

UPWATER

UNDERSTANDING GROUNDWATER POLLUTION TO PROTECT AND
ENHANCE WATER QUALITY

DELIVERABLE D1.2

ETHICS, GENDER AND INNOVATION



Funded by
the European Union

Dissemination level	Public
Issued by	CSIC
Contributing project partners	TARH; FNCA, NTUA
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Reviewed by	Vázquez Suñé, E.
Keywords	Ethics, gender, innovation, data management
Number of pages	11
Number of annexes	
Date:	2023-01-10
Version:	V 1
Deliverable number	D1.2
Work Package number:	WP 1
Status:	Approved
Approved by coordinator	2023-04-20

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HOW TO CITE THIS DOCUMENT

Thaysen, E.M., Sanz Prat, A., Kallioras, A., Vázquez Suñé, E. 2023: D1.2 Ethics, Gender & Innovation. 11 pp, UPWATER project funded by the European Union – No 101081807



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This project has received funding from the European Union under grant agreement No 101081807 project UPWATER (Understanding groundwater Pollution to protect and enhance WATERquality).

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Reason for changes	Name	Date
1	Original release to EU	Eike Marie Thaysen	27.4.2023



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
ANSTO	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
AU	Aarhus University
BR	Barcelona Regional Agència Metropolitana de Desenvolupament Urbanístic d'infraestructures SA
CS	Case Study
CSIC	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
DM	Data Manager
EB	Executive Board
EC	European Commission
EYDAP	Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company.
FC	Future City Foundation
FGs	Focus Groups
FNCA	Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua.
GEM	Gender and Ethics Manager
GEP	Gender Equality Plan
GW	Groundwater
IDAEA	Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research
IM	Innovations Manager
INERIS	Institut National de L'Environnement Industriel et des Risques
IPR	Interlectual Property Rights
IWW	Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wasserforschung gemeinnützige GmbH
NTUA	National Technical University of Athens
UB	Universitat de Barcelona
UPWATER	Understanding groundwater Pollution to protect and enhance WATER quality
WP	Work Package



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document describes planned ethics, gender and innovation aspects and activities in the UPWATER project (Understanding groundwater Pollution to protect and enhance WATERquality, Horizon Europe project No 101081807) as well as, in overall terms, the plan for the management of data in the project. The outcome of these activities is described elsewhere (see deliverables D3.1-3.3, D7.6). Planned workshops, awareness activities, communication & dissemination activities as well as recruitment processes will ensure gender equality. UPWATER will adhere to all national, European and International law and ethical regulations on protection of the environment, humans and animals, as well as on personal data use. Innovation Management within UPWATER will work to identify new ideas and elaborate the exploitation of project results as well as the Intellectual property rights (IPR) strategy. Data management will ensure data storage, safety and availability.



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1. ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document defines ethics, gender, innovation and data management aspects of the research project UPWATER (Understanding groundwater Pollution to protect and enhance WATERquality, Horizon Europe project No 101081807). This public document will be distributed to all UPWATER partners for their use and will be submitted to European Commission as an UPWATER deliverable (D1.2). The document can be downloaded at <https://upwater.eu/> in the folder deliverables.

2. SCOPE

The scope of this document is to define in more detail the cross-cutting activities to be performed by different support roles within UPWATER, namely the Gender & Ethics Manager (GEM), Innovation Manager (IM) and Data Manager (DM). Data management and innovation management have deliverables throughout and/or at the end of the UPWATER project, where actual results of these actions are presented (D3.1-3.3 and D7.6, respectively).

3. GENDER & ETHICS MANAGEMENT

3.1. GENDER

Gender equality is a fundamental right in the European Union, and vital for the progress of science and social development. The UPWATER project follows a science-to-policy, multi-dimensional, co-discover and co-design approach, where the implementation of gender equality actions cannot be missing. Nine out of thirteen project partners (CSIC, UB, AU, INERIS, IWW, NTUA, UB, FC, and ANSTO) already had their own Gender Equality Plan (GEP) at the proposal stage. In addition to the already existing GEPs, the UPWATER project promotes specific actions aimed at gender-equity and inclusivity, in line with the commitment of the European Research and Innovation Agency:

- Participatory frameworks, decision-making spaces during the Focus Groups (FGs) and stakeholder engagement whenever possible will be gender balanced (50% female and gender dimension will be included during discussions. (WP6 – T6.2).
- Gender balance will also be aimed in the project's awareness, outreach and training activities, social communication & dissemination actions and during provision of support to users.
- Social communication & dissemination activities will use inclusive language.
- Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in decisionmaking: UPWATER will aim to incorporate the gender dimension as a cross-cutting issue in its implementation and future outcomes' achievement contributing to the development of the GEM and adhering to the methodological approach defined by the European Institute for Gender Equality.
- Designation of a GEM.
- Internships in the 3 case studies will, whenever possible be gender balanced (aiming at 50% female interns) and address issues of equality, disability and social inclusion (WP7 – T7.4).
- Take the necessary measures to ensure compatibility of work and family life (e.g., remote working, flex time).



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- The consortium participants are treated with equity, regardless of their gender, sexuality, age, language, nationality, race, religion, culture, class, socioeconomic level, or mental or physical health.

The gender balance within the UPWATER project is currently complying with the EU's target of 40% female members in the project (13/33).

