



# Stakeholder Advisory Board

## WP7 - Project Management

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## Executive summary

This document describes the process of setting up and operation of the DIANA Advisory Board (AB). The principal role of the AB is to act as a consultation and validation body for the project. The AB will be comprised of diverse representatives from DIANA user/stakeholder communities and leading experts in the fields of water management, space applications in agriculture, agricultural and environmental policies, irrigation engineering and business management who will provide advice for development of the project. AB members are also expected to support the rollout and upscale of DIANA's piloted value propositions by acting as "project ambassadors".

The agreed procedure for organizing the AB and for identifying, selecting and inviting of AB members is described. Finally the document describes the mode of operation of the AB and interaction with project activities. Updated versions of this deliverable (interim and final) will be prepared in M9 and M33.



## 1. The purpose of the DIANA Advisory Board

Advisory Boards (AB) play a very important role in management of business organizations and the practice of establishing them has recently been introduced to support the successful implementation of research and innovation projects. AB are usually composed of an external high-level body of experts, comprising representatives from research and relevant stakeholder groups (e.g. end-users, policy makers, data providers, etc.) whose role is to provide strategic advice for the project direction, monitor progress towards project's objectives and contribute to validate and disseminate results.

The aim of Task 7.3 of DIANA is to set up and operate the Advisory Board (AB) with a view to ensure the successful integration of its members into the activities of the project. The overarching objective of DIANA is to co-create, co-design and demonstrate in real operational environments a commercial service platform that will empower water management authorities to optimize the identification and inspection of non-authorized water abstractions for irrigation as well as significantly improve the monitoring and assessment of their water management policies and practices, both in standard and special conditions such as in cases of drought. Therefore, the composition of the DIANA AB will have to entail experts and stakeholders in all relevant domains (EO, water management, policies, irrigation).

The principal role of the AB is to act as a consultation and validation body for the project. The AB will be comprised of diverse representatives from DIANA user/stakeholder communities and leading experts in the fields of water management, space applications in agriculture, agricultural and environmental policies, irrigation engineering and business management who will provide advice for development of the project. AB members provide their expertise and insights on (1) emerging trends in research, society and policy priorities that may impact on the project's activities and expected impacts, (2) on the needs and problems that the stakeholder groups that they represent are currently facing, as well as (3) meaningful feedback on project's ideas, pilot actions and outcomes.



AB members are also expected to support the rollout and upscale of DIANA's piloted value propositions by acting as "project ambassadors". AB members are expected to facilitate access to important stakeholder communities across Europe and drive the widespread acceptance and upscale of DIANA's innovative service platform by informing and inviting their contacts and networks to benefit from DIANA services when they become commercially available.

In summary, DIANA AB will:

1. Provide strategic advice regarding the overall direction of the project in line with emerging trends from science and society, taking into account stakeholders' priorities and expectations.
2. Review progress of the project periodically, by checking the attainment of the stated objectives and validating the results obtained. AB members may also point to major bottlenecks, inconsistencies and risks for the project.
3. Provide leverage to maximize the impact of the project by fostering the exploitation of projects' results and products and by helping in targeting key messages.
4. Support the dissemination of the project's results in their respective institutions, organisations and countries.





## 2. Organization and setting up of the DIANA Advisory Board

We propose a flexible structure for the DIANA AB that foresees the involvement of a targeted group of experts/stakeholders according to the particular needs of each task. More concretely the AB will comprise the following groups:

1. A **Core AB**, comprising 4-5 high profile experts with complementary backgrounds and expertise, who will provide overall guidance and review of project outcomes and achievements throughout the whole duration of the project;
2. A set of **Thematic Advisory Groups (AG)** that will be consulted on issues regarding a particular theme. Topics/AG to consider include: Earth Observation AG; Water Management AG; Policy AG and Business Management and Innovation AG;
3. A set of **Country AG**, involving stakeholders and experts, that will be established in order to provide advice and guidance to each pilot: Spain, Italy and Romania, and will interact directly with the pilot team. This group can involve actors from neighboring countries when this is considered relevant to increase dissemination and uptake.

The agreed procedure for identifying and selecting AB members includes the following steps:

1. Each project partner is asked to identify suitable relevant stakeholders from their own networks to possibly integrate the different AB groups (5 potential members identified and suggested by each partner).
2. Potential AB members suggested by DIANA partners are assessed against specific criteria (e.g. expertise, user/stakeholder group, country of origin) by the project Steering Committee (SC), in order to ensure complementarity and coverage all fields of expertise required, while keeping in mind aspects such as geographical and gender balance. This process will lead to the identification of experts/stakeholders to invite to the different AB groups identified above (note: each expert may belong to more than one group).
3. When all partners have agreed on an acceptable shortlist of people for the different AB groups, invitations are sent to selected members and the AB is formed.
4. The AB will be open for new members during the project execution so as to further expand the reach of DIANA.



