



# DIKTAS II – Steering Committee Establishment 2024

Implementation of the strategic action program (SAP) of the Dinaric karst aquifer system: improving groundwater governance and sustainability of related ecosystems.





# Official opening of the meeting

Address by

Magdalena Landry, Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe



# Official opening of the meeting

Address by Vladimir Mamaev,

Regional Technical Advisor, Water & Ocean Governance Programme, BPPS, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub



# Official opening of the meeting

Address by Aurélien Dumont

Project Officer, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, UNESCO



# Project history overview and project introduction

By Sinisa Sesum, Head of Antenna in Sarajevo of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

# AGENDA

Item 1. Welcoming remarks UNESCO and UNDP

Item 2. Tour de table

Item 3. Introduction of the project - UNESCO

Item 4. Steering Committee nominations

Item 5. Workplan year 1

Initiation of activities under component 6.

Item 6. Project Management Unit – PMU location

Item 7. ToR experts

Item 8. ToR project manager

Item 9. [10<sup>th</sup> GEF Biennial International Waters Conference \(IWC10\)](#) , 23-26 September 2024, in Punta del Este, Uruguay



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# AGENDA

Item 10. Revisit of DIKTAS II Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Update of existing data, Establishment of regional Working Group

Item 11. SAP update/adjustment to the present conditions

Item 12. Criteria for selection of DIKTAS II sites to be approved by Steering Committee

Item 13. Communication strategy for DIKTAS II (e.g. logo) to be approved by Steering Committee

Item 14. Next year Steering Committee meeting in person

Item 15. AOB

- Use of data for PhD students
- Possible grants for students
- ERASMUS + and Horizon Europe projects collaboration
- Collaboration with other IFI, UN Agencies and other relevant stakeholders and partners

Item 16. Closing remarks



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## Item 3. Introduction of the project - UNESCO

The proposed project draws inspiration from the results of the GEF project “Groundwater Governance” and intends to implement the main steps recommended in the “Global Framework for Action” for setting the basis of sound groundwater governance in the Dinaric Karst region.

This approach and vision perfectly adhere to the conclusions reached by the countries sharing the DIKTAS that are enshrined in the Strategic Action Program for the DIKTAS prepared by the countries and recently endorsed at ministerial level.

The Project Objective is to catalyze effective multi-country cooperation for the sustainable management of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System and its ecological resources by strengthening national and regional groundwater governance frameworks and institutional capacity.

**Component 1.** Facilitating multi-country cooperation (Outcome 1)

**Component 2.** Institutional strengthening for improved groundwater Governance (sap actions 2 and 3) (Outcome 2)

**Component 3.** Monitoring karst waters and dependent ecosystems (sap action 1) (Outcomes 3 and 4)

**Component 4.** Focus on areas of transboundary influence and of special concern (sap action 2) (Outcome 5)

**Component 5.** Awareness raising and gender mainstreaming (sap action 3) (Outcome 6)



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# Introduction of Steering Committee members

## Structure

- Project partners representatives and one representatives per participating country (+ 1 substitution)
- Procedures and Nominations in the countries closed in mid of July 2024.
- SC Meeting 1st – online, 18 July 2024, 10-12 CET



