

BANOS CSA – First Project Monitoring Report

November 2018 – October 2019

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1 Implementation of activities Year 1 – State of the art

1.1 Expected activities (DoA)

According to the Description of Action (DoA) the 1st year's planned activities of BANOS CSA in WP1 were the following:

- Scoping of the strategic framework for the future programme (T1.1.) (M1-M6)
- Exploring the existing research and innovation priorities (T1.2.) (M1-M8)

Further, it was planned to start drafting the strategic research and innovation agenda SRIA (T1.3) (M8 ->)

In WP2 (Implementation modalities) all the tasks except T2.3. (developing model contracts and guidelines) were planned to start:

- Agreeing on a dedicated implementation structure (T2.1) (M1 ->)
- Agreeing on funding models and instruments (T2.2) (M1 ->)
- Development of on-line programme management tool (T2.4) (M1 ->)
- Exploring new forms of cooperation with ESIF funds (T2.5) (M9 ->)
- Developing measures of maintaining UK collaboration after Brexit (T2.6) (M1 ->)

All the tasks were planned to continue until the end of the project (M30).

Also, in WP3 all the tasks were planned to start:

- Developing and rolling out the new brand for the future programme (T3.1) (M1-M4)
- Forming analytic map of the stakeholders of the future programme (T3.2) (M5-M12)
- Mapping and analysis of related transnational initiatives and co-operation potentials (T3.3) (M5 ->)
- Forming the future programme's stakeholder platforms (T3.4) (M4 ->)
- Developing communications and stakeholder engagement strategy for the future programme (T3.5) (M5 ->)
- Web-site development (T3.6) (M5-M9)

In WP4 the following tasks were planned to start:

- Impact monitoring (T4.1) (M8 ->)
- Research synthesis and knowledge transfer (T4.2) (M8 ->)
- Capacity building (T4.3) (M6 ->)
- Open innovation (T4.5) (M6 ->)
- Citizen science (T4.7) (M7 ->)
- Regional seas cooperation (T4.8) (M2 ->)

In addition, the following governance activities were planned for the 1st year of BANOS CSA implementation:

- kick-off meeting together with the first Steering Committee, Advisory Board and Forum of Programme Manager's meeting (M1)
- 2nd Steering Committee meeting (M8)
- 2nd and 3rd FPM meetings (M5 and M8)

1.2 Alignment of expected activities with the related policy developments at regional, EU and international level

The BANOS CSA activities are implemented in a way allowing full alignment with the dynamic landscape of the related policies at regional, European Union and international level.

At the level of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea macroregions:

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

The joint BANOS R&I programme being prepared by this coordination and support action will support all three main objectives of EUSBSR: (1) Save the sea, (2) Connect the region and (3) Increase prosperity. While the

most immediate contribution is expected to the first objective, the emerging SRIA will also address issues of sustainable development of energy and transportation (2nd objective) as well as aspects of human health, well-being and adaptation to the climate change (3rd objective). Organizations playing key role in implementing the EUSBSR have been identified within the analytic stakeholder mapping and will be involved in the BANOS SRIA co-creation through the Strategic Orientation Workshop.

Macroregional cooperation in the North Sea region

BANOS is built to support further development of territorial cooperation in the North Sea (NS) macroregion. In particular, it will support implementation of the North Sea Strategy 2020 by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions North Sea Commission (CPMR NSC). The new programme will support all four strategic priority areas of the North Sea Strategy: (1) Managing maritime space, (2) Increasing accessibility and clean transport, (3) Tackling climate change, as well as (4) Attractive and sustainable communities. In order to secure contribution to the NS cooperation, BANOS CSA has established communication with CPMR NSC and equally representative of CPMR NSC has been involved in the BANOS CSA Advisory Board and is assisting the BANOS SRIA drafting team.

