network in the perspective of the construction of a project corresponding better to the new directives/priorities of Horizon Europe

Potential difficulties:

- Accomplishment of tasks for some WPs less impacted by the pandemic (budget expended)

Discussions with WP leaders is planned for the Annual Meeting on 18-19 October



We thank you for your attention