

Governance

The organisational structure of the consortium shall comprise the following Consortium Bodies:

- The ACME Project Office (**APO**) which gather the Coordinator, Co-Coordinator and the Project Manager.
- The ACME Consortium Board (**ACB**) acting as the General Assembly is the ultimate decision-making body of the consortium, gathering the representatives of all legal entities participating in the Project, the Coordinator and the Co-Coordinator.
- The ACME Executive Committee (**AEC**) which gathers the APO and the Work Package leaders acting as the Executive Board is the supervisory body for the execution of the Project, which shall report to and be accountable to the ACB.
- The **Coordinator** as the legal entity acting as the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority. The Coordinator shall, in addition to its responsibilities as a Party, perform the tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement.
- The Research Infrastructures (**RI**) Forum gathering the management representatives of the ACME RI (telescopes, detectors, observatories, cyberinfrastructures, centers of expertise), the AstroParticles Physics European Consortium (APPEC) and ASTRONET consortium chairs, and APO members.

Governance – ACME Consortium Board

The ACME Consortium Board (**ACB**) acting as the General Assembly is the ultimate decision-making body of the consortium, gathering the representatives of all legal entities participating in the Project, the Coordinator and the Co-Coordinator.

The General Assembly shall consist of one representative of each Party. Ordinary meetings are held at least once per year. The General Assembly shall be free to act on its own initiative to formulate proposals and take decisions. In addition, all proposals made by the Executive Board shall also be considered and decided upon by the General Assembly.

The following decisions shall be taken by the General Assembly:

- content, finances and intellectual property rights
- evolution of the consortium
- the appointment, if necessary, of:
 - Executive Board Members
 - ACME Scientific Advisory Board (**ASAB**) Members (see dedicated slide)

The Parties agree to abide by all decisions of the General Assembly (the possibility of exercising veto rights, or submitting a dispute is foreseen).

Governance – ACME Executive Committee

The ACME Executive Committee (**AEC**) which gathers the APO and the Work Package leaders acting as the Executive Board is the supervisory body for the execution of the Project, which shall report to and be accountable to the ACB.

The Executive Board ordinary meetings are held at least every six months.

The Executive Board shall:

- prepare the meetings, propose decisions and prepare the agenda of the General Assembly;
- be responsible for the proper execution and implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly;
- monitor the effective and efficient implementation of the Project;
- assess the compliance of the Project with the Consortium Plan and, if necessary, propose modifications of the Consortium Plan to the General Assembly;
- support the Coordinator in preparing meetings with the Granting Authority and in preparing related data and deliverables;
- prepare the content and timing of press releases and joint publications by the consortium or proposed by the Granting Authority.

Minutes of Executive Board meetings, once accepted, shall be sent by the Coordinator to the General Assembly Members for information.

Governance – Coordinator

The **Coordinator** as the legal entity acting as the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority. The Coordinator shall, in addition to its responsibilities as a Party, perform the tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement.

In particular, the Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- monitoring compliance by the Parties with their obligations under the Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement
- keeping the address list of Members and other contact persons updated and available
- collecting, reviewing to verify consistency and submitting reports, other deliverables (including financial statements and related certifications) and specific requested documents to the Granting Authority
- transmitting documents and information connected with the Project to any other Parties concerned
- administering the financial contribution of the Granting Authority and fulfilling the financial tasks
- providing, upon request, the Parties with official copies or originals of documents that are in the sole possession of the Coordinator when such copies or originals are necessary for the Parties to present claims.

If one or more of the Parties is late in submission of any Project deliverable, the Coordinator may nevertheless submit the other Parties Project deliverables and all other documents required by the Grant Agreement to the Granting Authority in time.

If the Coordinator fails in its coordination tasks, the General Assembly may propose to the Granting Authority to change the Coordinator.

The Coordinator shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement.

The Coordinator is the chairperson of the Consortium Bodies. In case of unavailability, the Co-coordinator will chair instead. The chairperson shall convene the meetings and the Consortium Bodies.

