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Preparatory phase of new ESFRI research infrastructure projects

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-INFRA-2021-DEV-02-01

Review of ET-PP reaction to EC RP2 report

M. Martínez

ET-PP annual meeting

24th July 2024



<https://etpp.ifaes.es>



Action items

- RP2 comments and answers
 - Document with answers in 7 days
 - Pre-consultation with EC officer next week
- Revision of Deliverables / Milestones
 - Hard deadline 10th of September
- Financial statements (see Arnau's talk)
 - Modifications of EC Portal info
 - Modifications of RP2 Tech document
 - Hard deadline 10th September



EC RP2 report comments

Focused on the actual action items

- Deliverables D4.2, D8.1, D10.3 need revision
- Milestones M2, M3 (from WP4) and M17 (from WP9) need revision

#	Details	WP	Due by (originally)	Comment
D11	D4.2: Updated socio-economic impact studies	4	Nov 2023	Needs revision from RP2
D30	D8.1: Computing and Data Requirements	8	Feb 2024	Needs revision from RP2
D38	D10.3: Formulate strategic media and communications plan	10	Aug 2024	Needs revision from RP2
M2	Document detailing the site-specific characteristics that impact ET sensitivity and its duty cycle.	4	Nov 2022	Needs revision from RP2
M3	Common methodology to estimate impact of site characteristics on ET sensitivity and operation	4	June 2023	Needs revision from RP2
M17	Preliminary sustainability plan	9	Jul 2023	Needs revision from RP2

I will ask the WP coordinators for an update on the status by the 25th of August — in one month

WP2

ACTION ITEMS OUT THIS MEETING

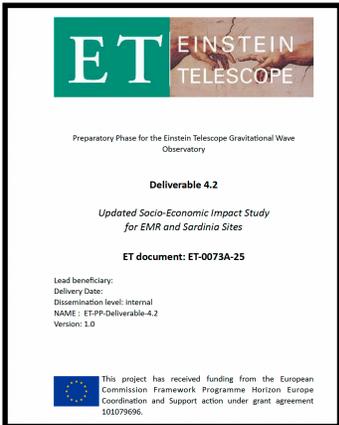
- D2.3 delayed to July 2026
- Produced a focused document by then
- Converge on GA text modifications for D2.3/D2.4
- Answers to EC recommendations — draft it NOW
- Feasibility to prepare a review memo on management structure —
- Propose content of D2.3 and D2.4 and WP2 actions until July 2026

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by
D1	D1.1: Dissemination and Exploitation (D&E) Plan	1	EC approved	Done
D2	D1.2: Data Management Plan (DMP)	1	EC approved	Done
D3	D2.1: Report providing options for legal entity	2	EC approved	Done
D4	D2.2: Minutes of meetings with EC and involved ministries	2	EC approved	Done
D5	D2.3: Legal entity statutes	2	Delayed	July 2026
D6	D2.4: Roadmap to establish the legal entity and its implementation	2	On track	Aug 2026
D7	D3.1: Handbook for design and construction phase	3	On track	Aug 2025
D8	D3.2: Handbook for operating phase	3	On track	Feb 2026
D9	D3.3: Financial plan and Scenario analysis	3	On track	July 2026
M1	Constitution / first meeting of the resource board	3	In internal review	May 2025

The majority of the identified risks are still relevant. However the risks outlined in each WP are very “local” and often they do not reflect the most critical problems that the project actually faces, which remain unspoken and hence unmitigated. For instance the risks related to the complexity of the ET governance instead of being analyzed is being taken as a given and built upon. The resulting construct is byzantine, extremely fragile and its shortcomings are evident even in this preparatory phase. It is probably too late for ET-PP to completely fulfill its mission, but something good can come from these failures: We would like to see a memo commissioned by the funding agency and carried out by an external entity, that analyses the weaknesses in governance and management, and may advice on how to avoid these in the actual E I project.

WP4

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by	Delivered	Comment
D10	D4.1: Scan of legal procedures, permitting and land acquisitions	4	EC approved	Done		
D11	D4.2: Updated socio-economic impact studies	4	Delayed	Nov 2023	March 2025	Requires revision
D12	D4.3: Complete quantification of all the aspects impacting the ET performance	4	Delayed	Dec 2024	July 2026	Check in Jan 2026
D13	D4.4: Report on 3D geology, hydrology, etc. model with localisation of the ET infrastructure	4	Delayed	Jan 2025	Feb 2026	Check in Jan 2026
D14	D4.5: Updated cost and schedule estimates of the excavations	4	Delayed	Feb 2026	July 2026	Check in Jan 2026
M2	Document detailing the site-specific characteristics that impact ET sensitivity and its duty cycle.	4	Delayed	Nov 2022	Jan 2023 / Oct 2024	Requires revision
M3	Common methodology to estimate impact of site characteristics on ET sensitivity and operation	4	Delayed	June 2023	March 2024/ March 2025	Requires revision



Discussion on WP4 deliverables took place before this meeting and its continuation has been postponed to early September

Today we will have an overview in the plenary session

**Draft of answers to RP2 remarks to WP4 already received
New timeline for deliverables already discussed**

—> Deliver the documents in time for the deadline



WP5 — ETO - Project office / Engineering Dept.