Regional sea's environmental conventions

Recognising the importance of aligning the joint research and Innovation (R&I) programme with the macroregional environmental policies, both the Baltic Sea Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and the OSPAR Commission for protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources are involved as strategic partners of this coordination and support action. They contribute to all BANOS CSA work packages, in particular, to WP1 (SRIA), WP3 (Communications strategy and stakeholder platforms) and WP4 (Enhancing the impact of research and innovation). Strategic partners take part in all CSA meetings and discussions shaping the future programme.

At the level of European Union:

The next EU R&I framework Horizon Europe 2021-2027

The BANOS CSA plan of action has been designed with an objective to complete all necessary building blocks to initiate the joint Baltic and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme. A number of the related policy trends were embedded in the plan of action already at the time of proposal, e.g. broad involvement of stakeholders from the very inception of research (work packages 1 and 3), achieving synergies and eradicating duplicating with other relevant EU funding streams, e.g. ESIFs, LIFE etc. (task 2.5), strengthening delivery of the impact of science and innovation (tasks 4.1 and 4.2), bridging research with development of skills and human capacity (task 4.3), transition to full openness of publicly funded R&I outputs (tasks 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6) and supporting ocean literacy and citizen science (task 4.7). The BANOS CSA consortium closely follows the developments related to the Horizon Europe partnerships and regularly discusses this development in its meetings. Information on Horizon Europe partnership development is gained also through involvement in the ERA-LEARN network. Recognizing the need to achieve more consistency and cooperation and avoid duplication, a dedicated task 4.8 Pan-European regional seas cooperation has been included in the plan of action. Within this task a joint workshop with other regional seas programmes was held at EMD May 2019 and consultations continued at the EuroOCEAN conference in June 2019 and the regional seas meeting at JPI Oceans headquarters in August 2019. The next regional seas meeting is planned to be held in early 2020 with an aim to discuss concrete R&I topics that could materialise cooperation across the regional seas.

EU Blue Growth Strategy

Following the provisions of the call, the BANOS CSA plan of action is designed to build a programme that is fully aligned and significantly contributes to the development of the EU Blue Growth Strategy. Concentrating on the issues of sustainability of the marine ecosystem services to humans it emphasizes the integral long-term sustainability requirement underlying any development of the 'blue' economy. The future BANOS programme will contribute to all components to the Blue Growth strategy, e.g. the high-potential sectors as aquaculture, coastal tourism, biotechnology and ocean energy; the essential components as marine knowledge and maritime spatial planning and sea basin strategies in two out of seven listed maritime areas. One of the three strategic objectives defined during the SRIA scoping exercise (T1.1) specifically addresses the issues of sustainable blue economy.

EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

The aim of the European Union's MSFD is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. Building on the achievements of BONUS Art. 185, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme, the new 'sister seas' programme BANOS aims at becoming the major provider of knowledge underpinning MSFD implementation in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. One of the three strategic objectives of the future programme addresses the issues of protecting and conserving healthy seas and coasts.

BREXIT

Should UK leave the European Union, this will fundamentally impact the way how the future programme of the Baltic and North Sea will be organized. While building an impactful and comprehensive North Sea R&I cooperation does not seem possible without involving the UK, very much depends on how the overall participation of UK in the EU research and innovation framework is settled, i.e. it is beyond the competence of this action. However, in order to be informed of the development and prepared to react in an optimal way, the BANOS CSA plan of action includes a specific task 2.6 Developing measures of maintaining UK collaboration after BREXIT. This task is led by UK's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas). Formulation of the content of this task allows enough flexibility to respond to different policy development scenarios.

The European Green Deal

The European Green Deal is the most recent addition to European policy landscape. It is closely linked to the European Climate Agenda aiming to make Europe the first carbon neutral continent by 2050. **It also supports the sustainable blue growth agenda via development of green technology, circular economy and clean renewable energy production, while taking care that the natural biodiversity is maintained and protected.** Due to the overarching nature of the emerging policy, it is highly relevant to all three BANOS strategic objectives, including the Healthy Seas and Coasts, Sustainable Blue Economy and Human Wellbeing. The future development of the policy will be closely followed, and aspect included into the strategic research and innovation agenda, respectively.

