



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D - Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy
D.2 - LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

Brussels,

Vyzkumny ustav vodneho hospodarstva
Katarina Mravcova
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Slovakia

katarina.mravcova@vuvh.sk

Subject: LIFE21 IPE/SK/069837 - Living Rivers - Project visit of 26 June 2023

Dear Mrs. **Katarina Mravcova**,

Thank you and your team for attending the first online monitoring visit to your project that was held on 26 June 2023 with a presence of technical monitors Mr. Daniel Svoboda and Ms. Simona Kosikova and financial monitor Ms. Barbora Patockova from our external monitoring team.

Based on the provided information, I acknowledge that your project has successfully started and that no critical problems have been reported in the implementation so far. I appreciate good cooperation and communication of the whole project team and also promising start of all due project actions, including wide dissemination. I believe that your project can reach its ambitious objectives.

I was informed that you consider enlarging the project consortium by one additional associated beneficiary and that some technical and financial changes will be most probably needed. Please prepare the request for Grant Amendment according to the guidance published at https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/contract-and-financial-aspects_en.

Although the project is still in its inception stage, please focus on proper technical and financial reporting. We require clarification, additional information and supporting documentation on a number of technical and financial issues, which you are requested to address in the next monitoring visit or in the first Interim Report, as specified in the annex to this letter.

I wish you successful continuation of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Federico DE FILIPPI
Project Advisor
(e-signed)

c.c.: Mathias.ROBERT@europa.ec.eu, daniel.svoboda@elmen-eeig.eu,
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ANNEX

Technical issues

WP3, T3.5 Implementation of restoration measures in the Belá catchment

Issue 1 As the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at Liptovska Kokava (for Dovalovec stream) was already reconstructed from other sources, I noted that you propose either using the originally planned wetland system for tertiary treatment at the current WWTP or identifying more appropriate place for the wetland. The second option seems to be more reasonable; however, please describe in detail and justify the selected option in the foreseen request for Grant Amendment.

WP4, T4.1 Establishing of natural fish species breeding facility, fish stock production and release in the Bela River catchment

Issue 2 I noted that you consider a technical change of the project – using the existing hatchery of TANAP (Genetic Fisheries Centre Vychodna) instead of constructing a new one. The solution seems reasonable, but all the changes must be explained and justified in the Interim Report or in the foreseen request for Grant Amendment. Please make sure to specify in detail how the allocated budget will be used.

WP4, T4.2 In situ strengthening of natural populations of Danubian sturgeons using eggs incubation in the wild (in situ incubation)

Issue 3 With regard to the production capacity, you propose doing the stocking of stained sterlet juveniles in a biennial regime instead of annually (with keeping the total number of juveniles). This change is acceptable.

WP6, T6.4 Telemetric surveys of passability of the Danube for fish in the Slovak Republic

Issue 4 600 transmitters, 66 receivers and 1 set of AcouTrack system for searching the marked fish were foreseen in the project. I understand that while the original costs of the transmitters were 250 EUR/piece, the current costs are 450 EUR/piece. Your proposal of reducing the number of transmitters to 400 (200 in the first phase and 200 in the second phase) and using own AcouTrack system instead of buying a new one seems to be a reasonable solution and can be accepted.

WP8, T8.1 Available funding overview

Issue 5 Please start preparing an overview of all complementary programmes, projects and funds (in comparison with the application) as soon as possible.

General – reporting

Issue 6 In your application, the allocation of deliverables and milestones to concrete tasks (within individual Work packages) is not explicitly specified. In your reporting, please ensure that the deliverables and milestones refer to the concrete task.

Financial issues

Accounting system

Issue 1 MoE and TANAP: During the next monitoring visit, please provide the code of your cost centre used to separate the project costs from the other costs incurred in the organisation along with the extracts/printouts of your accounting system.

Time registration system

- Issue 2 MoE, CM, TANAP and VVB: For verification purposes, please provide a sample of timesheets/monthly declaration or extract from your internal time registration system during the next monitoring visit.
- Issue 3 SWME: As confirmed during the visit, there is no exemption from recording the time spent on the project. In this sense, please establish a reliable time registration system within your organisation (i.e., either monthly declaration, internal time registration system or internal timesheet compliant with the LIFE requirements). Please provide a sample of timesheet/monthly declaration for further verification during the forthcoming project visit.
- Issue 4 JU: In line with the discussions held during the visit, please make sure that the dates of signatures are hand-written and not pre-printed, and that you complete them when signing the related timesheet/monthly declaration. To confirm you implemented such measure, please submit the monthly declaration for Monika Malkusová for 2023 during the upcoming project visit.

Salary components

- Issue 5 SNC SR: On the basis of information provided during the visit, I kindly remind you that components having a character of project-specific bonuses, i.e., those paid specifically for actions/projects supported by EU grants as defined in Article 2.1.3 of the Annotated Grant Agreement are not considered eligible in the LIFE projects and should be extracted from the personnel costs.