

Project Number: 817574

Project Acronym: BANOS CSA

Project title: Towards the joint Baltic Sea and the North Sea research and innovation programme

Periodic Technical Report

Part B

Period covered by the report: from 01/05/2020 to 31/10/2021

Periodic report: 2nd

1 Explanation of the work carried out by the beneficiaries and Overview of the progress

1.1 Objectives

The overall concept underpinning the Baltic and North Sea Coordination and Support Action (BANOS CSA) was initially seen to be the launch of a joint research and innovation programme of all EU member states and associated countries surrounding the Baltic Sea and the North Sea which was presumed to be the most effective way in fostering sustainable use of the ecosystem services of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. In the call¹ launched by the European Commission, this approach was considered also the best way to resolve the specific challenges identified such as:

- fragmentation among nations and sectors
- gaps in interdisciplinary knowledge
- inadequate information on potential synergies and trade-offs between different sectors and the environment (including climate change issues),
- insufficient exchange of knowledge among scientists, industries and policy makers,
- need to increase attention to the societal inclusiveness and human well-being
- while achieving a significant and well-coordinated research effort

Such a joint programme was seen, as and when materializing, also to possess a high level of scientific, management and financial integration. Hence, the overarching objective of BANOS CSA was to create the necessary conditions for durable coordination of research and innovation efforts in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea region (i.e. BANOS region) by preparing a framework for launching a new joint Baltic Sea and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme, referred to as BANOS from hereon (aligned with the outcome of the brand development BANOS CSA deliverable D3.1).

Thus, the expected key qualities of the future programme:

- strong visibility and impact among the scientific community and other key stakeholders
- scientific integration
- administrative integration
- financial integration

were translated into specific objectives pursued by the work packages and tasks of the BANOS CSA (Figure 1).

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food_en.pdf

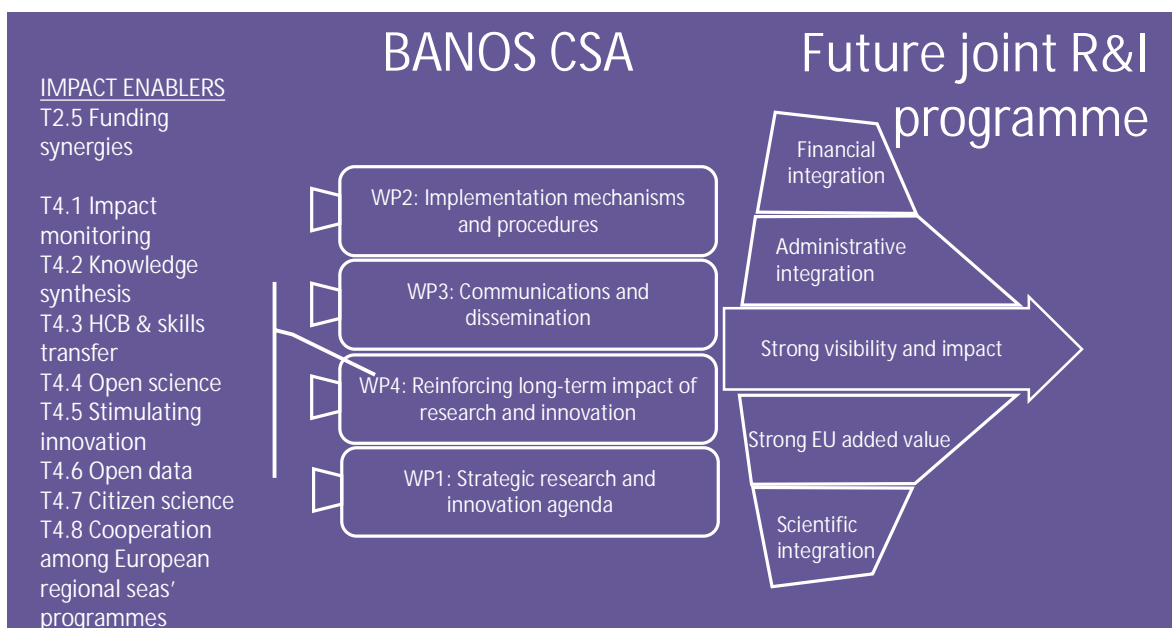


Figure 1. The overarching objective of the BANOS CSA was to create the necessary conditions for durable coordination of research and innovation efforts in the Baltic Sea and North Sea region by preparing a framework for launching BANOS. Each of the work packages worked towards securing the specific key qualities of BANOS: (i) strong visibility and impact among the scientific community and other key stakeholders, as well as high level of (ii) scientific, (iii) administrative and (iv) financial integration. Adapted from the BANOS CSA proposal.

During the second 18 months of implementation (18-36M), the main achievements towards fulfilling these objectives include the following.

In support of efforts to achieve strong visibility and impact among the scientific community and other key stakeholders that build on the brand (D3.1), the stakeholder mapping actions (D3.2, D3.3) and an overarching communication and stakeholder engagement strategy (D3.5), all of which were reported in the first reporting period, the following were completed by M36:

- Consideration of the key stakeholder platforms of the future programme (D3.4, T3.4)
- Outline of the legacy of BONUS Art. 185 and key recommendations related to the future programme's website development (D3.6, T3.6).

As foreseen in the formulation of the BANOS CSA objectives, the action for visibility and impact entailed as an important component reinforcing pan-European collaboration among the regional sea basin programmes (T4.8). During the second reporting period BANOS CSA contributed towards building regional cooperation by being closely involved in the development of the proposal for future partnership candidate "Climate neutral sustainable and productive blue economy" (SBE Partnership) as well as in drafting of the SBE Partnerships draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) published in February 2021. Both draft BANOS SRIA (D1.5) and BANOS CSA impact enabling strategies were used as important reference materials for the SBEP SRIA, for example, providing content for R&I priorities in the region as well as in addressing topics such as to open science, open data and human capacity development. The completion of the second reporting period culminated in the BANOS CSA End Conference held on 18 October 2021, which also included a European Commission led session titled 'The future of R&I for healthy seas and ocean in Europe: The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) and the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters' (T4.8, D4.9).

The highest possible impact of the future BANOS Programme, as planned in BANOS CSA, would be achieved by implementing a set of dedicated impact enabling measures, such as: systematic impact monitoring and assessment, mechanisms for research synthesis, BANOS' contribution to human capacity building and skills development for sustainable blue growth, unhindered dissemination of new knowledge and data, fast innovation diffusion and engagement of broad society. All the impact enabling strategies were completed during the second reported period (see details in chapter 1.2.4). In addition, a dedicated chapter authored by the WP4 team was integrated into the BANOS SRIA (D1.5).

Building the scientific integration has progressed through

- launch of the BANOS SRIA in June 2021 (D1.5)
- involvement in drafting of the SBE Partnership SRIA and its alignment with BANOS SRIA (D1.5)

See further details in chapter 1.2.1.

For achieving high level of administrative and financial integration the following were completed by M36:

- Analysis of the options for the optimal and efficient implementation structure of the future programme (D2.1), supported by all the relevant legal and internal documents for establishing dedicated implementation structure (D2.4 and D2.6)
- identifying the potential funding bodies and their existing funding mechanisms (T2.2, D2.2),
- Introducing the implementation mechanisms and funding principles of so-called 'stand-alone' future programme (D2.3 and D2.5).
- identifying the possible synergies and cooperation with other EU funding instruments (D2.8)) and investigating the UK's involvement and collaboration possibilities with the future programme post EU Exit (D2.11) (T2.6).

Further details can be found in chapter 1.2.2.

1.2 Explanation of the work carried per WP

1.2.1 Work Package 1 Strategic research and innovation agenda

The WP1 contains four tasks, of which Tasks 1.1 Scoping the strategic framework for the future programme and Task 1.2 Exploring the existing research and innovation priorities were completed during 1st periodic reporting period.

The remaining two actions, Task 1.3 Drafting the strategic research and innovation agenda and Task 1.4 Strategic Orientation Workshop were completed during the second implementation period. The work package 1 leader was BONUS EEIG

Task 1.1 Scoping the strategic framework for the future programme (M1-M6) was led by Formas, Sweden. The task completed during the first monitoring period. See BANOS CSA D5.1 First Project Monitoring Report and 1st Periodic Technical Report: Part B for more details.

Task 1.2 Exploring the existing research and innovation priorities (M1-M8) was led by Juelich, Germany. The task completed during the first monitoring period. See BANOS CSA D5.1 First Project Monitoring Report and 1st Periodic Technical Report: Part B for more details.

Task 1.3 Drafting the strategic research and innovation agenda (M8-M32) was led by BONUS EEIG.

The task was strongly connected to D1.1 and D1.2, which were used as a starting point for the further SRIA drafting process. In addition, essential stakeholder input was collected as part of Task 1.4 Strategic Orientation Workshop.

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 and D1.2. 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, in order to ensure a well-balanced composition of the members in the DT across the BANOS region, the nationality, gender and regional expertise (i.e. Baltic and/or North Sea) were considered.

The DT consists of 27 experts, including 11 nationalities (female: 10, male: 17), as well as BONUS EEIG officers. Two advisory board members (1F, 1M) have also been consulted during the drafting process to cover a gap in the field of the specific objective B.3: Smart Seas - technological solutions for sustainable, circular and bio-based blue economy.

The deliverable D1.3 Preliminary draft text of the proposed new joint Baltic Sea and North Sea research and innovation programme SRIA as an input document to the SOW was completed by the DT in February 2020 (M16). The pre-draft SRIA was subsequently submitted to the Commission Portal. In addition, the document was sent to all BANOS CSA partners, members and observers as well as to a wide range of stakeholders invited to participate in the Strategic Orientation Workshop (see T1.4 for details on SOW) with the aim of ample time provided for reviewing the pre-draft SRIA thoroughly when preparing for individual contributions in advance of the SOW.

Following the SOW (M18), the DT embarked on revising the content of the D1.3 based on BANOS CSA consortium and SOW participants comments and feedback. After (M22-28), additional stakeholder consultations were carried out where appropriate, and the draft SRIA was once more reviewed by the consortium members (M29-30), the document went through final editing and layout.

