

D 6.4 Sustainability plan for the network of knowledge experts: Progress Report

“INTERnationalization at Home: Embedding Approaches and Structures to Foster Internationalization at Western Balkans / INTERBA”

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(Work package 6)

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Document information

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1. Work package and Task description

In its sustainability strategy, the INTERBA project aims to deploy innovative methods and toolkits for sustainability, exploitation, transferability and scaling up the project outcomes and practices.

Work Package 6 (WP6) aims to develop a sound sustainability strategy for the project that includes the methodology, action plans, metrics and project results derived from WPs 2 to 5 and builds on several elements of WP8 such as exploitation (D 8.2) and institutional sustainability (D 8.6). WP6 in its nature represents the process of development for the INTERBA sustainability framework, which is initiated with the methodology (D6.1), followed by the sustainability plans for the project outcomes (D6.2 - D6.4), verified by D6.5 and finalised and reported in D6.6.

1.1. Work Package Description

WP6 is articulated in the following tasks:

- T 6.1 Elaboration and dissemination of the methodology for the sustainability strategy.
- T 6.2 Sustainability plan for training and re-training courses and Moodle platform.
- T 6.3 Sustainability plan for Train-to-Trainers workshop.
- T 6.4 Sustainability plan for network of knowledge experts.
- T 6.5 Sustainability interim reporting.
- T 6.6 Sustainability final reporting.

This document is specifically devoted to outline methods, measures, and approaches to build the strategy for the sustainability of the network of knowledge experts (Task 6.4).

1.2. Task Description

Task 6.4 focuses on the project knowledge repository and the network of knowledge experts. The INTERBA consortium considers the knowledge repository as an important asset to support "Internationalisation at Home" in the partner countries. In terms of the project, the knowledge repository is a complex and dynamic system with constantly changing properties. In this respect, the consortium strives to expand the repository both horizontally by including new experts, fields of expertise and international projects, and vertically by enlarging the expertise of the participating experts. Crucial for the knowledge repository is a shared base knowledge of the consortium that stems from the different EU-funded projects. The availability of the knowledge repository and the visibility of the network of knowledge experts is a paramount prerequisite for the further scalability of the INTERBA outcomes to other HEIs, local businesses. and regional ecosystems in the Western Balkans.

An integral part of this task is the elaboration of specific measures related to sustainability, focusing on the maintenance and expansion of the knowledge repository and the network of experts, as well as the elaboration of the KP set for the sustainability of the respective project outcomes. The sustainability efforts have been verified in a participatory workshop (D6.5) and

interim targets have been generated, which are consequently incorporated in the Final sustainability plan (D 6.6).

2. Task Progress Report

In the process development, key questions were first formulated that relate to the sustainability of the INTERBA knowledge repository and network of knowledge experts. Then, the partner universities were asked to identify the current state and derive the efforts needed for the sustainability of the project outcomes.

The KPIs scorecard is extracted from respective reference frameworks such as: Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG); THE Impact Rankings; SDGs; RI2A; and has been classified according to the indicator's goal, nature (qualitative/quantitative), and relation to the specific project outcome.

Building on the KPI scorecard, the partner universities' assessments of their acceptance of the specific indicators and the feasibility of achieving specific indicator values were verified at the Sustainability and Exploitation workshop (D6.5), which serves as an interim sustainability progress report for the consortium.

Subsequently, the action plan and the metrics were synthesised in the final sustainability report (D 6.6) and communicated to the partners at the Final project conference (D 8.5).

The deliverable D 6.3 is submitted as an integral part of the Final sustainability report (D 6.6).