More than 40% of the ET-PP funds devoted to this WP as seed money

Mission accomplished — ETO now with a solid operating team beyond ET-PP target

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by	Delivered	Comment
D15	D5.1: Structure and mandate of the Project Office	5	Approved by EC	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	Done
D16	D5.2: Functionalities required from the tools in support of the project management	5	Approved by EC	Done		Done
D17	D5.3: Structure and mandate of the Engineering Department	5	Approved by EC	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	Done
D18	D5.4: Funcional Engineering Department	5		Dec 2024	March 2025	Submitted to EC
D19	D5.5: Funcional Project Office	5		Dec 2024	March 2025	Submitted to EC
M4	The recruitment of the Project Office team is completed	5		Nov 2023	Nov 2023	Done
M5	All three documents (WP5-D5.1, D5.2 and D5.3) are published	5		Sept 2024	Sept 2024	Done
M6	The Engineering Department as a functional unit complete	5		Nov 2024	March 2025	Submitted to EC
M7	The Project Office as a functional unit complete	5		Nov 2024	March 2025	Submitted to EC

ACTION ITEMS OUT OF THIS MEETING

- Converge on GA amendment for RI TDRs — in coordination with WP6 and ETO — DONE — NOW under ETO
 - Drop RI TDR and prepare a RI design related document — TOC by September — Deliver it by July 2026
- We are assuming all WP5 RP2 documents will be accepted in the EC portal — TBC

WP6 — TDRs and Physics Case

Liasion with ET Collaboration providing Science Case and Detector TDR
Vacuum and RI TDRs under direct ETO supervision

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by	Delivered	Comment
D20	D6.1: Refined Science Case	6	Submitted to EC	Feb 2024	Feb 2025	Expected to be approved
D21	D6.2: Vacuum pipe Design	6	Submitted to EC	Aug 2024	Dec 2024	Expected to be approved
D22	D6.3: Preliminary RI TDR	6	Delayed	Aug 2024	July 2026	
D23	D6.4: Preliminary DET TDR	6	Delayed	Aug 2024	Feb 2026	
D24	D6.5: RI TDR	6	Delayed	Dec 2025	Delayed	Maybe not within ET-PP time
D25	D6.6: DMP and Data Access Policy	6		Jun 2026		Expected to be on track
M8	ET Collaboration in place	6		July 2023	June 2022	Done

ACTION ITEMS OUT OF THIS MEETING

- **D6.5 dropped ; D6.3 by July 2026 (under ETO supervision); D6.4 by Feb 2026**
- **Prepare answers to EC officers on Data Access / Data Policy and DMP together with WP8 and ETO**
 - **First answer prepared by ET-PP coordinator now mentioning a complementary document coming in Sept 10th together with new D8.1 deliverable**
- **Continue discussion on D6.6 preparation — anticipate some concepts in the Sept 10th document**

WP7 – Transfer of Technology / WP8 – Computing Model

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by	Delivered	Comment
D26	D7.1: Innovation plan	7	EC approved	Done		
D27	D7.2: Report on industry engagement plan execution	7		Feb 2026		Expected to be on track
D28	D7.3: Model for pursuing in ET a balanced industrial return	7	Submitted	May 2025	July 2025	Submitted to EC
D29	D7.4: Report on TT and Intellectual property management in ET	7		April 2026	December 2025	Expected by THE END 2025
D30	D8.1: Computing and Data Requirements	8	Submitted to EC	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Revision requested
D31	D8.2: Computing and Data Model	8		Feb 2026		Expected to be on track
D32	D8.3: Data Access Implementation Guidelines	8		Jul 2026		Expected to be on track
M9	Analysis of promotion strategies accomplished	7		Abril 2023	Abril 2023	Done
M10	Engagement plan produced	7		June 2023	Oct 2023	Done
M11	Analysis of balanced industrial return strategies accomplished	7		Nov 2023	Oct 2024	Done
M12	Workflows Requirements collection and constraints: computing and data	8		July 2023	July 2023	Done
13	Computing Infrastructures availability for ET workflows, characteristics	8		Aug 2024	Jul 2024	Done
14	On site infrastructure, computing and data model	8		Aug 2025		Expected to be on track
15	Low latency and offline workflows and computing model	8		Dec 2025		Expected to be on track
16	Data management, access, policy and implementation	8		Jun 2026		Expected to be on track