D1.5 Final draft of the proposed new joint Baltic Sea and North Sea research and innovation programme SRIA was approved by the BANOS CSA Steering Committee in M31, and subsequently the SRIA was launched in an online event on 22 June 2021.

Task 1.4 Strategic Orientation Workshop (M13-M19) was led by BONUS EEIG. The objective of the SOW was to scrutinize the pre-draft SRIA (D1.3) as produced by the DT in T1.3, and agree on its final structure, content and the expected outcomes.

The online event was organized during the first monitoring period (M18). For more details on the organization of the event, see BANOS CSA 1st Periodic Technical Report: Part B and the final deliverable D1.4 The SOW report, which was approved by the BANOS CSA Steering Committee in May 2020 (M19).

1.2.2 Work package 2

The WP2 contains six tasks, all of which were completed by the end of the action. The work package leader was BONUS EEIG.

Task 2.1 Agreeing on a dedicated implementation structure (DIS) (M1-M36) was led by BONUS EEIG and it contains three deliverables, which all were submitted in the reporting period 2. The schedule of the task was modified, and it started only in October 2019 – not in November 2018 as planned initially. Due to the uncertainty caused by considerable changes in the P2P partnership instruments in the EU's research and innovation framework Horizon Europe compared to its predecessor, the national funding institutions (NFIs) involved in the BANOS CSA were not ready to decide on establishing a dedicated implementation structure for the future programme. Therefore, the name of the deliverable D2.1 was changed to Options for the legal form of the future programme's dedicated implementation structure (initial name Agreement on legal form of the DIS) and it was delivered in December 2020. The report presents several options for the legal form of the DIS and the outcome of the consultation among the participant organizations, based on the query to BANOS CSA consortium members in autumn 2020. The strong recommendation of the deliverable is to establish a DIS with a non-profit legal form – the most viable alternative being an association under a national law.

Based on conclusions drawn in the deliverable D2.1, Package of draft legal documents (D2.4) was prepared by BONUS EEIG and it was submitted in June 2020. This package includes three necessary documents for founding an association in Finland: a model for a charter of the association, a model rules of association and a model for a request for exemption for having a chairperson non-resident of Finland.

The last deliverable of task 2.1, D2.6 Package of draft internal regulations prepared by BONUS EEIG, contains four documents for effective and transparent management of possible BANOS DIS: Operational Procedures of BANOS, Handling of Confidential Information in BANOS, Conflict of Interest Policy in BANOS and Personal Data in BANOS. All draft documents can be used in a wide variety of situations and easily modified as needed.

Task 2.2 Agreeing on funding models and instruments (M1-M30) was led jointly by Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and BONUS EEIG and it contains three deliverables. The first deliverable (D2.2 Report on national funding landscape and modalities) was submitted in June 2019 (M8) and it was reported in the First Project Monitoring Report. It was subsequently updated in October 2020.

Due to the uncertain future prospects regarding the development of Blue Economy partnership, the second deliverable of this task (D2.3) was postponed to M25 (initial delivery time M18) and the name of it was changed to Outline of BANOS Programme's Implementation (initial name Agreement on the implementation instrument). It outlines the set of actions that is foreseen to constitute the future BANOS Programme and touches upon the ways of implementation of these actions.

Accordingly, the name of the third deliverable of the task 2.2 was changed to D2.5 Options for appropriate programme funding principles including in-kind contributions provided free of charge with the new delivery month 30. This deliverable suggests a virtual common pot model as the most viable funding model option for BANOS 'stand-alone programme' option – based solely on contributions by the participating countries with possible supplementary funding from other EU funding programmes (EMFF, Interreg).

Task 2.3 Developing model contracts and guidelines (M19-M36) was led by BONUS EEIG and it includes two deliverables with delivery month 36: D2.7 Set of model agreements proposed for implementation of the future joint Baltic and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme (BANOS) and D2.9 Set of guidelines proposed for the future joint Baltic Sea and North Sea research and innovation programme implementation. The D2.7 includes three necessary model

agreements for launching calls for proposals and for the use of the call management in the BANOS Programme: a Memorandum of Understanding, a Joint Controllers' Agreement and a Project Implementation Agreement, and the D2.9 includes three guideline documents - a guide for applicants, guide for reviewers and a guide for project participants - and a template for call announcement. All model agreements, template and guidelines have been made so that they can be used in a wide variety of situations and easily modified as needed

Task 2.4 Development of online programme management tool (M1-M33) was led by BONUS EEIG and it includes one deliverable, D2.10 BANOS EPSS. According to the original plan, the task was to develop an enhanced Electronic Programme Service System (EPSS) based on the current BONUS EPSS which would be immediately operational at the beginning of the future programme. During the second reporting period of BANOS CSA it became evident that the future joint BANOS Programme will not materialize as originally planned, and for this reason there became a clear need to modify the content of the deliverable 2.10. As the implementation structure of the future joint BANOS Programme (as planned in the BANOS CSA) was not known in time, the technical development of BANOS programme support system (BANOS EPSS) with a sub-contracted, dedicated service provider could not be taken forward. For this reason, instead of a fully developed operational system, the deliverable describes the functionalities and services provided by the BONUS EPSS and the elements requiring adaptations for developing of the BANOS EPSS.

Task 2.5 Exploring new forms of cooperation and co-funding mechanisms with initiatives financed by European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) (M9-M36) contains one deliverable, D2.8 Report on new forms of cooperation and co-funding mechanisms with initiatives financed by ESIF and other sources, and it was prepared in collaboration with DTU Aqua and BONUS EEIG. In the second reporting period the working team continued to identify and explore alternative EU funding opportunities as a complement to traditional EU's research and innovation funding, analysed the EU regulations of funding programmes, identified barriers preventing funding synergies and searched examples of using the other EU funds for support transnational research and innovation activities. The results of the studies and the recommendations for promoting the funding synergies, as well as the description of the measures taken by the working team in the first reporting period, are summarised in the deliverable report submitted in M36.

Task 2.6 Developing measures of maintaining UK collaboration after BREXIT (M1-M36) was led by CEFAS and it contains one deliverable, D2.11 Report on measures of maintaining UK collaboration after European Union Exit. The report is dedicated to investigating the UK's involvement with BANOS post EU Exit. The report identifies the most relevant macro-to-micro scale initiatives that relate to the BANOS strategic objectives. Further, it investigates the ability of the UK to collaborate in the future BANOS SRIA activity in relation to the initiatives that are relevant to the future programme. Finally, it gives recommendations for effective measures for maintaining UK collaboration within the future BANOS programme by elaborating potential options for maintaining and expanding collaboration.

1.2.3 Work package 3

The WP3 contains six tasks and BONUS EEIG is the work package leader. All of the horizontal WP3 tasks are closely linked with one another as well as other BANOS CSA tasks. The strong support feature of WP3 was originally planned to continue to the implementation of the future programme. Nevertheless, the unknown status of the implementation mechanisms towards the

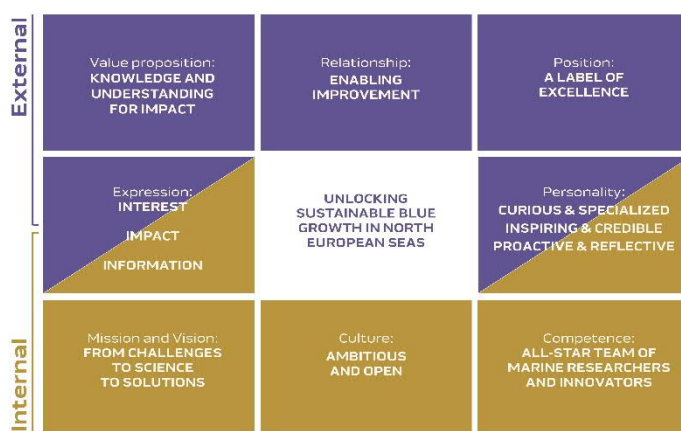
very end of the BANOS CSA implementation impacted also on the profile of the work carried out in the WP3.

Task 3.1 Developing and rolling out the new brand for the future programme (M1-M4) was led by BONUS EEIG and was the very first task to have been carried out after the start of the BANOS CSA. The deliverable 3.1 was submitted formally in M8. The reason for this priority setting was the fact that the framework developed in BANOS CSA for the new programme was prepared to encompass both the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. This means that the new programme, as planned in the BANOS CSA, was designed to be larger and involve an even wider net of stakeholders than was in the case in its predecessor, the widely successful joint Baltic Sea research and development programme, BONUS Art. 185. Therefore, this initiative necessitated from the very outset a stronger, more united and increasingly compelling brand for the development and implementation purposes.

The strategic communications agency Ellun Kanat under the supervision of the BONUS Secretariat was selected to facilitate the process (M2). Based on examination of the BONUS legacy and BANOS CSA materials, gathering of information from interviews of the selected consortia members representing both Baltic and North Sea regions and through two dedicated brand workshops held to the consortium members in M3/M4 the materials for completion of the work was achieved.

The brand matrix which defines the brand core, value proposition, relationship, position, expression, personality, mission & vision, culture and competence was finalized (see Figure 3), and the name of the new programme confirmed i.e. BANOS, the joint Baltic and North Sea

BANOS
Brand matrix



Research and Innovation Programme. The report and consequent guidelines for use were produced for the use of the consortium and formally signed off by the BANOS CSA Steering Committee.

The BANOS BRAND elements created support consistently the different stages of setting up (BANOS CSA) as well as rolling out and implementing the future BANOS Programme.

Figure 3. The BANOS brand matrix elements to be applied from BANOS CSA onwards: The BRAND CORE - forms the epicentre of the brand which is surrounded by the following elements: COMPETITION (Value proposition + Competence), STRATEGY (Position + Mission and vision), INTERACTION (interaction + Culture), and COMMUNICATION (Expression + Personality). See Annex 5 for detail on BANOS brand elements.

Task 3.2. Forming analytic map of the stakeholders of the future programme (M5-M12) was led by VLIZ and the deliverable was submitted in M12.