Governance – Preparation and organisation of meetings

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall give written notice of a meeting to each Member of that Consortium Body as soon as possible and no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

- Ordinary (Extraordinary) meetings of the General Assembly -> 45 (15) calendar days
- Ordinary (Extraordinary) meetings of the Executive Board-> 14 (7) calendar days

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall prepare and send each Member of that Consortium Body an agenda no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

- General Assembly -> 21 (10 for extraordinary meetings) calendar days
- Executive Board -> 7 calendar days

Any agenda item requiring a decision by the Members of a Consortium Body must be identified as such on the agenda.

Any Member of a Consortium Body may add an item to the original agenda by written notice to all of the other Members of that Consortium Body up to the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

- General Assembly -> 14 (7 for extraordinary meetings) calendar days
- Executive Board -> 2 calendar days

During a meeting the Members of a Consortium Body present or represented can unanimously agree to add a new item to the original agenda.

Meetings of each Consortium Body may also be held by tele- or videoconference, or other telecommunication means.

Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted (see “*Minutes of meetings*” slide)

Governance – Preparation and organisation of meetings

Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted (see “*Minutes of meetings*” slide)

Any decision may also be taken *without* a meeting if:

- the Coordinator circulates to all Members of the General Assembly a suggested decision with a deadline for responses of at least 10 calendar days after receipt by a Party and
- the decision is agreed by 51 % of all Parties.

The Coordinator shall inform all the Parties of the outcome of the vote.

A veto (see “*Veto rights*” slide) may be submitted up to 15 calendar days after receipt of this information.

The decision will be binding after the Coordinator sends a notification to all Members. The Coordinator will keep records of the votes and make them available to the Parties on request.

Governance – Voting rules and quorum

Each Consortium Body shall not deliberate and decide validly in meetings unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum).

If the quorum is not reached, the chairperson of the Consortium Body shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is not reached once more, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be entitled to decide even if less than the quorum of Members is present or represented.

Each Member of a Consortium Body present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.

A Party which the General Assembly has declared to be a Defaulting Party may not vote.

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

Governance – Veto rights

A Party which can show that its own work, time for performance, costs, liabilities, intellectual property rights or other legitimate interests would be severely affected by a decision of a Consortium Body may exercise a veto with respect to the corresponding decision or relevant part of the decision.

When the decision is foreseen on the original agenda, a Party may only veto such a decision during the meeting.

When a decision has been taken on a new item added to the agenda before or during the meeting, a Party may veto such decision during the meeting or within 15 calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

A Party that is not appointed to participate to a particular Consortium Body may veto a decision within the same number of calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

When a decision has been taken without a meeting a Party may veto such decision within 15 calendar days after written notice by the chairperson of the outcome of the vote.

In case of exercise of veto, the Members of the related Consortium Body shall make every effort to resolve the matter which occasioned the veto to the general satisfaction of all the Parties.

A Party may neither veto decisions relating to its identification to be in breach of its obligations nor to its identification as a Defaulting Party. The Defaulting Party may not veto decisions relating to its participation and termination in the consortium or the consequences of them.

A Party requesting to leave the consortium may not veto decisions relating thereto.

Governance – Minutes of meetings

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall produce minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. He/she shall send the draft minutes to all Members within 10 calendar days of the meeting.

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no Member has sent an objection by written notice to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft of the minutes by written notice.

The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the Parties and to the Coordinator, who shall retain copies of them.

Governance – ACME Scientific Expert Advisory Board

The ACME Scientific Expert Advisory Board (ASAB) is a consultative entity that comprises members from the astroparticle and astronomy communities, researchers and engineers, external to ACME. Their role is to provide an impartial view and advice on the activities of the consortium.

The ACME Scientific Expert Advisory Board will be appointed and steered by the General Assembly. The ASAB shall assist and facilitate the decisions made by the General Assembly.