During the Thessaloniki kick off meeting a mini session on the advisory board was organized, where all partners present were asked to write down suggestions for possible members. The profiles that were identified included the following: a) earth observation experts; b) water management authorities/ users/ ministries; c) policy experts and d) irrigation engineers. This list is now being expanded and revised. A final list with a proposal of allocation of possible participants to each group will be presented to the Steering Committee by Zeco for selection. So far, the following suggestions were received from partners:

### **Rosa**

1. Mircea Sevastel – Land Reclamation Engineer, Professor at the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest, Faculty of Land Reclamation and Environmental Engineering
2. Catalin Lazar – National Agricultural Research and Development Institute Fundulea, Romania
3. Violeta Florian – Scientific Researcher, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romanian Academy
4. Diana Dogaru - Scientific Researcher, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy
5. Viorel Chendes – Scientific Director, National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Romania

### **Sannio Alifanio**

1. Roberto Iodice, hydraulic engineer, official of Italian Ministry of Agriculture;
2. Antonino Casciolo, hydraulic engineer, retired official of Italian Ministry of Agriculture

### **Ariespace**

1. Dott. Massimo Gargano, General Manager at A.N.B.I.
2. Dott. Vito Busillo, Board Member of National Association of Irrigation and Reclamation Consortia (A.N.B.I.)
3. Dott. Agr. Giuseppe Castaldi, Executive of Regional Department of Agriculture
4. Ing. Nicola Meddalena, General Manager of CIHEAM-IAMB



5. Dario Scalella, entrepreneur. He has a deep expertise in start up company development in Airplane Industry sector. He is CEO di K4A srl, president of CHAI consortium (Campania Helicopters and Airplane industry NETwork) and board member of CIRA (Italian Aerospace Research Center). He has a long CV in management of public and private company;
6. Raffaella Zucaro, researcher from Council for Agricultural Research and Economy Analysis (CREA). She has a deep expertise in irrigation systems of Italy (she coordinated several statistic works on this issues) and several experience in national and international projects. She collaborates with Italian Ministry for Agriculture and she edited the technical annex of italian regulation on the estimation of irrigation water volume.

#### **AgroApps**

1. Expert from Ministry of Environment
2. Expert from Ministry of Agriculture (Nikos Dercas, Dimitris Papamichael)
3. Andreas Panagopoulos, Soil and Water Resources Institute

#### **Agrisat**

1. Fabio Vescovi (Airbus, EO/ICT Copernicus)
2. Bettina Baruth (or someone else from JRC)
3. Representative of DG Environment
4. Ministries or Water authorities in other MS especially Greece



### 3. Operation of the DIANA Advisory Board

The main role of the AB is to provide external monitoring and evaluation of project's progress and to act as liaison with key user groups, policy makers and international organizations. It will give expert input and feedback for the research and development work, assess the project progress and contribute to the dissemination of the results.

Frequent communication and meetings are foreseen with AB members, namely making use of digital platforms to avoid travel costs.

The **Core AB** will interact directly with the project Coordination and with the Steering Committee throughout the project. Core AB members are expected to participate actively in the project Plenary Meetings, providing feedback on actions, critical reflection about methodological choices and obtained results, business development strategies and overall guidance. They will be asked to provide a short independent report on the project progress and achievements following each plenary.

**Thematic** and **Country AG** will be consulted whenever appropriate, either by direct participation in meetings (e.g. pilot meetings, project plenary meetings, focused meetings), by teleconference or providing written assessments. The project Steering Committee will oversee the need and form of consultation of the different AG.

The members of the Advisory Board will be regularly informed about the project progress (through Management Reports and deliverables) and asked to give feedback, either during the project meetings or in the form of written documents. AB members may also participate in events such as the DIANA co-creation workshops, the virtual validation workshops, etc., as needed. Ad-hoc feedback and advice on project activities and outcomes (i.e. guidance, ideas and validation) may also be requested when deemed necessary. Collaboration of AB members will be particularly relevant in order to foster the relevance and impact of DIANA in the policy arena at all levels (from local/regional to the EU and International Agencies).

Specific Terms of Reference are being developed to provide the basis for the activities of the AB.



## Stakeholder Advisory Board

Travel expenses associated with the participation of Advisory Board members in the project meetings will be covered by the Consortium. For this purpose, the Coordinator will retain a 0,5% share of each partner's initial budget to form a Strategic Coordination Reserve. This budget will be used by AgroApps to pay for the Advisory Board travel expenses. The corresponding funding of this budget will be retained from the second payment of the pre-financing. Any unused amount of this Strategic Coordination Reserve will go back to the individual ceding partners at the end of the project. It is expected that two AB members will participate in each project meeting.

2eco will assist project coordination in all aspects dealing with interaction and management of the AB. Updated versions of this deliverable (interim and final) will be prepared in M9 and M33.