A bottom-up desktop study was carried out based on the intelligence gathering in the ongoing BONUS Art. 185 communication strategy for the Baltic Sea, while expanding the coverage to the North Sea area. A typology was developed for the classification (R&I, industry, policy...) and mapping of stakeholders and stakeholder groups.

Stakeholders were identified through targeted web searches and queries in marine databases. In addition, a bibliometric search was conducted to detect complementary expertise and stakeholders that may not be obtained through web searches.

The stakeholders' relationship towards the future BANOS Programme were mapped through a scoring system and assigned to four quadrants, each potentially requiring a different engagement strategy based on their degree of power and claim for urgency they might exert over the programme, as perceived by the consortium.

These approaches were revised and complemented during an interactive top-down exercise that took place in M7, resulting in a completed and agreed list of stakeholders, ranked according to the impact they can have on the implementation of BANOS. A final review of the updated list and ranking of stakeholder groups was carried out by the Steering Committee in M12.

This mapping exercise 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. However, this task is a PROCESS as with ever-changing landscape of operations, also the mapping of stakeholders would need reviewing at the start of BANOS and regularly thereafter.

Task 3.3 Mapping and analysis of related transnational initiatives and co-operation potentials in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea (M5-M18) was led by VLIZ and the deliverable was submitted in M18.

This task aimed to identify and analyse of co-operation potentials in terms of the strategies of the strategic partners of the future BANOS Programme and further extend to broader initiatives as well as the relevant programmes/platforms in the field of innovation.

As a result, a report was produced, including an analytic mapping exercise identifying transnational marine and maritime R&I projects with relevance to the Baltic and North Sea regions and a thematic analysis of shared research and innovation priorities for a selection of 21 transnational organizations. This analytic mapping exercises identifying transnational projects and organisations with an alignment to the BANOS SRIA and its objectives serves as a reference point for initiating discussions towards thematically focused collaboration from here on. This also is a process (as 3.2) and future reviews and necessary updates are foreseen.

Also included at the beginning of the report is a brief synopsis of the most significant policy documents and initiatives which are driving relevant research and innovation activities for the BANOS Programme. Finally, the report ends with details of possible collaboration with the key cross-border stakeholders under two scenarios of the future development based on the best possible knowledge at the time of finalizing it for submission (M18).

Task 3.4 Forming the future programme's stakeholder platforms (M4-M36) was led by BONUS EEIG and the deliverable submitted in M36. The task was postponed due to the uncertainties related to the form of implementation of the future programme. Also, COVID-19 pandemic restrictions necessitated in recent times furthermore significantly slowed down advancements made to complete this task at the most desirable standard. While the Horizon Europe SBEP and its stakeholder platform development forms most probable central platform consideration for implementing BANOS SRIA in the coming years, the implementation structure of the future, joint BANOS Programme (as planned in the BANOS CSA) was not clearly known at the time of preparing the deliverable 3.4. The final deliverable was completed in M36, and as a result of the above, a narrower view focussing mainly on an outline and potential of the key stakeholder platform approach in the predecessor Programme (BONUS), spearheaded by the BONUS Forum concept, was included in this deliverable.

It is noteworthy that in this deliverable, it is stated that BANOS endorses the stakeholder platform creation. When considered throughout the Programme and executed well, an interactive and engaging multi-way interaction via the platform can have a considerable impact in improving the relevance of the research and innovation at the decision-making level and in the society at large. Furthermore, it can stimulate and raise aspirations, develop knowledge and understanding and enable stakeholders to contribute to the region-wide, top research and innovation.

The deliverable also strongly supports development of fit-for-purpose stakeholder platforms and their development with key actors where applicable (derived from the results of BANOS CSA stakeholder mapping D3.2) and this way also ensures reaching mutual goals and aims in the regional seas' agenda to avoid unnecessary, overlapping efforts. Finally, the deliverable acknowledges the legacy and model of predecessor Programme BONUS Art. 185 and encourages its example to be made best use of – as appropriate – in the future developments

Task 3.5 Developing communications and stakeholder engagement strategy for the future programme (M5-M14) was led by BONUS EEIG and submitted in M14.

The BANOS Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (T3.5) outlined the starting point of the framework for the future strategy at the time when the future BANOS Programme's structure and form were still to be confirmed. Once clear, this would have a critical bearing on the BANOS Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and its implementation. As a key delivery mechanism for the entire programme, the communications (WP3), and all the tasks within, have their bearing in finalizing the strategy. I.e. the first stages of the tasks completed (T3.1, T3.2, T3.3), those currently under development (and to be completed towards the end of BANOS CSA (T3.4. and T3.6.) would all be features in the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and related Action Plans. Hence the strategy would need revisiting once the future programme's structure and form would be confirmed.

In brief, the strategy and related activities aim to enable strong and the most desirable public presence, active stakeholder engagement as well as effective knowledge dissemination and information sharing from the very start of BANOS. The stakeholder dialogue with multi-level and multi-directional communication flow is envisaged therein as a continuous and cross-cutting element in all BANOS' implementation activities including those of all the projects it will fund in future. Also, in the core of BANOS communications is driving and supporting mechanisms necessary to unlock sustainable blue growth through creation of profound impact that BANOS would thrive to create in the coming years and decade(s).

The broad BANOS communications objectives firmly anchored on the Programme's R&I objectives (see T1.3) are:

1. Corporate – Enhancing effective ways to communicate with stakeholders to strengthen delivery of aims, reach, brand and visibility of the entire programme and its presence in the landscape it operates in
2. Cause – Raising awareness of the Baltic and North Sea ecoregions and of the need to practice effective management and knowledge-based governance that in turn can support unlocking of long-term sustainable blue growth in North European seas
3. Programme – Enhancing scientific knowledge and innovation and their use generated in the BANOS funded projects across policy and socio-economic landscape by establishing dialogues and transferring aims, progress and results of a strong, policy-driven research and innovation programme to stakeholder groups for their action and use

To realize the BANOS communications objectives effectively and to ensure the growth of BANOS' outreach and its potential impact, the strategy would build on the following areas: Brand, stakeholders, communications tools, corporate and stakeholder specific communications plans, annual calendar of activities, indicators, evaluation as well as other, specific guidelines as viewed necessary in a changing policy and operational landscape.

Task 3.6 The website, a cross-cutting virtual platform to fit the future joint Baltic Sea and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme (M27-36) was led by BONUS EEIG, and the deliverable was submitted in M36.

Already in late 2018, from the very outset of the BANOS CSA (M2), it was decided to postpone the future programme's website development to the very end of the BANOS CSA project cycle. The reason for this was to gain first a good oversight and understanding of the implementation structure and form of the future BANOS Programme. This was necessary since already at the beginning of BANOS CSA it became clear that the form of the future programme would be a different one from that of its Art. 185 predecessor programme, the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS), on which the BANOS CSA preparation plans were originally overlaid. This in turn meant that the framework building of the future programme in the BANOS CSA project would need to be tailored further while the project was being implemented, in order for the preparation work to be as usable as possible in the yet unknown operational implementation structure. Furthermore, knock-on effects of other deliverables' delay due to COVID-19 pandemic crisis had a bearing also in consideration of many BANOS CSA tasks, including the website development task 3.6. During the first part of 2021, it became also evident that even with the 6 months extension of BANOS CSA, the remaining time period would not lend itself to a thorough and holistic planning of the future programme's website. This mainly because for this work to take place, it would have been prerequisite to know a minimum of 5 months prior to the end of BANOS CSA the future programme's implementation structure and related level of ambition in its communications' measures, including the development of the online presence.

Instead, measures to organise, package and store – for future use as is to be viewed appropriate – the vast amount of information generated and accumulated online during the implementation of the predecessor programme BONUS, was considered a priority. In addition, since the website development for the future BANOS Programme at the start of BANOS CSA was not possible, instead in month 3 of the BANOS CSA, a website was established to serve purely the BANOS CSA project's immediate online needs: the website www.banoscsa.org was established under the same domain as the predecessor website of www.bonusportal.org, both managed by BONUS EEIG, the Secretariat of BONUS and Coordinator of the BANOS CSA project. In 2021, the migration of the BONUS legacy to be part of the BANOS CSA externally facing part of the website was completed.

The main outcome of this deliverable became a www.banoscsa.org module stored in a transportable format for future use (as deemed most appropriate), i.e. an offline copy of the BANOS CSA website as it stands at the closure of the BANOS CSA. The substance of the offline copy is also detailed in D3.6 together with a set of key recommendations, both intended to guide the development of the future BANOS website with an aim of the website to ensure the development of a cross-cutting, virtual, fit-for-purpose and interactive online platform to spearhead, support and add value to delivering the aims and objectives of BANOS SRIA and the BANOS Programme as a whole.

1.2.4 Work package 4

WP 4 contains eight tasks and SWAM (Sweden) was the WP leader. All tasks in WP4 were finished by M36 and deliverables submitted to the Commissions portal. WP4 was closely linked to other BANOS tasks and also contributed to BANOS SRIA (D1.5), Section: impact enablers.

Task 4.1 Developing mechanisms for impact monitoring (M8-M34) was led by BONUS EEIG. The task contained two deliverables, the first one D4.1. Report proposing impact indicators and programme-level impact monitoring mechanism was approved by the BANOS Steering Committee in M18 and subsequently uploaded to the Commission's portal in April 2020 (M18).

The second deliverable D4.2. Guidelines for Applicants on integrating practical Impact Indicators in project design was written during the second implementation period. The guidelines were formulated in such a way that they can be adapted to future calls, they are largely aligned with HE, and build on the BONUS experience and the best practices identified among the BANOS CSA partners. They give a clear description of Concept, with definitions, areas of application and examples relevant to BANOS Programme. The final deliverable was approved by the BANOS SC in M36 and subsequently uploaded to the Commission's portal.