At the international level:

The EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The EU SDGs underpinning the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are central in developing the future BANOS programme. Understandably, the focus is on SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". At a level of specific SDG 14 targets, BANOS will contribute mostly to the horizontal target 14.A: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology. The new programme will also support reaching several of the thematic targets, e.g. 14.1: Reduction of marine pollution of all kinds including nutrients, 14.2 Protecting resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems, 14.4 Sustainable harvesting of marine biological resources 14.5 Conservation of coastal and marine areas based on the best available scientific information. The drafting team currently working on the first draft of the BANOS SRIA has been instructed to closely link the expected outcomes of different research and innovation themes of the future programme with the specific SDGs, the related targets and indicators.

1.3 Analysis of the implementation of the activities in Year 1 – status and next steps

WP1: Strategic research and innovation agenda

Task 1.1 Scoping the strategic framework for the future programme (M1-M6) has now been completed by the task leader FORMAS and the final deliverable D1.1. *Report defining scope of the future programme* was approved by the SC in M8 and subsequently uploaded to the commission portal in end of June 2019 (M8).

A bottom-up approach was applied in the scoping process and the BANOS CSA members, partners, observers and advisory board were well consulted during the development of the scope. The scoping task was initiated by online Howspace survey¹ in M4, aiming to map the primary research and innovation interests of the respective BANOS CSA organizations. Subsequently, the results of the Howspace survey and the first draft report were discussed at a well-attended workshop (in M5) with 29 participants, representing 14 BANOS CSA Consortium Member Organizations, three Strategic Partners (HELCOM, ICES and JPI Oceans) and one Observer Organization (Academy of Finland). As the outcome of this workshop, the results were pooled together, and the strategic objectives agreed among the meeting participants. The second draft report was compiled based on the workshop results (in M6) and circulated among the BANOS SC, AB and observers for further commenting and corrections.

Task 1.2 Exploring the existing research and innovation priorities (M1-M8) has now been completed by the task leader JÜLICH and the final deliverable D1.2. *Overview of existing priorities, status and capacity in relevant fields of research and innovation in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea regions* was approved by the SC in M8 and subsequently uploaded to the commission portal end of June 2019 (M8).

The task was based on an initial desktop study, focusing on an analysis of the existing landscape of national marine and maritime research and innovation strategies in all BANOS CSA partner countries. The initial mapping (results presented at the FPM2 meeting in March 2019) was followed by a questionnaire that was sent to all BANOS CSA partners and members to clarify and confirm the results of the desktop study.

Task 1.3 Drafting the strategic research and innovation agenda (M8-M24) commenced as soon as the deliverables D1.1 and D1.2 were in their final stages. In May (M7) BANOS CSA consortium partners, members and observers were asked to nominate, both internal and external, experts for the SRIA drafting team (DT). The nominations were asked to cover the wide range of expertise identified in D1.1. The nominations were subsequently evaluated and the final selection done by the task leader. The primary selection criterion was the level and the area of expertise (expertise in more than one area was considered an advantage). Also, the nationality, gender and regional expertise (i.e. Baltic and/or North Sea) were considered.

At the time of reporting, the DT (M12) consists of 22 experts, including 11 nationalities (female: 8, male: 14), as well as BONUS EEIG officers. Two advisory board members have also been invited to assist in the DT in respect to gap in the field of the specific objective B.3: Smart Seas - technological solutions for sustainable, circular and bio-based blue economy.

A common web-based co-creation platform (a dedicated set of Google Docs) has been created for drafting the BANOS SRIA. The coordination of the drafting team is achieved through regular teleconferences.

Detailed account of all steps towards producing the BANOS SRIA is presented in Annex 1.