## SC DIKTAS 2 members

Moderation by

- Sinisa Sesum, Head of Antenna in Sarajevo of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Title	Name	Email	Role	Organisation	Country
Mr.	Sofjan Jaupaj	<a href="mailto:sofjan.jaupaj@turizmi.gov.al">sofjan.jaupaj@turizmi.gov.al</a>	Member-Director General of the General Directorate of Economic and Support Services	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Albania
	<i>Pending</i>		Substitution	Associate in the Ministry responsible for water management	Albania
Ms.	Rada Milisav	<a href="mailto:rada.milisav@mvteo.gov.ba">rada.milisav@mvteo.gov.ba</a>	Member – Head of the Department of Water Resources	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms.	Tijana Jugović	<a href="mailto:tijana.jugovic@mvteo.gov.ba">tijana.jugovic@mvteo.gov.ba</a>	Substitution- Advisor to the Minister	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relationship of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms.	Elizabeta Kos	<a href="mailto:elizabeta.kos@mzozt.hr">elizabeta.kos@mzozt.hr</a>	Member- Director of Water Management and Sea Protection Directorate	Ministry of Environment Protection and Green Transition	Croatia
Ms.	Sanja Genzić Jurišević	<a href="mailto:sanja.genzic.jurisevic@mzozt.hr">sanja.genzic.jurisevic@mzozt.hr</a>	Substitution- Head of Service, Water Policy and International Cooperation Service	Ministry of Environment Protection and Green Transition	Croatia
Ms.	Tamara Brajović	<a href="mailto:tamara.brajovic@mert.gov.me">tamara.brajovic@mert.gov.me</a>	Member- Acting Director General of Directorate for Climate Changes and Protection of Nature	Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	Montenegro
Ms.	Anela Sijarić	<a href="mailto:anela.sijaric@mert.gov.me">anela.sijaric@mert.gov.me</a>	Substitution- Directorate for Climate Changes and Protection of Nature	Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	Montenegro

## Item 5. Workplan Year 1 (details available in the Inception Report, Chapter 5) and Budget

The Annual Work Plan for the first year (2024) is based on the Section 3 of the DIKTAS 2 Project Document. The Annual Work plan is fully in line with the project main activities described in the Project Document (Chapter 3.1), ANNEX A. Multi-year work plan (Annex A of Project Document). Nevertheless, any alterations and further specification of the outputs and activities (as described in the Project Document) have been applied as part of the adaptive management framework (figure below).

- **Output 1.1:** Joint multi-disciplinary thematic expert groups established (*urgent after 1st SCOM*)
- **Output 1.2:** Draft multilateral agreement on the establishment of Consultation and Information Exchange Body (CIE) and its
- **Output 1.3:** Bilateral Agreements and Bodies. Options for the creation of bilateral agreements and management bodies to address the issues of concern in areas/basins of transboundary influence (Transboundary Aquifers of the TDA), and/or the strengthening of existing ones, will be formulated for decision by governments.
- **Output 1.4:** Stakeholder involvement plan formulated, including special focus on gender issues and women empowerment.
- **Output 2.1:** Groundwater governance diagnostic analysis in all project countries, including a stocktaking of the governance situation — actors, legal framework, policies and plans, adherence to the EU WFD and GWD, available knowledge, enforcement capacity and an assessment of gaps and opportunities.
- **Output 3.1:** Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose Monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimization, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonized across the countries (*selection of 2 pilot sites approved by SC*).
- **Output 4.1:** Joint data sharing mechanism: joint design and implementation of a real-time data sharing mechanism and harmonization of different national classification standards of water quality, following EU guidelines.
- **Output 5.1:** Joint Action Programmes for all 6 areas of transboundary influence identified in the TDA, including previously prepared such as:
  1. methodology for GWR assessment on TBA level;
  2. Concept for Water Master Plans for 6 TBAs.
- **Output 6.1:** Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education.

*With exception of Output 1.1. each other will be continued in 2025.*



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# Budget (ANNEX 5 of the Inception Report)

## 1. Draft of the First year Budget (for 2024) – COMPONENTS 1-5

Components	ATLAS Budget Description	Originally proposed in Project document (chapter 9)
1+2+3+4+5	International Consultants	136.000
1+2+3+4+5	Local Consultants	60.000
1+2+3+4+5	Contractual Services	71.000
1+2+3+4+5	Travel	44.000
1+2+3+4+5	Training / workshops	66.000
1+2+3+4+5	Equipment and Furniture	44.000
1+2+3+4+5	Office supplies	17.000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>438.000</b>