- **Plan for rest of WP7 and WP8 deliverables & Milestones — anticipate D7.4 by few months**
- **Prepare answers to RP2 EC comments on D8.1 and DMP in collaboration with WP6 — DONE**
- **Discuss actions for D8.1 and the ET Data policy and DMP documents in collaboration with ETO and WP6**

WP8 Data Access Policy

Actual comment from Referee

however, SHALL be taken into account, or entire work-packages will be declared void and the relevant funding reclaimed. Those are (i) the requirement to clarify the intentions of ET-PP on the ET data handling in Deliverable 8.1. It has been promised in the Description of Action that the ET data management (an ET-PP deliverable) would follow FAIR principles on open data. When the question was posed directly during the review meeting, the consortium refused to give a clear answer on the data retention period, which is simply not acceptable. Some more detailed arguments

—> ET-PP Coordination letter will ensure EC officer ET aims to follow the FAIR principles pointing to further documents to come

* The plans for low-latency release of gravitational wave strain data (or lack thereof) have to be provided. I repeat that a commitment (or not) to low-latency data releases has huge implications on the rules governing the ET Collaboration, so the endorsement (or not) of low-latency data releases must be addressed. Plans are also necessary to harmonise the data-sharing policies of ET and its partner, the Cosmic Explorer which read : “released as open data as quickly as possible (i.e., as close to real time as possible)”, and with “no reserved science [...] for any group or collaboration” (Section 9.2 of the Cosmic Explorer Horizon Study, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2109.09882.pdf>).

In terms of compliance with the DoA this refusal to address this request is at odds with task 8.4: “Data Access Implementation” / coordinator BSC: guidelines for the data policy compliance, relevant to the data storage, access, process and distribution, on all relevant time scales, respecting the EU policies on open data.

—> Detailed document in September should have the elements for properly addressing this comment to the satisfaction of referees — anticipating elements of the D6.6 DMP and WP8 future deliverables

WP9 – Sustainability

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by	Delivered	Comment
D33	D9.1: ET Sustainable Development Implementation Strategy	9	Delayed	Feb 2024		February 2026
D34	D9.2: ET Environmental impact assessment and mitigation strategy	9	Delayed	Aug 2024		October 2025
D35	D9.3: ET CO2 footprint ET assessment and mitigation strategy	9	Delayed	Aug 2025		December 2025
M17	Preliminary sustainability plan	9	Delayed	Jul 2023	Internal Sept 2024	Revision requested
M18	ET Sustainability Workshop	9		Feb 2024	Nov 2023	Done
M19	Final sustainability plan	9		July 2026		Expected to be on track

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING

- **Plan for rest of deliverables and milestones to be reflected in the GA amendment**
- **Discuss actions for M17 modifications**
- **Discuss with Site representatives on the availability of data for sustainability results**

are given in the scientific review. (ii) The Communication and the Sustainability plans need to be taken much more seriously than they are now. Please see relevant remarks on the Deliverables. Despite the reviewer's recommendation, I do not think the Sustainability Plan should be dropped. Please continue working on it; it is still a cornerstone of any such large undertaking. I expect full commitment to deliver a proper sustainability plan at the end of the project. Both mine and the reviewer's concerns have been clearly and repeatedly raised in the meeting; please prove that these concerns were unfounded.

—> **ET-PP Coordination letter will draft the action plan as came out from this meeting**

WP10-Education, Outreach and Citizen Engagement

#	Details	WP	Status	Due by	Delivered	Comment
D36	D10.1: Initiate strategic media and communications plan	10	EC approved	Done		
D37	D10.2: Launch consortium website and social media accounts	10	Submitted to EC	Aug 2024	Oct 2024	Submitted to EC
D38	D10.3: Formulate strategic media and communications plan	10	Submitted to EC	Aug 2024	Oct 2024	Revision required
D39	D10.4 Complete bank of graphics and multimedia resources	10		Aug 2025		Expected to be on track
D40	D10.5 Launch ECR mentorship and training programme	10		April 2026		Expected to be on track
20	Appointment of Communications and Outreach Coordinator	10		April 2023	July 2023	Done
21	ET Consortium website and social media launched	10		Aug 2024	Oct 2024	Published
22	ECR Mentorship and Training programme established	10		April 2026		Expected to be on track

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING

- **Plan for rest of Deliverables and Milestones**
- **Address D10.3 modifications**
- **conclude answers to EC officer**
- **Discuss the organization and future of Web — not much progress**

* The communication plan needs revisions, concentrating more on effective communication supporting the science objectives and less on projecting an appearance. The surprise-bid for the 3rd site demonstrates that effective communication even within the community is severely lacking. Also the case for the 2-L configuration being at odds with what the Dutch funding agency had originally been told and that motivated them to commit significant funding, highlights the need for less politics and more science-based communication at all levels, especially with stakeholders. These outcomes demonstrate a serious shortcoming in the design of strategic communication, suggesting the need for a change to ensure the necessary expertise and judgment are in place going forward.