Task 1.4 Strategic Orientation Workshop (M13-M19) will officially commence in M13, however, preparatory steps have already been taken. The SOW will scrutinize the draft SRIA as produced by T1.3 (D1.3), and agree on its final structure, content and the expected outcomes under different R&I themes/topics. Based on consultations within the BANOS CSA consortium, the SOW date was set to 31 March - 2 April 2020. The location of the SOW was chosen to be Leiden, the Netherlands (M12). The planning of the program has also been initiated and it is largely based previous experience in BONUS Art. 185 approach to SRIA development and closely link to T3.4 on forming the future programme's stakeholder platforms.

Next, the BANOS CSA consortium members will be asked to nominate participants to the SOW. The SOW is expected to attract approximately 100 participants, including representatives of all stakeholder groups: governments and NFIs, research implementing agencies, industries and NGOs (a link to T3.2-T3-4). The transnational organisations, acting as project's strategic partners, will all take active part in SOW. The deliverable (D1.4) *The SOW report* will be prepared after the SOW (M19).

¹ www.howspace.com

WP2: Implementation modalities

In WP2 the schedule of **task 2.1 Agreeing on a dedicated implementation structure**, was modified and it started only in October 2019 – not in November 2018 as planned initially - by drafting first options for the future DIS. The options will be discussed in the FPM meeting in November 2019.

Task 2.2 Agreeing on funding models and instruments, started with mapping and analysing the national funding landscape in the Baltic and North Sea countries. The analysis and the subsequent report – deliverable 2.2. Report on national funding landscape and modalities - were carried out in cooperation between Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and BONUS EEIG.

Task 2.4 Development of on-line programme management tool, started first by internal planning and it was followed by a meeting with the EPSS developer in March 2019. After the meeting BONUS EEIG continued specifying requirements and features for the upgraded EPSS. The specifications were handed over to EPSS developer in September 2019.

In regards the **task 2.5 Exploring new forms of cooperation and co-funding mechanisms with initiatives financed by ESIFs Investment Funds**, BONUS EEIG has done background work to clarify the practises and mechanisms of ESIF funding. Further, meetings with the representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland and DG Mare/European Commission have been held to discuss how the cooperation could be enhanced.

Task 2.6 has been monitoring the Brexit situation. However, as the UK has not yet left the EU, the nature of the post-Brexit relationship between the UK and the EU remains unclear. To progress work under task 2.6, existing EU models for public-public partnerships will be reviewed, with particular regard to the extent to which non-EU states are able to contribute/participate. From this, a number of candidate models will be identified for possible future application to the UK. This approach will allow the selection of approaches to be refined if the political situation becomes clearer.

WP3: Communications, dissemination and stakeholder engagement

Task 3.1 Developing and rolling out the new brand for the future programme (M1-M4) led by BONUS EEIG, is the very first task to have been carried out after the start of the BANOS CSA with the deliverable 3.1 submitted in M8. The report and consequent guidelines for use are available. The now created BANOS BRAND elements will consistently support the different stages of setting up, rolling out and implementing the future BANOS programme. At first stage of the rolling out, the brand is implemented as appropriate in the BANOS CSA project, prior embedding it into the future programme.

Task 3.2. Forming analytic map of the stakeholders of the future programme (M5-M12) has now been completed by the lead organization VLIZ and submission of the report agreed for 8 November 2019. It identified a total of 848 stakeholders classified by typological and geographic scope and priority order based on their relevance to enhance achieving aims and objectives of BANOS. This task is a process as with ever-changing landscape of operations, also the mapping of stakeholders needs reviewing at the start of BANOS and regularly thereafter.

Task 3.3 Mapping and analysis of related transnational initiatives and co-operation potentials (M5 ->), has now advanced to the stage in which the outline of the report has been drafted and is shared with the Forum of Programme Managers on 6 November 2019 in Berlin. The work carried out by VLIZ and BONUS EEIG is envisaged to be completed in M16.

Task 3.4 Forming the future programme's stakeholder platforms (M4 ->) has begun and is closely linked with the SOW (1.4) which will serve as a pilot of the key stakeholder platform to be formed in the new programme based on the model of the predecessor BONUS Art. 185's BONUS Forums.).