## Budget (ANNEX 5 of the Inception Report)

### 2. Draft of the First year Budget (for 2024) – Project Management

GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	ATLAS Budget Description	Originally proposed in Project document (chapter 9)
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	International Consultants	21.600
	Local Consultants	19.000
	Travel	10.000
	Equipment and Furniture	3.000
	Office supplies	1.000
	TOTAL	54.600

### Draft of the First year Budget (for 2024) – COMPONENT 1-5 (1) + Project Management (2)

GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Originally proposed in Project Document (Chapter 9)
COMPONENT 1-5	438.000
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	54.600
TOTAL	492.600

## Item 6. Project Management Unit – PMU location

One country nomination – Bosnia and Herzegovina

PMU Location: Trebinje (same as DIKTAS 1)

### Criteria for selection:

- country willing to host PMU with official nomination
- in participating eligible country (B&H)
- vicinity of airports

Mostar - B&H 108 km

Dubrovnik - CRO 38 km

Tivat - MN 62 km

Podgorica – MN 126 km

Other criteria....

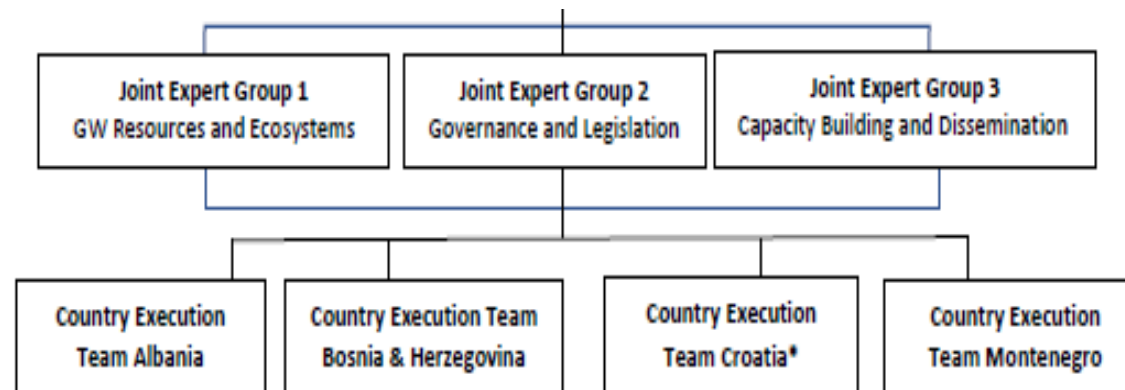


## Item 7. ToR experts (Annex 6 of The Inception Report)

**Experts:** national supported by international experts Expert Group 1 will include two representatives from each project country (one local hydrogeologist and one local biologist) plus international consultants.

+ Expert Group 2 will include two representatives from each project country (preferably one local lawyer and one local sociologist) plus international consultants.

+ Expert Group 3 will include one local media expert from each country plus international consultants.



- ToR for each given in Annex C of the Project Document.
- **Slightly changed after suggestion during The Inception Meeting**
- In detail given in [Annex 6](#), ToR for national and international experts, base for national and project partner selection procedure

***Urgent selection needed by national relevant bodies (national experts) and project partners (international experts)!***

## Item 8. ToR project manager (Annex 6 of The Inception Report)

### Qualifications:

- MSc or post-graduate specialization in Hydrogeology/engineering applied to hydrogeology
- Good knowledge of the Karst Aquifer System
- At least 5 years of experience in the application of hydrogeology to international development projects
- Experience in management of multinational interdisciplinary projects focused on integrated national and transboundary water resource management strategies.