3.2. ETHICS

3.2.1. PLANNED RESEARCH

Planned laboratory and field research will not impose ethical issues, i.e., there is no risk that the chemicals used in UPWATER could potentially harm the environment and animals, including humans. All partners have extensive experience working with potential toxicants and have established and implemented institutional protocols to guarantee residue management good practices, according to the EU regulations. Moreover, all partner institutions implement risk management procedures ensuring health and safety in the workplace. All the researchers involved in the UPWATER project will use implemented protocols and procedures to ensure that the necessary protective measures, including safety personal protective equipment and residue disposal management, are taking place and comply with the requirements established by National Laws on Prevention of Occupational Risks and Health and Safety at Work. This will guarantee their protection and the conservation of the environment.

UPWATER plans to share personal data of activities on stakeholder engagement, end-users and public participation on the correspondence activities of both WPs, as well as data from non-technological measures as consumption (WP6 and WP7) with The University of Western Australia (UWA) and Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). To avoid ethical conflicts in the field of personal data protection, UPWATER will adhere to all national, European and International law and regulations on personal data.

In addition to the three European case study (CS) sites, some of the work might be carried out in the Non-EU country Australia, e.g., data collection to identify preventive non-technological solutions and future mitigation technological solutions to the encountered groundwater (GW) pollution problems in the CS. UWA and other Australian GW management and protection specialists in government, industry, NGOs and the private sector may also participate in WP6 and WP7 during policy briefs preparation and Final Exploitation Plan preparation. In return, Australia will benefit from the technological advances envisaged in UPWATER. This may include providing new technology for the Australian partners to test, along with training in the deployment and collaboration in the assessment of the efficacy of such technology.

The GEM will be responsible for monitoring the fulfilment of ethical guidelines in all aspects of the project.



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3.2.2. NOT FORESEEN RESEARCH

Any ethical concerns raised by research activities not originally envisaged will be monitored closely by the GEM and handled following rigorously the recommendations provided in the European Commission Ethics Self-Assessment Guideline.

4. INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

4.1. MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main activities to be developed under the Innovation Management process are:

- a. To keep a fluid communication to capture new ideas: internal (among partners) or external (end-users needs, stakeholders and advisors)
- b. Fostering the co-creation and assimilating the stakeholder knowledge;
- c. To identify funding opportunities (either public or private) for the exploitation of the results and the future development of close-to-market products and services;
- d. Surveillance of the competitive landscape; and
- e. The elaboration of the Exploitation Plan, including the identification of alternative applications, side markets, new business models, potential strategic alliances, exploitation pathways as well as the definition of the IPR strategy.

4.2. INNOVATION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE OUTLINE

The innovation opportunities and ideas will be continuously registered by the partners in the Innovation Management Tools deployed in the collaborative project platform, including innovative ideas identification, funding opportunities, competitive surveillance, etc. Table 1 shows a current snapshot of this Innovations Management List on the project platform. The IM will analyze all available information and contact the partners to retrieve more details when required. The IM will bring up relevant ideas and opportunities in the Executive Board (EB) meetings, to facilitate an open discussion in the definition of specific actions. These actions will be recorded in the project ToDo list, prioritized and assigned to specific people in charge. The follow-up of the innovation actions will be tracked during EB meetings.

The Innovation Management process will be led by the IM.



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UP water PROJECT MANAGEMENT Private group ☆ Not following 👤 25 members

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INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

CONCEPT	Short description	Date	Status	Priority	PARTNER	Owner	Participants	Exploitation me...
CPS devices	Passive samplers	02/01/2023	Development	1-High	CSIC			Further development under close-to-market programmes
GW Source apportionment	Source apportionment model module for groundwater	02/01/2023	To be developed in p	2-medium	CSIC			Training courses. Support website with free tools and advanced tools under subscription.
Analytic method	Analytic method (pathogen seq.)	02/01/2023	Development	2-medium	UB			Training courses

Figure 1, Innovations Management list on the project management platform (status 13.03.2023). Names of the owners were deleted from this table due to data protection reasons.



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5. DATA MANAGEMENT

A concept for a data management plan is designed, in which the main data management issues are specified. Its implementation will be coordinated and implemented by NTUA. In this plan several commitments and agreements will be made based on a survey of the user requirements concerning issues such as the ones that follow:

1. Data management responsibility roles within partners. A person in charge will be assigned to manage the life cycle of local data determined by the data policy.
2. Initial description of the overall data stock to be produced by the partners and project partners as input for the data management plan.
3. Data and metadata standards. File naming conventions and exchange formats depending on data analysis and modelling requirements will be defined. Open formats will be preferred.
4. Needs for access to existing data sources. Baseline data, raw and output data to be used by several project applications are to be held in the central database being accessible for project members through their metadata. Data in processing mainly are to be held locally close to their applications.
5. Planned quality assurance and back-up procedures for data.
6. Copyright and intellectual property rights of the data by enabling data security.
7. Data workflow and storage. Because of the already existing databases for each partner, specific data will continue to be managed by the responsible partners. .
8. A defined workflow will be established to harmonize preparation and submission of data and metadata to the database.
9. Integration of modelling and data management (i.e., data interfaces to model systems and vice versa).
10. Visual data management

The DM will be responsible for capturing and processing the requirements for data and metadata storage, availability and safety, and ultimately generating the database.



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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1, Innovations Management list (status 13.03.2023). Names for the owners were deleted from this table due to data protection reasons 9



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