Task 4.2 Developing mechanisms for research synthesis (M8-M36) was led by SWAM, Sweden. Neal Haddaway from Stockholm Environmental Institute was hired as a consultant on methodology to carry out the task together with Floor ten Hoopen, representing management and funding agencies. In the report, different synthesis methods were discussed that could be relevant in a future programme; considerations and guidelines were provided for choosing and using the different methods for future projects, and thoughts were included on topics relevant for future calls, and what considerations needed to be made for implementing them successfully. The report included an analysis of the results from the synthesis call by the predecessor programme BONUS.

The report was finalized and approved by the BANOS Steering Committee in M36 and subsequently uploaded to the Commission's portal.

Task 4.3 Strategies in support of human capacity building and skill's development (M6-M31) was led by VLIZ, Belgium.

The final deliverable D4.4 Report proposing strategies in support of human capacity building and skill's development focusing on the offer side of HCB, which was based on an extensive literature review and analysis of contents and a list of bibliography and interviews with stakeholders (identified in D3.2), was supplemented with aspects from the demand side by looking at impact enablers for the SRIA (D1.5). Also, results and outputs were included from the other impact enablers (open science, open innovation, citizen science/ocean literacy) and the deliverable was aligned with the recommendations from the deliverable on open data which was produced in-house at VLIZ. A chapter was included on the developments of global capacity building within IOC.

The deliverable also identified relevant policy initiatives and processes concerning HCSD in a global, sea basin and European context and built on existing experiences at global and EU level and needs assessments at national and sea basin scale. It explored innovative approaches in training and education. It aimed at training and skills development in crosscutting science-impact enablers (knowledge transfer, open science, open data and research data management practices (FAIR), citizen science in research...)

In addition, bottlenecks and gaps for improvement were identified and the report included strategic recommendations.

The D4.4 was approved by the BANOS CSA steering committee in M31 and subsequently submitted to the Commissions portal.

Task 4.4 Strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science' (M12-M36) was coordinated by Formas, Sweden. The task was closely interlinked to other tasks (T4.5, 4.6, 4.7) in WP4 – as "open science" is an umbrella term overarching many concepts, such as, open data and open access are included in it.

The final deliverable D4.5 Report proposing programme-level strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science' was completed already in M31. It included a set of general recommendations regarding the adoption and implementation of Open Science, and OA in particular, in the future BANOS programme.

The D4.5 was focussed around plan S, including an introduction to open science and an evaluation of the attitude of BANOS consortium members towards open access was assessed in questionnaires conducted as part of tasks on open data (T4.6) and impact assessment (T4.1). Most organisations were positive and in favour of open access.

The final deliverable was endorsed by the BANOS steering committee in M31 and subsequently submitted to the Commissions portal.

Task 4.5 Developing strategies and instruments stimulating innovation diffusion and 'open innovation' (M6-M36) was coordinated by NWO, the Netherlands. The final deliverable D4.6. Report (incl. recommendations) on strategies and instruments to support responsible and sustainable innovation in the Baltic and North Sea region was largely based on outcomes of two workshops.

The first workshop, which was held on 5 February 2020 (M16) at the Dutch Research Council (NWO) in The Hague, focussed on finding financing instruments to stimulate innovations in the Blue Economy. For details see the summary report in Annex 1 of the D4.6

An expert on innovation development was hired (Philippe Vanrie, EcoSystemiX Innovation Dynamics, former Head of the EUREKA Secretariat) to coordinate the second workshop with the aim of better integrations of SMEs in future BANOS actions. In addition, prior to the workshop, interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders including representatives of SMEs, and also funding organisations and BANOS CSA members to outline the specific scope of the workshop and to identify any major bottlenecks with respect to innovation funding.

The second workshop was organized online (29 April 2021) using Zoom platform, focusing on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are active in the Blue Economy sector in the Baltic and North Sea region, thus supplementing the first workshop where mainly BANOS CSA member countries, Dutch ministries, scientists from research institutes and universities, research funding organizations (incl. hosting organization NWO), but also EATIP Ocean and the North Sea Region Interreg Program participated. The aim of the second workshop was to identify the tools and requirements to ensure the participation of SMEs across innovation themes of the BANOS SRIA and capture the interest of relevant stakeholders and funding bodies, including the representatives of the European Commission and Member States.

Emphasis was placed on the activities that are within the scope of the R&I themes addressed in the BANOS SRIA, stating that innovation development should lead to cleaner technologies and optimised practices, sustainable new business activities and environmental improvements in general. Further, incentives and bottlenecks for relevant SMEs to engage in the development of the future BANOS innovation projects were identified. Input from industry (or sectors working with innovation in general) was taken as essential to ensure that BANOS funding instruments

generate interest from stakeholders developing and implementing innovation ideas and technologies that contribute to the goals listed in the SRIA.

The outcomes from the second innovation workshop were synthesized in a report (Annex 2 in D4.6) including a set of clear recommendations for implementation in the future BANOS programme.

The final deliverable (D4.6.) was endorsed by the BANOS CSA steering committee in M36 and subsequently uploaded to the Commissions portal.

Task 4.6 Developing strategies and instruments supporting open data (M12-M25) was coordinated by VLIZ, Belgium, and assisted by IFREMER, France.

The focus of the final deliverable D4.7 Report proposing new programme's data strategy and mechanisms for its implementation was on best practice for open data, including analyses of national strategies of the open data directive and typical components of an open data strategy. The deliverable also included the results of a questionnaire designed to assess the open data strategy among the BANOS consortium members and relevant funders.

Further, the deliverable identified the most relevant policy documents and projects concerning the management and sharing of research data in a European context, and its outcomes serve as guidelines and recommendations for BANOS' strategy on open access and open data.

The final deliverable D4.7 was endorsed by the BANOS CSA Steering Committee in M25 and was subsequently submitted to the Commission's portal.

Task 4.7 Strategies supporting 'citizen science' (M7-M31) was coordinated by FORMAS, Sweden with support from BONUS EEIG.

The strategy paper was finalised, including recommendations to be used as a basis for forming a fit-for-purpose CS strategy of the future BANOS Programme. As the guidance for formulating these recommendations, the common factors of success identified for marine CS in recent times together with further consideration of nuances specific to the BANOS realities, and appreciation of the fast-evolving marine CS field in general, were viewed as of key importance.

The recommendations proposed a BANOS definition of CS with a recognition of civil society as a potentially valuable asset contributing to the BANOS Programme and implementation of its SRIA. The support to development of CS approaches and inclusion of CS among BANOS projects' performance indicators were also both among the recommendations issued. Furthermore, future projects were encouraged to practice CS approaches as appropriate for reaching their objectives, while equally, it was recognized that not all BANOS funded projects would necessarily be suitable for inclusion of CS. Recognition of the value in all levels of CS related participation from crowdsourcing to involving citizens throughout the project cycle was made, as was consideration of citizens involvement in the widest sense, incl. marginal communities, ethnic and other minorities. Furthermore, BANOS was encouraged to explore new ways for knowledge transfer and possibilities to use new technologies and support compulsory data management plans for all future BANOS projects, including aspects of data ownership and openness. Contributing to the international development of marine CS and close collaboration with dedicated CS experts were

actions viewed necessary as was the support for all efforts towards creation of a joint, marine and coastal CS database for the BANOS region.

The final deliverable D4.8 Report proposing measures stimulating 'citizen science' was endorsed by the BANOS SC in May 2021 (M31) and subsequently uploaded to the Commission's portal.

Task 4.8 Reinforcing pan-European regional seas co-operation (M2-M36) was coordinated by IFD Denmark and assisted by BONUS EEIG.

During the second reporting period BANOS CSA contributed towards building regional cooperation by being closely involved in the development of the proposal for future partnership candidate "Climate neutral sustainable and productive blue economy" (SBEP) as well as in drafting of the SBE partnerships draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) published in February 2021. Both draft BANOS SRIA (D1.5) and BANOS CSA impact enabling strategies were used as important reference materials for the SBEP SRIA, for example, providing content for R&I priorities in the region as well as in addressing topics such as to open science, open data and human capacity development. The completion of the second reporting period culminated in the BANOS CSA End Conference held on 18 October 2021, which also included a European Commission led session titled 'The future of R&I for healthy seas and ocean in Europe: the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) and the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters'.

After the final meeting, the deliverable D4.9 Report of European regional seas research and innovation conference was finalized and submitted to the Commissions portal in October 2021 (M36).

1.2.5 Work package 5

Task 5.1 BANOS CSA Steering Committee (M1-M36) was coordinated by BONUS EEIG.

The BANOS CSA Steering Committee (SC) was the highest decision-making body of BANOS CSA. Its voting members were representatives appointed by the participating organisations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom and the linked third parties including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The Academy of Finland, EU Commission Services (DG RTD), and as the latest addition in M18, the Belgian federal level R&I funder BELSPO, all have observer status in the SC, similarly to representatives of the strategic partners - HELCOM, OSPAR, ICES and JPI OCEANS. BANOS CSA SC was chaired by the Coordinator of BANOS CSA i.e. Acting Director of the Coordinating Secretariat, BONUS EEIG.

During the second reporting period² the SC has had three meetings, as planned in the DoA:

- SC4: 11 November 2020 (online)
- SC5: 10 May 2021 (online)
- SC6: 19 October 2021 (online)

² Three meetings were held during first reporting period, including SC1: 7 November 2018 (Copenhagen, kick off), SC2: 6 June 2019 (Copenhagen), SC3: 2 April 2020 (online)

Complete minutes of these meetings (including the attendance lists and additional materials) are published in BANOS CSA intranet³.

Task 5.2 BANOS CSA Advisory Board (M1-M36) is coordinated by BONUS EEIG.

The BANOS CSA Advisory Board (AB) consists of representatives of different stakeholder groups.

The members of the AB were carefully selected from ca 60 candidates nominated by the consortium members. The work of BANOS CSA AB is coordinated by Special Advisor Kaisa Kononen and it currently involves eight experts (Annex 1)

During the second reporting⁴ period the AB has had one session, which was linked to the final 6th SC-meeting:

- AB3: 19 October 2021 (online)

Complete minutes of all AB meetings (including the attendance lists and additional materials) are included in D5.3 Set of BANOS CSA Advisory Board meeting minutes.

Task 5.3 BANOS CSA Coordination Secretariat (M1-M36) was coordinated by BONUS EEIG.