### Competencies:

- Strong leadership, managerial and coordination skills, with a demonstrated ability to effectively coordinate the implementation of large multi-stakeholder projects, including financial and technical aspects.
- Ability to effectively manage technical and administrative teams, work with a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors and at all levels, to develop durable partnerships with collaborating agencies.
- Ability to administer budgets, train and work effectively with counterpart staff at all levels and with all groups involved in the project.
- Ability to coordinate and supervise multiple Project Implementation Units in their implementation of technical activities in partnership with a variety of subnational stakeholder groups, including community and government.
  - Strong drafting, presentation and reporting skills.
- Demonstrated familiarity with or, ideally, work experience in GEF International Waters and specifically in the Balkan region;
- Demonstrated familiarity with transboundary waters issues and national priorities in the Balkan region;
- Demonstrated familiarity with priority issues in the Dinaric Karst system in the region, including water sector, environmental sector, national and regional institutional structures and future development plans;
- Demonstrated familiarity with modern integrated approaches to groundwater and related ecosystems, including application of EU WFD and its groundwater daughter directive to national priorities, as appropriate,
  - familiarity with institutional, economic, technical, and social mechanisms for improving water resources management; capacity building and curriculum development approaches for multiple levels of stakeholders;
  - mechanisms for incentive-based pollution abatement and enforcement; social marketing and stakeholder education approaches for specific stakeholder groups across sectors and countries, including gender mainstreaming;

***Urgent selection needed***



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# Item 9. 10<sup>th</sup> GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC10) , 23-26 September 2024, in Punta del Este, Uruguay

## DIKTAS 2 Project Presentation (as part of Component 5, Output 6)



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Steering Committee online meeting, 18 July 2024



# Item 9. 10th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC10)

- The signature event of the GEF International Waters (IW) Portfolio of investments in shared river basins, lakes, groundwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and fisheries, and areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- This occasion marks 30 years of GEF International Waters support to over 480 projects to-date.
- Organized under the theme “Transformative actions and impacts for the water and ocean SDGs: The GEF IW response to the global challenge”, with discussion tracks devoted to highlighting GEF IW achievements and impact; identifying the impactful solutions, tools and innovative approaches; and identifying future opportunities and challenges for the GEF IW portfolio.
- More than 300 participants, including GEF IW project managers, institutional stakeholders from beneficiary countries, non-governmental and civil society organizations, transboundary and regional management institutions, UN agencies, Development Banks and Intergovernmental Organizations, and the private sector.
- Collectively they represent approximately 100 active GEF IW projects, from 80 countries and various GEF Agencies which aim to facilitate cross-sectoral and portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing. It is an interactive training and experience sharing event, where we discuss challenges, highlight solutions and showcase good practices. Furthermore, this conference summarizes the impact achieved and generates ideas for new projects.
- Participants benefit from contributions in plenary and interactive sessions, active trainings and experience-sharing on challenges, opportunities and solutions and look to the future of GEF programming within and beyond the GEF IW Focal Area. In addition, one day will be dedicated to technical site visits



- Pre-conference technical workshops 21-22 September 2024 in Montevideo, Uruguay
- IWC10 registration portal  
<https://iwlearn.net/events/iwc10-register>



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Steering Committee online meeting, 18 July 2024



## Item 10. Revisit of DIKTAS II Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Update of existing data, Establishment of regional Working Group and Item 11. SAP update/adjustment to the present conditions

### **BASED ON CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED AND HOW AFFECT THE PROJECT:**

The Inception Report, Annex 7 in detail analysed the following key changes (presented during Inception Meeting):

- Administrative issues
- Water Management Strategies and River Basin Management Plans update
- Groundwater monitoring update
- TBAs boundaries delineation evolution in Dinaric karst and further boundaries harmonization

**In addition, any othe relevant must be considered. Countries welcome to suggest it!**

***Output: Updated TDA and SAP documents.***



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## Item 12. Criteria for selection of DIKTAS II sites to be approved by Steering Committee

- Discussion of criteria for selection during 1st SCOM (e.g. current number of monitoring points in TBA, dominant water use, reported issues of concern in TDA...)
- Criteria adoption
- Proposal of the sites based on adopted criteria up to September 15th 2024 by technical consultant
- Countries feedback
- Final selection of 2 pilot monitoring sites