The Coordinator will ensure that a non-disclosure agreement is executed between all Parties and each ASAB member. Its terms shall be not less stringent than those stipulated in this Consortium Agreement, and it shall be concluded no later than 30 days after their nomination or before any confidential information will be exchanged/disclosed, whichever date is earlier.

The Coordinator shall write the minutes of the ASAB meetings and submit them to the General Assembly. The ASAB members shall be allowed to participate in General Assembly meetings upon invitation but have not any voting rights.

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Source: European Commission, Horizon Europe -The Annotated Grant Agreement

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents>

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action through communication and dissemination activities, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), **in a strategic and effective manner and possibly engaging in a two-way exchange.**

The beneficiaries are in principle free to choose the type of activities, but they should comply with the principles below and in line with Annex 1.

The activities must be:

- effective
- strategic
- coherent

Moreover, the activities must address multiple audiences (beyond the action's own community), including the media and the public, in a way that can be understood by non-specialists. They should highlight the action's goals, results and include the public policy perspective sought

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Communication activities are a requirement of the grant agreement:



Funded by the
European Union

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries **must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1** and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the **grant must acknowledge the EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):** https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/logo-download-center_en

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Communication activities are a requirement of the grant agreement:



Funded by the
European Union

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information. Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

ACME Annex 1 – 6 communication actions

- (1)** The public ACME website will be created for ACME service users, ranging in expertise from professional researchers in subdomains of multi-messenger astronomy, to professional scientists interested in interdisciplinary work, to policy makers, to individuals with their own private facilities, to the general science-inclined public.
- (2)** A YouTube channel (or similar) will be used to host promotional video material for ACME services aimed at the public, as well as more targeted educational/training videos
- (3)** ACME will maintain a LinkedIn profile for communication of professional events, community building and professional networking.
- (4)** Informal microblogging (e.g. Twitter, Mastodon) and blogging (e.g. Facebook) social media channels will be used for public engagement of ACME services, as well as to engage with a number of professional Facebook communities.
- (5)** An opt-in email distribution list will be maintained for ACME newsletters and other announcements, aimed at the professional communities and users of ACME services, including APPEC, ASTRONET and NuPECC communities.
- (6)** Promotional brochures, online branding and other materials will be created and maintained by WP1. These materials will separately target a wide range of audiences for ACME services, including professional domain experts, professional scientists outside their domains, policy makers, amateur astronomers and the science-inclined public.

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

ACME Annex 1 – Impact summary

SPECIFIC NEEDS	EXPECTED RESULTS	D & E & C MEASURES
<p>i-Build a partnership between astroparticle and astrophysics infrastructures and user communities. Achievement of the project goals requires a range and scale of effort that would be unfeasible in a national or local context.</p> <p>ii-improve systems, reduce limits to data access, improve planning, implement FAIR data</p> <p>iii-new generation trained and integrated into a stronger multi-messenger Europe</p> <p>iv-fully-informed policy for future technical and access-funding developments</p>	<p>i-data access will be improved by proportionate efforts to provide user-friendly tools to exploit multi-messenger and multi-wavelength data and to enhance better use of compatible data formats.</p> <p>ii-create ACME, improved synergy between communities, improved efficiency and effectiveness, new opportunities, by making the available data sources and tools to access them fully exploitable for a broad community.</p> <p>iii-more efficient and more effective integration of a larger multi-messenger science community in Europe</p> <p>iv-stronger larger community with new ideas, skills and ambitions</p> <p>v-robust plans and ambitions to underpin sustainable subject growth</p>	<p>i- WP3 establishes centres of excellence covering all multi-messenger fields; WP6 delivers training; WP1 establishes community-wide activity, using web, social media and newsletters; WP7 interacts through citizen science widely.</p> <p>ii-meetings, schools, newsletter, workshops, virtual training centres, documented toolkits</p> <p>iii-schools, workshops, online and virtual training, visits to excellence centres</p> <p>iv-forum of project, agency, EC, ESFRI, and other related participants</p>

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Next steps:

1. Press release is being prepared
2. to be sent this week

This month starts the Astrophysics Centre for Multimessenger studies in Europe ACME, an EU-funded project built by and for the astroparticle and the astronomy communities

18 September 2024

On the 16th and 17th of September was held in Paris the kick-off meeting for the Astrophysics Centre for Multimessenger studies in Europe - ACME. This HORIZON-INFRA-2023-SERV-01 EU-funded project coordinated by Centre national de la recherche scientifique CNRS aims to realize an ambitious coordinated European-wide optimization of the accessibility and cohesion between multiple leading Research Infrastructures, offering access to instruments, data and expertise, focused on the new science of multi-messenger astrophysics.