The coordination of BANOS CSA was managed by the BONUS EEIG Secretariat – the dedicated implementation structure (DIS) of the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme BONUS Art.185⁵. During the entire project period all six Secretariat staff members have contributed to implementation and management of BANOS CSA:

- Acting Executive Director (BANOS CSA Coordinator) – 87,2 % of workload
- Deputy Director – 60,6 % of workload
- Financial Manager – 56,2 % of workload
- Communications Manager – 83,8 % of workload
- Project officer – 99,2 % of workload
- Assistant – 57,5 % of workload

From the outset, the BANOS CSA implementation entailed an active dissemination and communication campaign as outlined in the DoA (Chapter 2.2). During the reporting period, this included, among other, maintenance of the BANOS CSA web portal's external and internal facing sections aimed at informing and promoting the BANOS CSA project and ensuring effective internal communication amongst the BANOS CSA consortium members. In early 2021, the closure of the predecessor BONUS Art. 185's external facing website resulted in creation of a new section in the BANOS CSA portal titled 'BONUS legacy' to ensure that the wealth of knowledge on which the work of BANOS CSA (and the possible future BANOS programme) are largely based on, would not go amiss. The steps after the closure of BANOS CSA to migrate this information to all BANOS CSA (and BONUS) members were initiated and will be completed by the end of 2021. Also, the central deliverable of the BANOS CSA, the BANOS SRIA and its production was carried out with a consequent launch in June 2021. The In Brief newsletter and the E-bulletin both produced by the BONUS EEIG Coordination Secretariat regularly featured news about the achievements of BANOS CSA and similarly to the other printed materials, been distributed to the Baltic and North Sea

³ For assessment purpose, access to BANOS CSA intranet can be granted to experts authorised by the Commission.

⁴ Two meetings were held during first reporting period, including AB1: 7 November 2018 (Copenhagen, kick off) and AB2: 31 March – 2 April 2020 (online)

⁵ www.bonusportal.org

communities and wider in all relevant events and meetings attended by BANOS CSA as well as through the networks of the BANOS CSA consortium members and observers, its strategic partners and the BANOS CSA Advisory Board. Once the new BANOS brand was completed (M8), all communications efforts, both electronic and print, continued to benefit also from strong, shared values on which all BANOS CSA action was being built on as well as a consistent look and feel across all published and other related activity. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that during this reporting period face-to-face events and conferences, and related displays, side-events etc. were pushed to become online gatherings and events, introducing new conventions for interaction and 'business as usual' (the full list of all events attended in Annex 3).

Also, from the outset of implementation, the Coordination Secretariat continued to utilise the communication channel with the European Commission (meetings, tele-conferences, correspondence) to ensure close interaction and strategic alignment of activities in line with the policy initiative developments. In order to ensure an efficient and continuous monitoring from the Executive Agency (REA) and the Commission Directorate (DG RTD), the 1st Periodic Report was delivered in M20 (June 2020) and subsequently a web-based review meeting was organised on 7 July 2020 and chaired by the Project Officer in charge. This meeting involved the Coordinator and the BANOS CSA Secretariat staff members, the Commission representative from the Executive Agency (REA), the representative of Directorate General (DG RTD), two external reviewers and representatives of BANOS CSA SC. During the meeting the content of the 1st Periodic Report, implementation progress as well as the current policy scenarios were discussed.

The second implementation period was faced by unprecedented circumstances. The Covid-19 pandemic hit Europe and the World in early 2020, leading to cancellation of all travel and many other activities. As the planned activities of BANOS CSA included multitude of consultation meetings, workshops with actors of marine and maritime research and innovation in 13 participating states as well as an organisation of a larger end conference, the implementation of the project was significantly slowed down. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic had a knock-on effect on slowing down many of the policy initiatives, hence the alignment process of BANOS SRIA to policy landscape development was affected and slowed down. A cost-neutral extension of BANOS CSA for six months (till 31 October 2021) was requested due to force majeure circumstances, and subsequently granted.

During the second reporting period BANOS CSA Coordinating Secretariat organized

- Three Forum of Programme Managers (FPM) meetings, all of them integrated into larger BANOS CSA assemblies
- Three BANOS CSA SC meetings, three of them combined with FPM meetings (more details below)
- One BANOS CSA Advisory Board meetings (details above), both integrated into larger BANOS CSA assemblies

Task 5.4 Forum of Programme Managers (FPM) (M1-M30) is coordinated by BONUS EEIG.

BANOS CSA Forum of Programme Managers (FPM) consisted of representatives of the participating organisations who were involved in all steps of national programme management and/or implementation of a BANOS CSA task. The FPM members advised the coordinator and other task leaders on various national aspects which needed special consideration. In their own countries, the FPM members kept the relevant authorities and organisations informed about the progress of the action and contributed to organising meetings, workshops, dissemination activities etc. Communication within the network of BANOS CSA FPM members served for exchange of information and sharing the best practice thus contributed to harmonizing the relevant R&I landscape already in advance of commencing the future BANOS programme as planned in BANOS CSA.

During the second reporting period BANOS CSA FPM convened three times (jointly with the SC):

- FPM6: 11 November 2020 (online)
- FPM7: 10 May 2021 (online)
- FPM8: 19 October 2021 (online)

Complete minutes of these meetings (including the attendance lists and additional materials) are shared with the BANOS CSA consortium members in shared online space and made available upon request.

1.3 Impact

The ambition in regard of the expected outcomes as presented in section 2.1 of the BANOS CSA DoA remains fully valid at the end of the project. As such, the future impact of the action is going to be evaluated against its ability to progress towards launching a well-integrated, strong, visible and potentially impactful Baltic and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme (BANOS), jointly implemented by all BANOS coastal states. N.B. The consensus among the BANOS CSA members and the European regional seas R&I landscape has in recent times aligned towards the ambitious management of the entire European regional seas' agenda through a central mechanism, with the Horizon Europe SBEP bearing a decisive role in the formulation of the next steps. Hence, the SBE Partnership is now foreseen as one of the main implementation mechanisms of the BANOS SRIA (D1.5)

Following progress has been achieved during the second reporting period:

Overcome fragmentation in research and innovation by developing a joint Baltic Sea - North Sea marine and maritime strategic research and innovation agenda by the Baltic Sea and the North Sea countries.

- BANOS SRIA (D1.5 Final draft of the proposed new joint Baltic Sea and North Sea research and innovation programme SRIA) was endorsed by the BANOS CSA SC in May 2021, and subsequently launched and published on 22 June 2021. This feeds extensively into the Horizon Europe SBEP SRIA and its envisaged implementation.

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

- Consideration of the key stakeholder platforms of the future programme has been completed (D3.4, M36)
- Outline of the legacy of BONUS Art. 185 and key recommendations related to the future programme's website development have been completed (D3.6, M36).

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 and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme (BANOS).

- The options of the future programme's implementation structure (IS) have been identified (D2.1, M26) and all necessary model documents for establishing IS have been created (D2.4, M32 and D2.6, M36).
- The R&I funding landscape in the participating states have been explored (D2.2, M8) and options for implementation instruments (D2.3, M26) as well as funding principles for the future programme (D2.5, M30) have been identified

- Model agreements (D2.7, M32) and guidelines (D2.9, M36) have been drafted for securing an effective commencement of the future programme
- Detailed description of BONUS Art 185 online programme management tool and the elements requiring adaptations for developing of the BANOS EPSS (D2.10, M36) have been completed.

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

- Task 4.3, D4.4 Report proposing strategies in support of human capacity building and skill's development was endorsed by BANOS SCA SC in May 2021 (M31). Also fed into the BANOS SRIA, see especially Section 6 Impact Enablers (D1.5).

Contribute to policy-making in research, innovation and technology.

- Forms of cooperation and co-funding opportunities with other relevant programmes, e.g. EMFF, INTERREG, LIFE were outlined in D2.8 Report on new forms of cooperation and co-funding mechanisms with initiatives financed by ESIF and other sources (T2.5), and endorsed by BANOS CSA SC in M36.
- Mechanisms for monitoring the impact of R&I have been developed (D4.1, M18) and D4.2 Guidelines for Applicants on integrating practical Impact Indicators in project design (T4.1) have been endorsed by the BANOS CSA SC in M36.
- Mechanisms for research synthesis and scalable knowledge transfer were developed (T4.2) and included in the D4.3 Report proposing implementing a systematic approach to research synthesis and scalable knowledge transfer in the new programme that was endorsed by BANOS CSA SC in M36.
- Strategies to supporting firm establishment of open science were developed (T4.4) and included in the D4.5 Report proposing programme-level strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science' that was endorsed by the BANOS CSA SC in M31.
- Strategies and instruments stimulating innovation diffusion and 'open innovation' were developed (T4.5) and included in the D4.6. Report (incl. recommendations) on strategies and instruments to support responsible and sustainable innovation in the Baltic and North Sea region that was endorsed by the BANOS CSA in M36.
- Strategies and instruments supporting open data were developed (T4.6) and included in the D4.7 Report proposing new programme's data strategy and mechanisms for its implementation that was endorsed by BANOS CSA in M29.
- Strategies supporting citizen science were developed (4.7) and included in the D4.8 Report proposing measures stimulating 'citizen science' by the new programme that was endorsed by BANOS CSA SC in M31. In addition, baseline mapping of marine CS activities in the Baltic Sea region was carried out (see Annex 3 in D4.8 for more details)
- BANOS CSA supported progress towards establishing pan-European regional seas cooperation through establishing a consultative network of the regional seas' initiatives (T4.8). BANOS CSA contributed to development of the proposal for future partnership candidate "Climate neutral sustainable and productive blue economy" and draft BANOS SRIA (D1.5) was one of the building blocks documents, contributing to the SBE partnerships draft SRIA published in February 2021. In addition, BANOS CSA impact enabling strategies were used as a reference material, for example, in addressing topics such as to open science, open data and human capacity development in the draft SBEP SRIA.