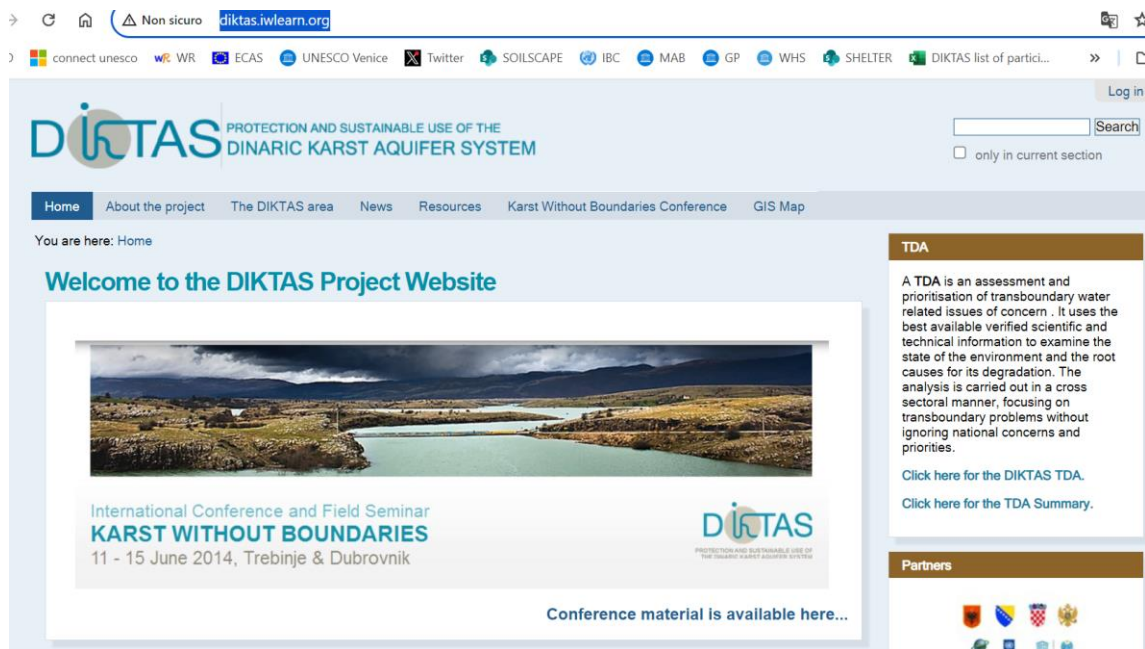
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# Item 13. Communication strategy for DIKTAS II to be approved by Steering Committee

## In progress: Initiation of activities under Component 5, Output 6

- LOGO
- Website
- DIKTAS I phase <http://diktas.iwlearn.org/>



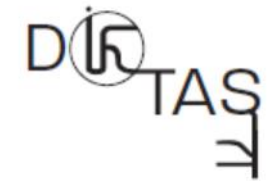
Current logo



Current logo with some edits:  
i dot reduced, i is extended to the circle edge, the circle is reduced, letters slightly more narrow.



First proposal: the logotype develops downwards to symbolize ground water  
Indicates Phase 'II' and represents underground streams



Variation 1



Variation 2



First color proposal

# Item 13. Communication strategy for DIKTAS II to be approved by Steering Committee

## In progress: Initiation of activities under Component 5, Output 6

- PHOTOS
- EVENTS PAGES

**EVENT**

**DIKTAS II Inception Workshop - Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System: Improving Groundwater Governance and Sustainability of Related Ecosystems**

4 April 2024 - 11:30 am - 5 April 2024 - 6:30 pm

**Location:** Venice, Italy

**Rooms :** Venice

**Type :** Cat VII – Seminar and training

**Arrangement type :** In-Person

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/improving-groundwater-governance-and-sustainability-dinaric-karst-aquifer-system>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/151600448@N06/albums/72177720317060514/>



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# Item 13. Communication strategy for DIKTAS II to be approved by Steering Committee

