WP1 Development of the framework for scientific strategy enforcement

Work package number	**1**	**Start Date or Starting Event**		**Month 1**
Work package title	**Development of the framework for scientific strategy enforcement**			
Participant number	1	2	3	4
Short name of participant	**UPB**	UNIMIB	FOKUS	UNESCO-IHE
Person/months per participant:	9,5	2	1	2

Objectives
Develop and implement a suitable, stable and sustainable framework for the scientific strategy enforcement in the research field of value added, data driven e-services in water management;
Develop a Research Quality Assurance System (RQAS) that will allow benchmarks' setup for increasing the Composite Research Indicator and monitor its evolution in time

Description of work The lead partner is the coordinator, UPB, assisted by all the partners in rolling out the activities and delivering the deliverable.

The tasks in this work package are oriented towards establishing the roadmap for the research, based on present situation in the field and on worldwide development tendencies, a system for evaluating the research quality and a set of procedures for research management. The work packages in the project will be interconnected to maximize the impact with an efficient use of resources.

T1.1 Develop a framework for implementing the scientific strategy (M1-M7); (M31-M36) for stepping up and stimulating excellence and innovation capacity in the field of Smart Data for Water Management (SDWM)

In the beginning of the project, a structure and a work method for elaboration of a ***technology survey*** in SDWM will be developed. This surveys are meant to identify and refine the research directions, focused on the selected priority areas of HORIZON 2020 and will provide a comprehensive understanding of current state of the art, will identify key actors in the international research community with a view to developing relationships for project participation under HORIZON 2020 and other research calls. Such Technology survey will be elaborated at the beginning of the project, and updated in the last months of the project, in order to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the project. The survey will also identify the positioning of the research group, compared to that of internationally leading partners and/or other expert groups in the field and will emphasize the directions to follow in order to reduce the gaps.

Based on the research strategy and the technology survey a ***Roadmap for the research group*** will be elaborated, as a general, strategic plan for enhancing the research results in the field of SDWM. This involves a series of meetings with scientists from partnering institutions, of industry and government, in which the most promising and compelling research directions for the research group to pursue over the next 5 - 10 years, will be identified. The Roadmap must cover a duration beyond the duration of the project to achieve an optimal synergy between the project outcomes and other funding opportunities and will be used as guidelines for future research and innovation of the Smart Data for Water Management Group.

Further, the scientific activities, actions and events identified in the Roadmap, that will be rolled out in the twinning program, will be identified. A coordinated program plan, with a view to structured sharing of facilities, sharing of best practices, investigation and shaping of new project ideas, making consortia for future HORIZON 2020project proposals, planning and achieving joint coordination of PhDs will be developed by the project partners.

The activities in this task will strengthen the capacity of UPB staff in strategic and operational research planning, in identification of appropriate research activities and methods, and in analysis of opportunities and results.

T1.2 Develop the RQAS (M7-M17); (M31-M36)

Based on best practices, a Research Quality Assurance System will be defined and implemented. A metric for quality in research, focused on criteria used on European level KPI, as well as methods to collect, to store and to analyze information regarding research activities and results, will be set up. A RQA Handbook will be elaborated in order to implement and institutionalize the RQAS.
The quality assurance process enables the selection of tools and methods that will enhance the research group ability to meet the quality and research-performance objectives.
During the project, quality evaluation will be performed and a Research Quality analysis will be performed, and the results will be published in the RQA-report.

The activities in this task will lead to institutionalization of RQA culture in UPB and will help the research staff to keep track of the value of their activities.

T1.3 Update the Participant Portal (M1-M2)

The UPB team will introduce in the reporting tool on the Participant Portal by month 2 of the project all publications (in the particular field of research) of the coordinator during the three years preceding the start date of the project, as requested by the Commission to evaluate the impact of activities in Horizon 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

Deliverables
D1.1 Technology survey: Prospective and challenges: ***[month 7]***
D1.2 Roadmap of the research team in SDWM: [***month 7***]
D1.3 Research QA Handbook ***[month 17]*** (that will include a preliminary Research Quality Report)
D1.4 Research Quality report ***[month 36]***
D1.5 **Statement regarding the update of the Participant Portal** ***[Month 2]***