Task 3.5 Developing communications and stakeholder engagement strategy for the future programme (M5 ->) has commenced and a draft outline of the strategy is amongst the meeting materials of the Forum of Programme Managers on 6 November 2019 in Berlin. Tasks 3.2 and 3.3 link closely to the development of the strategy which will carry on in the coming months.

During the reporting period, the **task 3.6 'Web-site development'** has been pushed forward from the original planned months of M5-M9 to the end of BANOS CSA when defining the final scope, structure and form of the future programme is more advanced. In the interim period, a project website www.banoscsa.org has been created under the lead BONUS EEIG website (M2) allowing for an immediate online presence of the project.

WP4: Specific measures reinforcing future programme's lasting impact

Task 4.1 Developing mechanisms for impact monitoring (M8-M30) has commenced as outlined in the BANOS CSA DoA. Activities to date have included background literature research and a development of a questionnaire aimed to identify common impact monitoring approaches among the BANOS CSA consortium member, partners and observers. The results of the questionnaires are currently evaluated. The preliminary results will be presented in the FPM4 meeting in Berlin. Next steps will focus on delivering D4.1 *Report proposing impact indicators and programme-level impact monitoring mechanism* at M16 prior to the SOW (T1.4).

Task 4.2 Developing mechanisms for research synthesis (M8-M30) has commenced as outlined in the BANOS CSA DoA. A process of hiring an expert to help with the deliverable D4.3 *Report proposing implementing a systematic approach to research synthesis and scalable knowledge transfer in the new programme* has been initiated via a public procurement. An expert has been identified and a contract has now been sent for signing to Stockholm Environment Institute. Next step will focus on delivering input on research synthesis for SOW (T1.4) (M16).

Task 4.3 Strategies in support of human capacity building and skills' (M6-M18) development has commenced as outlined in the BANOS CSA DoA. An initial literature review on the topic has been conducted. In addition, interviews with key stakeholders (as identified in T3.2) have been carried out. Next steps include a development of a matrix of types of human capacity development (HCD) over a range of 'HCD providers' from purely academic to purely company based HCD. A draft report will be prepared in advance of the SOW (M16).

Task 4.4 Strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science' (M12-M24) has commenced as outlined in BANOS CSA DoA. A first draft outline has been agreed on among the WP4 participants and the content will be presented and discussed among the BANOS CSA consortium members, partners and observers during the FPM4 meeting on November 2019. Input on open science will be delivered (M16) prior to the SOW (T1.4)

Task 4.5 Developing strategies and instruments stimulating innovation diffusion and 'open innovation' (M6-M30) has commenced and different aspects of the T4.5 have been discussed among the WP4 leader, T4.1 task leader (NWO), Bonus Secretariat and the AB member. Current activities include preparations for a Workshop targeting the bottlenecks and opportunities in funding mechanisms for (open) innovation during Q1 in 2020. The workshop will build on prior experiences with public-private funded projects involving innovation aspects related to Blue economy/Blue growth. Strategy for open innovation will be prepared by M16 in preparation for the SOW (T1.4)

Task 4.6 Developing strategies and instruments supporting open data (M12-18) has commenced in October 2019. The activities of T4.6 and T4.4 will be closely connected to avoid duplication. Deliverable D4.7 *Report proposing new programme's data strategy and mechanisms for its implementation* will be prepared prior the SOW (T1.4)

Task 4.7 Strategies supporting 'citizen science' (M7-M18) has commenced and literature survey has been conducted, focusing on benefits and pitfalls of citizen science. Next step is to conduct targeted interviews with experts. Deliverable D4.8 *Report proposing measures stimulating 'citizen science' by the new programme* will be prepared prior to the SOW (T1.4, M18).