## In progress: Initiation of activities under Component 5, Output 6

- PHOTOS
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- <https://x.com/UNESCOVenice>
- <https://www.facebook.com/VeniceOffice/>



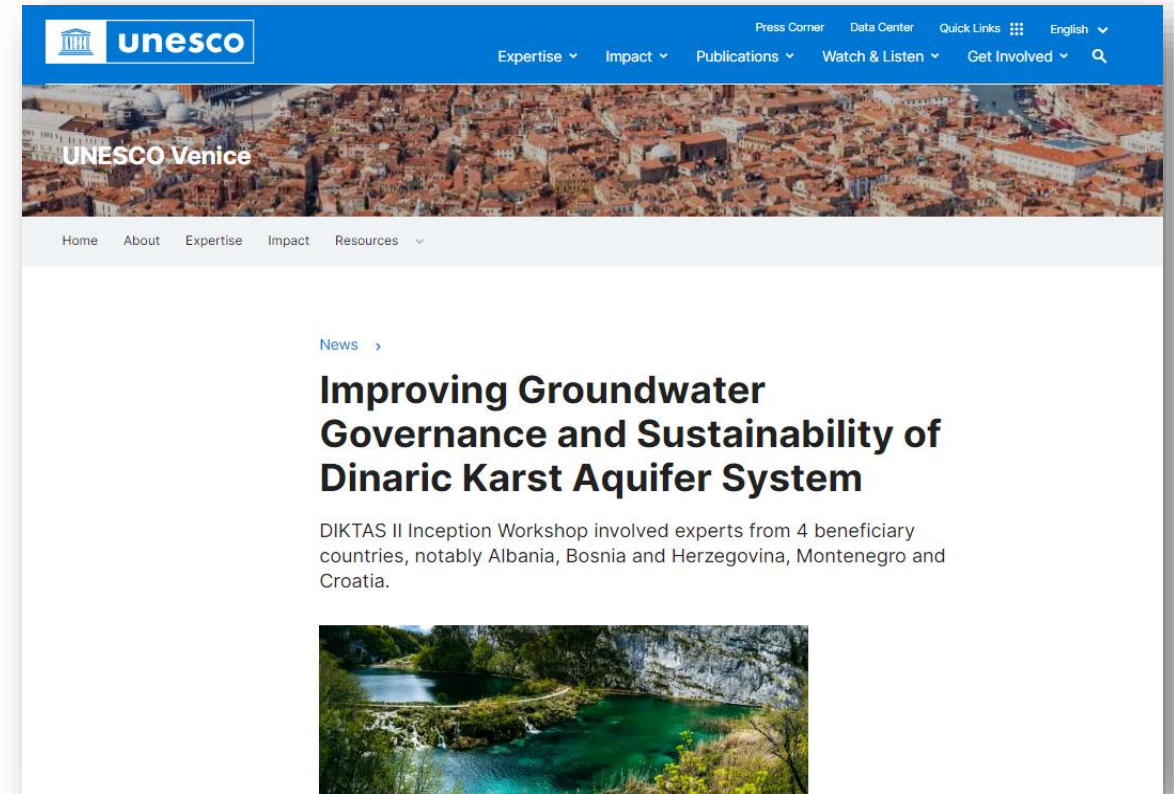
# Item 13. Communication strategy for DIKTAS II to be approved by Steering Committee

## In progress: Initiation of activities under Component 5, Output 6

- NEWS
  - UNESCO Regional Bureau website
  - UNESCO IWLEARN



<https://iwlearn.net/news/improving-groundwater-governance-and-sustainability-of-dinaric-karst-aquifer-system>



## Item 14. Next year Steering Committee meeting

- Meeting model: In person
- Parties welcome to propose location up to ??????
- Preliminary date?



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## Item 15. AOB

- Use of data for PhD students
- Possible grants for students
- ERASMUS + and Horizon Europe projects collaboration
- Collaboration with other IFI, UN Agencies and other relevant stakeholders and partners



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## Item 16. Closing remarks



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**Thank you**