With 40 world-class participating institutions, ACME will forge a basis for strengthened long-term collaboration between these Research Infrastructures irrespective of location and level up access opportunities across Europe and beyond.

ACME objectives are to implement the Astroparticle Physics European Consortium's (APPEC) and the Planning and Advisory Network for European Astronomy's (ASTRONET) roadmaps' recommendations and act as a pathfinder to broaden and improve access to the respective Research Infrastructures services and data, assess and evaluate new models for better coordination and provision of at-scale services, provide harmonized trans-national and virtual access, develop centres of expertise, improve science data products management, improve interoperable systems for rapid identification of astrophysical candidate events and alert distribution to optimize follow-up observations, provide training for a new and broader generation of scientists and engineers, open the astrophysics and astroparticle physics data sets to other disciplines and increase citizen engagement.

The ACME project coordinator, Antoine Kouchner, is Professor and Vice President for International Relations at Université Paris Cité, Vice Chair of APPEC and deputy director of the Astroparticule et Cosmologie laboratory (CNRS). He is the spokesperson of the ANTARES collaboration and Chair of the KM3NeT Institution Board. The ACME project co-coordinator, Paolo D'Avanzo, is staff astronomer at the Brera Astronomical Observatory (OAB, part of INAF). He is member with role in relevant working groups of collaboration and consortia of the main forthcoming facilities for multi-messenger and time-domain astronomy, such as CTA, VRO-LSST, Athena, Einstein Telescope and has a leading role in the main European consortia for electromagnetic follow-up of GW events such as ENGRAVE and GRAWITA. The coordinator and co-coordinator represent each community to ensure balance and drive cross-domain collaboration.



Project page: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101131928>

Contact:

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Paolo D'Avanzo, Scientific Co-coordinator (INAF): paolo.davanzo@inaf.it

ACME Kick-off, September 16-17 2024, Paris

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Next steps:

1. Press release is being prepared to be sent this week
2. Logo

Proposals



Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Annex 5 – Trans-national Access

- access which must be provided:

The access must be free of charge, transnational access to research infrastructure or installations for selected user-groups. The access must include the logistical, technological and scientific support and the specific training that is usually provided to external researchers using the infrastructure. Transnational access can be either in person (hands-on), provided to selected users that visit the installation to make use of it, or remote, through the provision to selected user-groups of remote scientific services (e.g. provision of reference materials or samples, remote access to a high-performance computing facility).

- categories of users that may have access:

Transnational access must be provided to selected user-groups, i.e. teams of one or more researchers (users). The majority of the users must work in a country other than the country(ies) where the installation is located (unless access is provided by an international organisation, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), an ERIC or similar legal entity). Only user groups that are allowed to disseminate the results they have generated under the action may benefit from the access (unless the users are working for SMEs). Access for user groups with a majority of users not working in a EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country is limited to 20% of the total amount of units of access provided under the grant (unless a higher percentage is foreseen in Annex 1).

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Annex 5 – Trans-national Access

- **procedure and criteria for selecting user groups:**

The user groups must request access by submitting (in writing) a description of the work that they wish to carry out and the names, nationalities and home institutions of the users.

The user groups must be selected by (one or more) selection panels set up by the consortium.

The selection panels must be composed of international experts in the field, at least half of them independent from the consortium (unless otherwise specified in Annex 1).

The selection panels must assess all proposals received and recommend a short-list of the user groups that should benefit from access.