Task 4.8 Reinforcing pan-European regional seas co-operation (IFD) (M2-M30) has commenced to identify potential synergies and develop cooperation procedures with the parallel regional seas' research and innovation initiatives. A workshop *Towards stronger cross-basin R&I collaboration* was coordinated at the European Maritime Days (EMD) in Lisbon in May (M7). A common statement was drafted on the needs and interest of organisations to collaborate and to present a common strategy for coordination. A follow-up meeting was held in M10 at the JPI Ocean offices, leading to JPI Oceans joining the updated Lisbon agreement.

WP5: Governance and management

The work in WP5 started with the kick-off meeting on 7 November 2018 in Copenhagen, where the Steering Committee (SC), Forum of Programme Managers (FPM) and Advisory Board (AB) convened for the first time. In March 2019 the 2nd Forum of Programme Managers' meeting was held in Brussels and the 2nd Steering Committee meeting together with the 3rd Forum of Programme Managers' meeting in Copenhagen in June 2019.

1.4 Deliverables and milestones – status (any policy relevant deliverable submitted in RP1)

So far four BANOS CSA deliverables have been submitted:

- D1.1 Report defining the scope of the future programme (Task 1.1)
- D1.2 Overview of existing priorities, status and capacity in relevant fields of research and innovation in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea regions (Task 1.2)
- D2.2 Report on national funding landscape and modalities (Task 2.2)
- D3.1 The new programme's brand and its implementation guidelines (Task 3.1).

Three out of total seven of milestones have been passed so far:

- 1) **Kick-off – M1, November 2018** (kick-off of the action; establishing the governance, management and advisory structure, holding the first joint session of SC, FPM and AB)
- 2) **Fundamentals laid – M5, March 2019** (deciding scope of the future programme; adopting the new programmes brand; initial revisiting of the communications and stakeholder engagement strategy of the action)
- 3) **Input for SRIA collected – M8, June 2019** (adopting the report on research and innovation priorities; commencing drafting the SRIA; launching the CSA website; holding a BANOS CSA Steering Committee meeting)

The fourth BANOS CSA milestone "Programme's stakeholders mapped" will be passed as planned in the original DoA – in the end of November 2019.

1.5 Work carried out for the achievement of each of the listed objectives of the CSA.

Overarching objective:

...create the necessary conditions for durable coordination of research and innovation efforts in the NS and BS region by preparing a framework for launching a new joint BS and NS research and innovation programme.

- **Strong visibility and impact** among the scientific community and other key stakeholders. Already for the kick-off in early November 2018, an introductory flyer of the BANOS CSA had been produced by the coordinating office in order for the consortium's promotional efforts to hit the ground running from the very beginning of the project. Since then, the brand and related guidelines for BANOS CSA use have been developed, a project website established, first BANOS CSA briefing document

published and disseminated as well as predecessor programme's BONUS Art. 185 key communications tools adjusted as appropriate (e.g. the newsletter, e-bulletin) to serve also the promotions and visibility of the continuation plans. A well-attended promotional event for the European communities in Brussels was held in Feb 2019, further high-profile promotions took place also at EMD in Lisbon, EuroOCEAN in Paris, ICES ASC in Gothenburg to name just a few. Consortium members in their respective national settings have promoted BANOS CSA further during the reporting period.

- **Scientific integration** will be achieved by developing a joint strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) in thorough consultation with the relevant stakeholders in the regions surrounding both sea basins. The SOW (task 1.4) plays a central role in stakeholder consultations. During the SOW, the draft SRIA, written by an internal and external expert team, will be thoroughly reviewed by the representatives of all stakeholder groups: governments and NFIs, research implementing agencies, industries and NGOs (link to T3.2-T3-4) as well as, the transnational organizations, acting as project's strategic partners. In addition, synergies and potential co-operation possibilities with other transnational initiatives and their SRIAs (identified in T1.2/D1.2) will be evaluated. The pan-European regional seas cooperation (T4.8) will ensure the alignment of the final SRIA on a regional seas scale as well as identification of R&I themes specific to the Baltic and North Sea regions.
- Administrative integration > see WP2 status in chapter 1.3
- Financial integration > see WP2 status in chapter 1.3.