2 Update of the plan for exploitation and dissemination of result (if applicable)

Not applicable for BANOS CSA

3 Update of the data management plan (if applicable)

Not applicable for BANOS CSA

4 Follow-up of recommendations and comments from previous review(s) (if applicable)

The review of the first periodic reporting period was generally very positive and the reviewers concluded that BANOS CSA had achieved most of its objectives and milestones for the period in question with relatively minor deviations. Nevertheless, five recommendations were provided for future project implementation. These recommendations and subsequent actions taken are outlined below.

1. Further justification of the number of delays and the feasible mitigation plan is required. The project should immediately start elaborating the possible models for the Programme's implementation mechanisms. Sufficient time is needed for the member states to discuss and agree on the best suitable models for implementation.

Actions taken: Several WP2 tasks - especially the tasks related to the legal form of the dedicated implementation structure (DIS) - were postponed (as agreed with the Commission) due to uncertainties in regard of the future pan-EU Blue Economy partnership. A revised implementation plan for WP2 was prepared and the work in tasks 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 was intensified in autumn 2020. To get the views of the BANOS CSA members on DIS and implementation instruments of the future programme, a query and consultations with the BANOS CSA consortium members were carried out in October 2020. Based on these consultations the deliverables 2.1. - Analysis of options for implementation structure (IS) for BANOS programme - and 2.3. - Outline of BANOS Programme's implementation – were prepared, endorsed by BANOS CSA SC and submitted in December 2020 (M26). Subsequently the other WP2 deliverables were completed according to the revised plan.

2. The project should create strategies and better mechanisms for stimulating a more active involvement of SMEs in the new BANOS programme. In the first year's project activities, there were minor interactions with the SMEs. SMEs are not specified in the BANOS SRIA, more active involvement of SME representatives is recommended in the 2nd project period. More active consultation process with the related industries and SMEs should ensure ownership of and potential interest in the new BANOS programme from businesses and innovator stakeholders.

Actions taken: The implementation of the Task 4.5 Developing strategies and instruments stimulating innovation diffusion and 'open innovation' primarily took place during the second implementation period. An expert on innovation development was hired (Philippe Vanrie, EcoSystemiX Innovation Dynamics, former Head of the EUREKA Secretariat) to assist in the execution of this complex task and to ensure adequate SME and stakeholder consultation. The task of the expert was to map the relevant blue economy sector stakeholders (i.e. SMEs and innovation-supporting organizations) within BANOS CSA member countries and to engage with

these stakeholders to ensure their participation in a WS. With the lead of the expert, the workshop was organized online (29 April 2021), focusing on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are active in the Blue Economy sector in the Baltic and North Sea region. The aim of the workshop was to identify the tools and requirements to ensure the participation of SMEs across innovation themes of the BANOS SRIA and capture the interest of relevant stakeholders and funding bodies, including the representatives of the European Commission and Member States. The workshop derived recommendations to ensure SME engagement are included in the final report of the T4.5 titled D4.6. Report (incl. recommendations) on strategies and instruments to support responsible and sustainable innovation in the Baltic and North Sea region. The deliverable was endorsed by BANOS CSA SC in M36.

3. Further alignment with the EUSBSR would be recommended.

Actions taken: BANOS SRIA is highly policy relevant document, and its final content was closely linked to relevant regional, European and global policies, thus including the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). More details on the policy alignment, please see Section 3 Policy Landscape and Dynamics in the SRIA. In addition, communication activities in respect to BANOS SRIA with the stakeholders of the EUSBSR were enhanced during the second implementation period. For this purpose, BANOS CSA organized a workshop during the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2021 that focused on the relevance of BANOS SRIA to the Baltic Sea region as well as its alignment to the EUSBSR. The event was recorded and can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLvDSZ6LG38>

4. Further communication activities are required, especially implementing the rationale behind the "sister seas" approach while discussing the future Programme with the stakeholders. This may be especially relevant for the stakeholders representing countries with no direct links to the North Sea area. While presenting the outline of the future Programme, Project Partner should always justify the extension of the Programme to the North Sea. Concerning the involvement of stakeholders, more active participation from the countries not acting as the project partners, namely, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland need to be also ensured.

Actions taken: Immediately following the review meeting a news item on the importance of the "sister seas" approach was launched as well as a short video with BANOS CSA SC members highlight the topic in hand.

Link to news item:

https://www.banoscsa.org/banos_csa/latest/news/baltic_and_north_sea_csa_-_why_sister_seas_approach.4401.news?3939_o=10

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTXhf1B0p24>

In addition, the importance of the sister seas approach was highlighted in the BANOS SRIA (see especially Ex. Summary section 1.1 The Sister Seas Approach) as well as in social media and all events organized by BANOS SCA e.g. SRIA launch, WS in EUSBSR AF 2021, BANOS CSA End Conference.

5. Finally, one of the possible scenarios to consider for the future could also be an option of dividing the BANOS programme into two sub-programmes, i.e., with separate sub-programmes for each of the sea basins foreseeing certain degree of cooperation. This model would also strengthen access to the programme funds to those countries adjacent to one sea only. The possible option with two sub-programmes would also influence the selection of the right legal

model and structure for administration, as well as the split of funds among these two components.

Actions taken: As elaborated in the response to the 1st periodic review already, the aim of the BANOS CSA was to create the necessary conditions for durable coordination of research and innovation efforts in both the North Sea and Baltic Sea region by preparing a framework for launching a new joint Baltic Sea and North Sea research and innovation programme. This policy agreement to initiate a ‘sister seas’ programme was achieved by the key R&I funders of all littoral states already back in 2016, and the benefits of having a joint programme were presented and similarities and contrasts between the Baltic and the North Sea carefully analysed in a programme outline document (BONUS Publication No.15, February 2016). The integrity of the joint programme is the leading philosophy of the whole CSA. On this backdrop, as the reviewers’ comment, if actioned, would have led to a complete rewrite of the BANOS CSA Description of Action and its work package, it was not considered feasible.

5 Deviations from Annex 1 and Annex 2

5.1 Tasks

Overall implementation of the action progressed as planned in the updated DoA (v2.2), and all eight milestones envisaged were passed on time. Taking into account the dynamic policy context as well as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, some small adjustments were made to ensure optimal output of BANOS CSA and in order to avoid compromising the expected strong impact of BANOS CSA, i.e. delivering functional building blocks of the framework of the joint Baltic Sea and North Sea R&I programme as planned in the action. The table below presents these deviations, the expected implications and explains the reasons.

Table 1: Deviations in execution of tasks from BANOS CSA DoA (v2.2) during the second 18 months of BANOS CSA implementation (M18-36M).

Tasks	Deliverables	Character of deviation	Impact on other tasks and deliverables	Explanation
WP1: Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda – all tasks were completed as in the DoA (v2.2).				
WP2: Implementation modalities				
Task 2.1 Agreeing on a dedicated implementation structure. Task leader: BONUS EEIG	D2.4 Package of legal documentation (M18)	Subcontracting (legal advisor) was not used	D2.6, D2.7, D2.9, D2.10	The deliverable was completed as in DoA (v2.2). All work was done by own personnel.
	D2.6 Package of internal regulations (M25)	Subcontracting (legal advisor) was not used	D2.7, D2.9	The deliverable was completed as in DoA (v2.2). All work was done by own personnel.
Task 2.4. Development of on-line programme management tool. Task leader: BONUS EEIG	D2.10 BONUS EPSS 2.0.	Instead of a fully developed operational system, the deliverable describes the functionalities and services provided by the BONUS EPSS and the elements requiring adaptations for developing of the BANOS		The deliverable report was written mainly by own personnel. Deliverable was reviewed by BANOS CSA SC together with other remaining documents in M36.

		EPSS. Hence, subcontracting (OU Sensu) was used only to a small extent. D2.10 was approved by BANOS CSA SC in M36 (instead of M33)		
WP3: Communications, dissemination and stakeholder engagement				
WP3: Communications, dissemination and stakeholder engagement – all tasks were completed as in the DoA (v2.2).				
WP4: Specific measures reinforcing future programme's lasting impact				
Task 4.1 Developing mechanisms for impact monitoring	D4.2 Guidelines for Applicants on integrating practical Impact Indicators in project design	D4.2 was finalised by M36 instead of M34.		The D4.2 was finalized for, and presented in the final BANOS CSA SC conference that was held in M36.
Task 4.4 Strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science'	D4.5 Report proposing programme-level strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science'	D4.5 Report proposing programme-level strategies supporting firm establishing of 'open science' was finished in M31 instead of M36		D4.5 was already completed for BANOS SC conference that was held in M31.
Task 4.7 Strategies supporting 'citizen science'. Task leader: FORMAS	D4.8 Report proposing measures stimulating 'citizen science' by the new programme (M18)	S.Pro – sustainable projects GmbH was subcontracted to map Marine CS activities in the Baltic Sea region		The mapping exercise was done to identify relevant actions in the BS region, similarly to work at NS region, see section 5.2.1 for more details.

5.2 Use of resources

The use of person-months, 124,8, in the second reporting period constitute 47 % of the total person-months of 266,01 planned for the whole duration of action. The total use of person-months of the whole BANOS CSA was 256,37 PM and per work package:

- WP1: 53,57 PM (116 % of 46,27 PM planned for the whole duration)
- WP2: 56,08 PM (88 % of 64,00 PM planned for the whole duration)
- WP3: 32,14 PM (75 % of 42,99 PM planned for the whole duration)
- WP4: 52,68 PM (94 % of 55,90 PM planned for the whole duration)
- WP5: 61,82PM (109 % of 56,85 PM planned for the whole duration)

In general, the actual person-months reflected well the person-months that were budgeted in the proposal phase. Small deviations can be explained by slight adjustments in the content of DoA (e.g. WP2 and WP3). In the case of WP1 the estimated working hours were exceeded due to the extensive stakeholder consultations and the management of the large SRIA drafting team.

The detailed information of the person-months per participating organisations is provided in the Annex 2

The total cost budget (excl. the costs of beneficiaries not receiving EU funding) of BANOS CSA was EUR 2.735.686,25, of which the share of the coordinator organisation, BONUS EEIG, was 77 %, EUR 2.108.280. In the second reporting period the total actual costs of BANOS CSA were

EUR 1. 028.641,48 and cumulatively EUR 2.220.639,01 which is 81 % of the total budget of BANOS CSA.