The selection panels must base their selection on scientific merit, taking into account that priority should be given to user groups composed of users who:

- have not previously used the installation and
- are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exist.

It will apply the principles of transparency, fairness and impartiality.

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Annex 5 – Trans-national Access

- other conditions:

The beneficiaries must request written approval from the granting authority for the selection of user groups requiring visits to the installations exceeding 3 months (unless such visits are foreseen in Annex 1).

In addition, the beneficiaries must:

- advertise widely, including on a their websites, the access offered under the Agreement
- promote equal opportunities in advertising the access and take into account the gender dimension when defining the support provided to users
- ensure that users comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement
- ensure that its obligations under Articles 12, 13, 17 and 33 also apply to the users
- keep records of the names, nationalities, and home institutions of users, as well as the nature and quantity of access provided to them

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

From the Grant Agreement – Annex 1

WP1 is entitled to nominate expert panels composed of international members from the field, half of them independent from the consortium. The composition of the panels will be approved by the ACB. Their role will be to peer-review and recommend a short-list of the user groups that should benefit from access to the RI. In case the RI have already their own selection committees, the ACME panel will transfer the requests to these committees.

From the Consortium Agreement (V3 to be sent this week)

Art. 6 Governance

For transnational access (TNA) selection procedures:

The ACME expert panels of international members from the field, half of them independent from the consortium. Their role will be to peer-review and recommend a short-list of the user groups that should benefit from TNA. The Coordinator is entitled to nominate these expert panels, in close collaboration with the ACB and the respective Work Package leaders. The composition of the panels needs to be approved by the ACB.

In case the Research Infrastructures already have their own selection committees, the ACME panel will transfer the requests to these committees.

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation

Annex 5 – Virtual Access

- access which must be provided:

The access must be free of charge, virtual access to research infrastructure or installations.

‘Virtual access’ means open and free access through communication networks to digital resources and services needed for research, without selecting the users to whom access is provided.

The access must include the support that is usually provided to external users.

Where allowed by the call conditions, beneficiaries may in justified cases define objective eligibility criteria (e.g. affiliation to a research or academic institution) for specific users.

- other conditions:

The beneficiaries must have the virtual access services assessed periodically by a board composed of international experts in the field, at least half of whom must be independent from the consortium (unless otherwise specified in Annex 1). For this purpose, information and statistics on the users and the nature and quantity of the access provided, must be made available to the board.

The beneficiaries must advertise widely, including on a dedicated website, the access offered under the grant and the eligibility criteria, if any. Where the call conditions impose additional traceability obligations, information on the traceability of the users and the nature and quantity of access must be provided by the beneficiaries.

These obligations apply regardless of the form of funding or budget categories used to declare the costs (unit costs or actual costs or a combination of the two).

Budget

Prefinancing 80% MIM 5%

To be distributed (75%) : 10 874 999,84 €



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

REA.C - Future Society
CA - Reforming European R&I and Research Infrastructures

SPV DR UN SPV DR UN CNRS
CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE CNRS
RUE MICHEL ANGE 3
75794 PARIS
FRANCE

Subject: Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
Project: 101131928 — ACME
Prefinancing payment (Data Sheet 4.2, Article 22.3.1)

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to inform you that we will soon make the **prefinancing payment** of **EUR 11,599,999.80** for your grant.

The contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism (EUR 724,999.96) will be kept back from the above amount and paid to the Mechanism, at the rate and in accordance with the modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

If you are coordinator of a consortium, please distribute the payment between the participants of your project without delay.

Please check your grant agreement for specific restrictions (*e.g. wait until accession of minimum number of beneficiaries or no distribution to beneficiaries that have not yet acceded*).

Please be aware that the prefinancing is a float which remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

Please ensure that the other participants in your project (if any) are informed of this letter.

For any questions, please contact us via your [Funding & Tenders Portal account](#) > My Project(s) > Actions > Manage Project > Process communications.

Yours faithfully,

Authorising Officer

cc: Other members of the consortium (if any)