1.6 Contribution to the expected impacts of the Call

The call text identified several expected impacts for this action:

In the short term:

- Overcome fragmentation in research and innovation by developing a joint Baltic-North Sea Marine and Maritime Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda by the Baltic Sea and the North Sea countries.

The whole WP1 of the action is dedicated to developing a joint Baltic-North Sea Marine and Maritime Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. To this end, the scope and the overall framework has been established (T1.1), the relevant national R&I priorities of the involved member states and associated countries are collected and reviewed (T1.2). Based on this input, drafting the SRIA has been initiated by a dedicated drafting team (T1.3). Preparations for the strategic orientation workshop (SOW) have been stated (T1.4). According to the plan of action the BANOS SRIA will be ready by the end of 2020.

- Create lasting marine and maritime stakeholder platforms and integration mechanisms in the area, and establishing appropriate stakeholder collaboration mechanisms between the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.

Creation of lasting stakeholder platforms and collaboration mechanisms is in the core of the WP3 of the action. To date, the first necessary steps towards this end have been already accomplished. The corporate brand of the future programme that will serve a pivot in all stakeholder communications is finished (T3.1). A comprehensive analytic mapping of the stakeholders to be involved as subjects of the platforms and collaboration mechanisms covering both the Baltic Sea and the North Sea is finished (T3.2). The preliminary overall communications and stakeholder engagement strategy (T3.5) has been drafted and after a review and consultation within the consortium it will be finalised by the early 2020. The first BANOS stakeholder platform - the BANOS Strategic Orientation Workshop - will be activated already in March-April 2020. Developing the stakeholder platforms will continue until the end of the action, thus allowing, if necessary, adjustment to the dynamic policy landscape.

In the medium term:

- Create a framework and deliver the necessary mechanisms, based on experience gained by the current BONUS and other equivalent initiatives, for developing a European Baltic-North Sea Research and Innovation Programme.

Being coordinated by the BONUS EEIG – the dedicated DIS of BONUS Art. 185 – ensures the transfer of the best of the unique experience gained while building and implementing the very successful Baltic Sea programme. The assumption underpinning the BANOS CSA is that the most efficient way of overcoming fragmentation is to develop a joint programme. Thus delivering all the necessary mechanisms for commencing such programme is the core aim of the action and all tasks of the action are engaged towards this aim.

- Contribute to improve the professional skills and competences of those working and being trained to work within the blue economy.

Task T4.3 Strategies in support of human capacity building and skills development. The work on this task has been already started and will be accomplished in April 2020. The task leader Flanders Marine Institute has accumulated lot of experience in this area.

- Contribute to policymaking in research, innovation and technology.

BANOS CSA contribution to policymaking in relevant areas of research, innovation and technology is manifold. Firstly, as most of its partners are national R&I governmental policymaking institutions, it provides a case of a joint R&I policymaking (joint programming) among several member states and associated countries in areas that require such cooperation. Secondly, as the BANOS scope requires involvement of various disciplines and affects interests of various sectors, the action contributes to firm establishing of multi- and interdisciplinary approach in research and innovation and cross-sector collaboration. It is indicative that the members of the CSA consortium belong to different sectors: R&I, environment, fisheries and agriculture. This kind collaborative development of research and innovation agenda by actors belonging to different sectors will contribute better uptake of research and innovation results by the sectors of economy. Finally, we hope that opening the ways for collaboration and finding synergies among different European funding streams (T2.5) will enable creation of multi-actor knowledge systems involving both academia, governments, enterprises and civil society that are necessary of overcome the most fundamental challenges.