Table 2: Distribution of total actual and budgeted costs per beneficiaries receiving EU funding (EUR):

	Actual costs (RP1)	Adjustment to RP1	Actual costs (RP2)	Actual costs (total)	Budget (Total)	%
BONUS EEIG (incl. third parties and linked third parties)	884.206,07	5.296,76	812.763,39	1.702.265,46	2.108.280,00	81 %
VLIZ	112.528,45		65.212,51	177.740,96	172.812,50	103%
ANR	49.924,08		28.322,24	78.246,32	131.875,00	38 %
IFREMER	99.826,63		91.774,41	191.601,04	222.187,50	86 %
CEFAS	40.216,30		30.568,93	70.785,23	100.531,25	70 %
TOTAL	1.186.701,53	5.296,76	1 028 641,48	2 220 639,01	2 735 686,25	81 %

The costs of BONUS EEIG also include the contribution of linked third parties – ETAg (EE), SEDA (LV), RCL (LT) and NCBR (PL) - and third parties – HELCOM, ICES, OSPAR and JPI Oceans. The contribution by OSPAR and ICES did not actualize as planned during RP2 and they did not charge BONUS EEIG.

The major deviations of the actual costs by cost categories after the second reporting period are in subcontracting, where 35 % of the total planned has been used, and in other direct costs, where 33 % of the total planned total has been used. In subcontracting, the reason for underuse was the change of the content of some deliverables, mainly D2.10 (BANOS EPSS) and also D2.4 (Package of legal documents) and D2.6 (Package of internal regulations) where, instead of using subcontractors, the work was done by own personnel.

In other direct costs, the number of events, workshops and meetings was significantly lower than initially planned. All planned face-to-face meetings in RP2 were organised as virtual meetings because of covid-19 pandemic. This has significantly reduced meeting costs – costs related to meeting facilities and also travel costs. Also, due to the Covid-19 situation and the associated meeting restrictions, travel days during the 2nd reporting period were very few. The detailed information of the other direct costs per participating organisations is provided in the Annex 2.

Table 3: Distribution of total actual and budgeted costs per cost categories and beneficiaries receiving EU funding (EUR)

	BONUS EEIG (incl. 3 rd parties and linked 3 rd parties)	VLIZ	ANR	IFREMER	CEFAS	Total	% (act vs. bud)

Personnel costs	act RP1	556 184	86 580	33 848	72 529	25 984	775 124	
	adj. to RP1	4 237					4 237	
	act RP2	606 714	52 075	22 546	73 420	30 569	785 323	
	act total	1 167 135	138 655	56 394	145 949	56 553	1 564 685	
	bud	1 086 064	131 250	100 000	161 250	67 425	1 545 989	101%
Other direct costs	act RP1	127 225	3 442	6 092	7 332	6 189	150 281	
	act RP2	27 510	95	0	0	0	27 717	
	act total	154 735	3 537	6 092	7 332	6 189	177 997	
	bud	490 450	7 000	5 500	16 500	13 000	532 450	33 %
Subcontracting	act RP1	38 405				0	38 405	
	act RP2	27 146					27 146	
	act total	65 551					65 551	
	bud	190 000	0	0	0	0	190 000	35 %
Indirect costs	act RP1	162 392	22 506	9 985	19 965	8 043	222 891	
	adj to RP1	1 059					1 059	
	act RP2	151 394	13 043		18 355	6 114		
	act total		35 548		38 320	14 157	194 570	
	bud	341 766	34 563	26 375	44 438	20 106	467 247	90 %
Total costs	act RP1	884 206	112 528	49 924	99 827	40 216	1 186 702	
	adj to RP1	5 297					5 297	
	act RP2	812 763	65 213	28 322	91 775	36 683	1 034 757	
	act total	1 702 265	177 741	78 246	191 602	76 899	2 226 755	
	bud	2 108 280	172 813	131 875	222 188	100 531	2 735 686	81%

The total actual costs of BONUS EEIG include EUR 32.825,07 of non-refundable pre-paid costs of travels and events (SOW planned to be held in Leiden, NL in 03-04/2020) cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic.⁶

5.2.1 Unforeseen subcontracting (if applicable)

Task 4.7 Strategies supporting 'citizen science' (M7- M31)

An additional study was performed titled 'Holistic Marine Citizen Science Projects' Mapping in the Baltic Sea Region' and subcontracted by BONUS EEIG

- a) the work (the tasks) performed by a subcontractor which may cover only a limited part of the project:

The work was agreed between BONUS EEIG and s.Pro GmbH included the following, additional part of the task 4.7:

- A holistic MCS projects' mapping in the Baltic Sea region
- An intensive Google Search for the whole Baltic Sea area, using specific search terms, and a separate Google search to find organizations with possible involvement in MCS, a search on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn etc.
- Based on the above, direct contacts with organisations by phone and email to underpin in more detail the potential MCS involvement, awareness of other projects etc.
- Obtaining a broad overview of the projects based on a comprehensive list of variables

⁶ Flight companies refunded EUR 1672,51 of unused flights in RP2

- Analysing the material and writing a report

- b) explanation of the circumstances which caused the need for a subcontract, taking into account the specific characteristics of the project:

After an intensive work and collaboration within the BANOS CSA network's citizen science actors led by Formas and the network's interactions with the wider European marine citizen science network, the first steps to define desirable CS approaches in the future BANOS context were outlined and discussed and consequently a report completed for a successful sign-off by the BANOS CSA Steering Committee in M31. This report entailed some preliminary baseline information regarding the current and relevant marine focussed CS landscape in the BANOS region and at European level, a set of detailed recommendations on how to move forward. However, it also became evident during the task implementation that the baseline information related to the citizen science projects in the Baltic Sea region were particularly scarce and lacking to a large extent. This was a particular concern as the equivalent information in the North Sea region had just been completed⁷ leading to a very unbalanced perspectives available from these 'sister seas' of the BANOS region. Therefore, an agreement was confirmed by BANOS CSA and the Commission Services to go ahead and subcontract an additional baseline study and annex it to the D4.8 report afterwards. Such a report carried out by s.Pro GmbH was consequently completed and annexed to the report in M36.

- c) the confirmation that the subcontractor has been selected ensuring the best value for money or, if appropriate, the lowest price and avoiding any conflict of interests

The announcement was posted on the external BANOS CSA website at <http://www.banoscsa.org> for the period of 26 April – 2 May 2021, making it possible for all interested parties to register their interest and apply. Only one application was received from s.Pro GmbH and consequently an agreement with a modest, predefined compensation for the study mutually agreed upon.

5.2.2 Unforeseen use of in kind contribution from third party against payment or free of charges (if applicable)

Not applicable

⁷ van Hee, F.M.; Seldenrath, A.; Seys, J. (2020). Policy Informing Brief: Marine citizen science in the North Sea area and what policy makers can learn from it. VLIZ Beleidsinformerende Nota's, 2020_007. Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee (VLIZ)/Van Hall Larenstein: Oostende/Leeuwarden. ISBN 9789464206029. 35 pp.

6 Annexes

Annex 1

Composition of BANOS CSA Advisory Board (status in April 2020)

AB Coordinator: Kaisa Kononen, BONUS EEIG Special Advisor

Members:

Name Surname	Position, Affiliation	Website	Sphere of expertise
Donald Boesch	Professor and President Emeritus, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (USA),	https://www.umces.edu/don-boesch	Cross disciplinary and cross sector governance and management of marine ecosystem services Nominated by BONUS
Mike Elliott	Professor of Estuarine and Coastal Sciences/ Research Professor, Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, The University of Hull (UK)	https://www.hull.ac.uk/staff-directory/mike-elliott	Cross disciplinary and cross sector governance and management of marine ecosystem services Nominated by BONUS
Lora E Fleming	Director of the European Centre; Chair of Oceans, Epidemiology and Human Health, University of Exeter (UK)	https://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/people/profile/index.php?web_id=Lora_Fleming	Oceans and human health Nominated by BONUS
Jessica Hjerpe Olausson	Senior Maritime Expert, Region Västra Götaland (SE)	https://www.vgregion.se/en/regional-development/programmes/sustainable-marine-industries/	Development of sustainable maritime industries Nominated by CPMR North Sea Commission
Paweł Mawduk	Independent engineering consultant	https://www.linkedin.com/in/pawel-mawduk/	Broad expertise in development of maritime industry Nominated by NCBR
Philip Monbet	Deputy director, Pole Mer Bretagne Atlantique (FR), a member of European Cluster Collaboration Platform	https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/cluster-organisations/pole-mer-bretagne-atlantique	Broad expertise in developing cross-sector maritime clusters Nominated by ANR
Henn Ojaveer	Professor, University of Tartu (Estonia), Vice-Chair, ICES Advisory Committee	https://www.ut.ee/en/henn-ojaveer	Sustainable exploitation of marine living resources Nominated by ICES
Katherine Richardson	Professor, Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, University of Copenhagen (DK)	https://research.ku.dk/search/result/?pure=en%2Fpersons%2Fkatherine-richardson(f9e940b1-29fc-487b-99c1-f8392020a08e)%2Fcv.html	Global authority in marine systems science Nominated by BONUS