—> **ET-PP Coordination letter will draft a gentle (but firm) answers on the communication failures and the awareness of the community on the 3rd site**

A night photograph of a city street, likely in Barcelona, featuring two prominent towers in the center. The street is illuminated by streetlights, and the wet pavement reflects the lights. A large, bright lightning bolt strikes the sky above the towers. The text "ET-PP@BCN — It rains..." is overlaid on the right side of the image.

ET-PP@BCN — It rains...

Bonus Slides

RP2-Report: General comments

- Include Saxony information in all site related deliverables
- Drop Sustainability effort — not supported by EC officer — lets discuss in parallel session the plan
- The communication plan needs revisions, concentrating more on effective communication supporting the science objectives and less on projecting an appearance — German Saxony-bid interpreted as a surprised and lack of communication strategy —
- The plans for low-latency release of gravitational wave strain data (or lack thereof) have to be provided.
- In terms of compliance with the DoA this refusal to address this request is at odds with task 8.4: “Data Access Implementation” / coordinator BSC: guidelines for the data policy compliance, relevant to the data storage, access, process and distribution, on all relevant time scales, respecting the EU policies on open data.
— this demands a dedicated answer — Subject of discussion for parallel session
- Final thoughts: the failures show how progress is hampered by the convoluted structure of the project: The lines of command and responsibility are not straightforward — yes but this is ETO /ETC /BGR everyday discussion

Detailed comments

WP4 – D4.2, M2, M3

- D4.2 — *The report is made of two completely independent studies, one for the EMR and one for the Sardinia site, and it lacks a unified analysis employing the same evaluation criteria. ... the two reports need to be harmonized*
 - The Referee is completely correct — D4.2 was the result of merging two documents from sites + cover letter — consequence of last minute delivery and the lack of site-site communication and decided effort to build a single document
 - Discussion with WP4 coordinators to make an effort of an extended introduction to the different site studies injecting this sense of common view
- M2 — The document is very brief and general. It should contain more detail.....
- M3 — Overall the report needs to be significantly more focused and concentrate on clear definitions of metrics to evaluate the site, in terms of its impact on the ET sensitivity.
 - Comments along the lines of those already received by the external committee —

Detailed comments

WP8 – D8.1

- D8.1 – The computing and data requirements presented for online analyses are adequate, and represent a reasonable extrapolation from what is currently done for ground-based detectors. However the rationale for using a factor 5 in estimating ET data requirements based on LIGO/Virgo detectors should be clearly presented.
 - Lets provide a comprehensive explanation
- D8.1 – The plans for low latency production and public dissemination of calibrated data, data quality flags, and their revisions, is lacking. The report must include this, as this is a major deliverable of interest to the broader community.
 - This talks to very important discussions on DMP and Data distribution policy
 - This will be addressed in D6.6 DMP –but we need to anticipate now part of the contents in our answer
- EC officer insists on a recurrent comment on FAIR and Open Data Access Policy
 - Brussels has a very strict vision of public funds – public data
 - Preparing an answer needs now a collaborative effort of WP6, WP8 and ETO
 - In a meeting with WP8 yesterday I proposed coordinators to prepare a separate document as part of the answer to the EC comments with a global view of these matters
 - Lets coordinate this in a ET-PP across the borders answer – I understood this goes inline with recent ETC discussions at the level of the EB – lets converge so we can provide an answer by the end of July.

Detailed comments

WP9 – M17

- M17 — The document is far too verbose: more pages are spent on the motivation for this deliverable than on specific plans relating to the ET project. There is hardly new and original material in this document. The state of this work makes the planned timeline for the delivery of the ET sustainability plan unlikely.
 - Lets make a revision of the document — for the third time with the help of ARUP
- D9.1 (not submitted) — Unfortunately the progress is too modest and at this point the timescale too short for the deliverables to be believable [comment from referee]
 - EC officer however insisted in delivering WP9 documents in view of the importance of the sustainability aspects
 - A failure in delivering credible sustainability documents will affect the ET project

Detailed comments

WP10 – D10.3

- D10.3 – The report has a lot of textbook information about how to set up an effective communication plan, but the actual application to the specific case lacks depth.
 - I confess I am a bit surprised because this document was reviewed by a very competent set of communication experts
- The surprise site-bid by the Saxony, demonstrates that the communication within the community and with possible stake holders has failed.
 - [??]
- This version still does not take into account the recommendations from the first review, namely that it is necessary to carry out a census of project's different web sites for communication and exchange, to critically review them, and compile a table of them with relevant details and links
 - Lets prepare comprehensive answers to the EC comments --