1.7 Achievements and suggested improvements

Achievements over the monitoring period: The implementation of BANOS CSA has got to a strong start. The consortium is in full motion and all work packages are advancing across the board according to the ambitious plans set. The fully packed room of interested participants in Brussels on the occasion of the BANOS CSA information sharing event in February 2019 set well the scene familiar also in other BANOS CSA attended events during the following months. A high-profile workshop co-organized with the other European regional seas R&I initiatives during the European Maritime Day in May generated a joint statement on collaboration between five European regional sea-basins and the JPI Oceans. This was further enforced in the following month's EuroOCEAN conference held in Paris. A successful dialogue session at ICES Annual Science Conference forged further stakeholder involvement in BANOS CSA, this particularly in a form of input given to the development of the Baltic and North Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

Suggested improvements: As the landscape that BANOS CSA operates in has changed substantially since submitting the proposal for the BANOS CSA, equally some changes and rescheduling to the tasks detailed in the work plan are now necessitated in order to achieve the goals set. In particular, the deliverables of the task 2.2, Agreeing on funding models and instruments, needs to be postponed until a later date. . Similarly, the other tasks of WP2 requires revision due to the changes in the landscape. The revisions will be done in collaboration with the BANOS CSA consortium..

2 Summary of main expected activities for Year 2

In WP1, the work will continue in the tasks T1.3 *drafting of the SRIA* and T1.4 *the SOW*. Both tasks are closely interlinked. A draft report (D1.3) will be produced by the SRIA DT members by M16, which will be subsequently distributed among the SOW participants. The document will be scrutinized by the SOW participants and the feedback incorporated by the DT members into the final SRIA draft by end of M19. After final editing and modifications, the proposed BANOS SRIA (D1.5) will be submitted for SC approval in M24.

In WP2, the work in all tasks continues and deliverables will be submitted in due time. However the timing of the submission of some of the deliverables may need to be adjusted based on changes in the policy landscape..

In WP3, the work on brand development (T3.1) is complete apart from the practical implementation of the brand to both BANOS CSA and the future programme which will continue to year 2 and beyond. The stakeholder mapping (T3.2) has been completed and will be revisited regularly as appropriate (i.e is a process!). The mapping of transnational initiatives and cooperation potential continues to year 2 with the deliverable to be completed in M16 (Feb 2020). The development work of forming stakeholder platforms (T3.4) intensifies in the run-up and running of SOW in spring 2020 and thereafter in drafting the concept paper of key stakeholder platforms of the future programme. The future programme's communications and stakeholder engagement strategy (3.5) will be finalized on the most general level by M14 with a view of an important revisit once the final scope, structure and form of the new programme is more advanced, this in turn allowing more detailed planning to take place. The development of the future programme's website (T3.6) will start at the end of year 2 with a view of completion by the end of the project in M30 (April 2021).

In WP4, the work will continue in all tasks as outlined in the BANOS CSA DoA. All task will deliver input for the SOW in the end of Feb 2020. In addition, deliverables D4.1, D4.4, D4.7 and D4.8 are due in M16 and M18, respectively. T4.5 is planning to have a WS on open innovation in first quarter of 2020.

In WP5, *Governance and management*, there will be the following meetings: Forum of Programme Managers (FPM) meeting on 6 November 2019 in Berlin, and - back-to-back with SOW - Advisory Board meeting, Steering Committee meeting and FPM meeting in March-April 2020.

Annex 1

The detailed timeline of BANOS SRIA development (Task 1.3)

T1.3 timeline and activities	Activities to date						Upcoming activities								END OF TASK 1.3			
	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20		M21	M22	M23
DT nominations	■	■																
DT recruitments			■	■	■	■												
1 st DT teleconference					■													
ICES stakeholder event					■													
2 nd DT teleconference						■												
SRIA themes online: public consultation							■											
SRIA web-based workshop							■											
3 rd DT teleconference								■										
Draft SRIA for SOW (D1.3)									■									
SOW consultations											■							
2 nd SRIA (web)-workshop												■						
Delivery of final draft SRIA													■					
Editing and finalizing SRIA														■	■	■	■	
BANOS SRIA (D1.5)																		■