Annex 2

BANOS CSA: actual vs. planned person months per partners and work packages

	WP1			WP2			WP3			WP4			WP5			Total		
	Act	Budget	%	Act	Budget	%	Act	Budget	%	Act	Budget	%	Act	Budget	%	Act	Budget	%
BONUS	26,80	19,00	141 %	27,90	36,50	76 %	18,50	27,00	69 %	20,40	25,75	79 %	42,10	35,00	120 %	135,70	143,25	95 %
ETAG	0,75	0,75	100 %	1,50	1,50	100 %	0,12	0,50	24 %	0,38	0,00	-	1,50	1,50	100 %	4,25	4,25	100 %
SEDA	1,19	1,00	119 %	1,19	1,25	95 %	0,30	0,50	60 %	1,10	1,00	110 %	1,25	1,25	100 %	5,03	5,00	101 %
RCL	0,65	0,50	130 %	1,00	1,00	100 %	0,25	0,25	100 %	0,05	0,00	-	0,65	0,50	130 %	2,60	2,25	116 %
NCBR	0,75	0,75	100 %	1,50	1,50	100 %	0,50	0,50	100 %	0,00	0,00	-	1,50	1,50	100 %	4,25	4,25	100 %
HELCOM	2,51	1,50	167 %	0,29	0,25	116 %	1,44	0,75	192 %	0,00	0,00	-	0,80	1,00	80 %	5,04	3,50	144 %
JPIO	0,28	1,50	19 %	0,08	0,25	32 %	0,11	0,50	22 %	0,36	0,00	-	0,75	1,00	75 %	1,58	3,25	49 %
OSPAR	0,00	1,50	0 %	0,00	0,25	0 %	0,00	0,25	0 %	0,00	0,00	-	0,00	1,00	0 %	0,00	3,00	0 %
ICES	0,00	1,50	0 %	0,00	0,25	0 %	0,00	0,25	0 %	0,00	0,00	-	0,00	1,00	0 %	0,00	3,00	0 %
VLIZ	1,65	1,60	103 %	0,17	1,50	11 %	7,20	7,20	100 %	9,92	10,00	99 %	1,44	1,50	96 %	20,38	21,80	93 %
IFD	2,75	1,25	220 %	3,50	3,50	100 %	0,25	0,50	50 %	2,00	3,25	62 %	1,50	1,50	100 %	10,00	10,00	100 %
ANR	1,38	1,36	101 %	7,76	7,00	111 %	0,03	0,50	6 %	0,71	2,25	32 %	1,11	1,50	74 %	10,99	12,61	87 %
IFREMER	5,25	4,11	128 %	1,11	1,00	111 %	1,94	2,39	81 %	3,92	5,50	71 %	2,27	2,00	114 %	14,49	15,00	97 %
JUELICH	4,00	4,00	100 %	1,25	1,25	100 %	0,00	0,00	-	0,00	0,00	-	0,75	0,75	100 %	6,00	6,00	100 %
NWO	0,50	0,50	100 %	0,75	0,75	100 %	0,50	0,50	100 %	2,00	2,00	100 %	1,00	1,00	100 %	4,75	4,75	100 %
RCN	0,20	0,45	44 %	0,00	0,45	0 %	0,00	0,15	0 %	0,00	0,15	0 %	0,05	0,65	8 %	0,25	1,85	14 %
FORMAS	3,50	3,50	100 %	0,00	0,80	0 %	0,00	0,25	0 %	2,05	2,00	103 %	0,70	0,45	156 %	6,25	7,00	89 %
SWAM	0,75	0,75	100 %	2,00	2,00	100 %	0,50	0,50	100 %	9,75	2,75	355 %	2,20	1,50	147 %	15,20	7,50	203 %
CEFAS	0,66	0,75	88 %	6,08	3,00	203 %	0,50	0,50	100 %	0,04	1,25	3 %	2,25	2,25	100 %	9,53	7,75	123 %
TOTAL	53,57	46,27	116 %	56,08	64,00	88 %	32,14	42,99	75 %	52,68	55,90	94 %	61,82	56,85	109 %	256,29	266,01	96 %

BANOS CSA: actual vs. planned other direct costs per partners (EUR)

		Act (total)	Budget	%
BONUS EEIG	Travel	56 233	78 650	71 %
	Other goods and services	82 037	362 800	23 %
ETAG	Travel	1 447	5 500	26 %
	Other goods and services			
SEDA	Travel	2 569	6 500	40 %
	Other goods and services			
RCL	Travel	2 886	5 500	52 %
	Other goods and services			
NCBR	Travel	2 157	5 500	39 %
	Other goods and services			
HELCOM	Travel	5 055	6 500	78 %
	Other goods and services			
JPIO	Travel	2 350	6 500	36 %
	Other goods and services			
OSPAR	Travel	0	6 500	0 %
	Other goods and services			
ICES	Travel	0	6 500	0 %
	Other goods and services			
VLIZ	Travel	3 442	7 000	49 %
	Other goods and services	95		
ANR	Travel	6 092	5 500	111 %
	Other goods and services	112		
IFREMER	Travel	7 332	16 500	44 %
	Other goods and services			
CEFAS	Travel	6 189	13 000	48 %
	Other goods and services			
TOTAL	Travel	95 752	169 650	56 %
	Other goods and services	82 244	362 800	23 %
TOTAL	Other direct costs	177 996	532 450	33 %

Annex 3

Conferences, workshops and other events attended by BANOS CSA as organiser, invited keynote speaker, participant, observer, member of steering committee or exhibitor during the 18-month reporting period May 2020 – October 2021. Noteworthy is that the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a complete halt of face-to-face interactions that pushed all conferences, workshops and other events to online platforms, making this the new 'normal'. If not stated otherwise, all below are 'online' events.

Date, location	Event	Organiser
18-22 October 2021, Aarhus, Denmark	Baltic Sea Science Congress	Aarhus University, Denmark
18 Oct 2021	BANOS CSA End Conference	BANOS CSA
01 Oct 2021	SEARICA: Towards an EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism: building forward smarter and greener in the EU coastal & insular regions".	SEARICA
28 Sep 2021	EUSBSR Forum workshop on BANOS SRIA	EUSBSR/BANOS CSA
16 Sep 2021	EMB Science Webinar - Valuing Marine Ecosystem Services	EMB
6-10 Sep 2021 online	ICES annual conference	ICES
26 Aug 2021	Supporting Ocean Literacy in the Baltic, EU4Ocean, speaker	EU4Ocean project
7 and 8 July 2021	HE info days	EU Commission
23-24 June 2021	EU R&I Days	EU DG RTD
16 June 2021	Protect our oceans: the challenge of Europe's global leadership	EU DG RTD
16 June 2021	BSN Powerhouse End Conference	BSN Powerhouse
15 June 2021	SEARICA: What can the shipping industry do to reduce its emissions today and tomorrow?	SEARICA
08 June 2021	Euro-Argo Political Event	Euro-Argo project
08 June 2021	SEARica webinar on underwater noise	SEARica/EP
04 June 2021	The All-Atlantic 2021 – All-Atlantic R&I for a Sustainable Ocean: Ministerial High-Level & Stakeholders Conference	Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council and the EU Commission
04 Jun 2021	A Digital Ocean for a Clean Ocean	EU Commission
03 Jun 2021	Blue Economy - adding colours to the economy	University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute
27 May 2021	BLUE FARMING IN THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL	EU Commission
25 May 2021	Regional workshop on Supporting the Common Maritime Agenda Priorities with Research and Innovation towards Cultivating the Potential for Blue Entrepreneurship	Ministry of foreign affairs Turkey (supported by EU Commission)
20-21 May 2021	European Maritime Day 2021	DG Mare
11 May 2021	BE Senior Science Steering Group meeting	Baltic Earth

11 May 2021	Meeting of the subgroup for the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership	EU Commission
29 Mar 2021 online	Launching JPI Oceans' Strategy	JPIO
17 Mar 2021	Baltic Science Network workshop	BSN Powerhouse
11 Mar 2021 online	HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2021 Practically Implementing EAM,	HELCOM
04 Mar 2021	ERA-Learn WS: Preparing co-funded European Partnerships	ERA-learn
01 Mar 2021	Roundtable with Funding Programmes	Submariner network
26 Jan 2021	Webinar Where does the UK-EU R&I partnership go next?	Science Business
26 Jan 2021	Blue Invest day	BANOS CSA
16-17 Dec 2020	Marginal Seas' Conference	Baltic Earth
09 Dec 2020	BSN Powerhouse partner meeting	BSN-Interreg
03 Dec - 04 Dec 2020	3rd All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum	South Africa's Department of Science and DG RTD
03 Dec 2020	SEArca Conference on the Black Sea	SEArca
1 Dec - 2 Dec 2020	CommOCEAN 2020	CommOCEAN
20 Nov 2020	Blue spaces: how to promote health and wellbeing in Europe	Bluehealth, EP SEARICA and EMB
11 Nov 2020	North Sea Conference 2020	Interreg, the North Sea Region Programme
29-30 Oct 2020	Research and Innovation in the Black Sea: Empowering the next generation for a healthy, resilient and productive Black Sea	Black Sea connect
01 Oct 2020	HEU Destination 5 workshop	EU DG RTD
30 Sep 2020	High-Level Side-Event on "Biodiversity – The Ocean's Role"	UN
24 Sep 2020	Co-designing the Science we need for the Ocean Decade	IOC
22 Sep 2020	EMODnet: A decade of achievements connecting marine data to knowledge	EMODnet
22 Sep - 24 Sep 2020	European R&I days	EU DG RTD
17 Sep 2020	EMB Science Webinar: The cells of ecosystem functioning: towards a holistic vision of marine space	EMB
16 Sep 2020	ICES reflections: Understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on fisheries, markets, communities, and management	ICES
16 Sep 2020	Water JPI Webinar on private sector finance for water research & innovation	Water JPI
26-28 Aug 2020	The governance of water quality protection	European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)
24 Aug 2020	JPI Oceans beyond 2020: Stakeholder webinar	JPIO
20 Aug 2020	EMB Science Webinar - Marine Ecosystem Modelling	EMB
18 Jun 2020	Baltic Gender Final Conference	Baltic Gender
10 June 2020	Brainstorm on BSSC-2021	Aarhus University
3 June 2020	Baltic Science Network - Powerhouse	BSN-Powerhouse

2-4 June 2020	Baltic Earth Conference	Baltic Earth
26 May 2020	Third workshop on International Cooperation	JPI WATER
25 May 2020	Consultation with JPIO and regional seas' initiatives on input to BE partnership proposal	JPIO
19 May 2020	Baltic Gender AB meeting	H2020 project Baltic Gender
13/14 May 2020	HELCOM State and Conservation	HELCOM
13 May 2020	HELCOM State and conservation group meeting	HELCOM