HORIZON-CL4-2023-HUMAN-01-01: Efficient trustworthy AI - making the best of data (Adra)

Grant Agreement: 101135826

AI-Ops Framework for Automated, Intelligent and Reliable Data/AI Pipelines Lifecycle with Humans-in- the-Loop and Coupling of Hybrid Science-Guided and AI Models



WP7: Project Coordination, Scientific, Technical and Innovation Management

D7.1: Project Management Handbook

Deliverable Leader: ATHENA **Due Date:** Feb 29, 2024 (M2)

Dissemination Level: Public

Version: D2.1

Short Abstract

This deliverable provides a guide for the AI-DAPT project management. We give an overview of project consortium, the partner roles, and the management structure to ensure the smooth project operation. We present the time plan regarding the deliverables and milestones with respect to the review periods, including the decision-making process for implementation tasks. We define the deliverable submission process, including the review process to ensure that the project's deliverables adhere to high quality standards. Also, we describe the collaboration tools and processes, including the various types of meetings to discuss, plan and monitor the progress of the project. Finally, we present the project reporting tasks and financial issues, and we describe the risks management policy and the contingency plans decided to follow to resolve issues.

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Туре	Report	
Delivery Date	M02	

History

Versions	Description
v1.0	First draft version for revise
v1.1	Revision of Internal Reviewer 2
v1.2	Revision of Internal Reviewer 1
v2.0	Final draft
v2.1	Final



Executive Summary

This deliverable provides a guide for the management and coordination of the AI-DAPT project. First, an overview of the main concept and objectives of the project is described. The AI-DAPT's vision is to deliver an AIOps framework to support and automate AI pipelines, bringing a two-fold data-centric mentality in AI: (a) Data axis: AI-driven automation for data pipelines, based on Explainable AI (XAI) techniques and data synthetic generation and observability, (b) AI/Model axis: Automation on AI model building, and hybrid science-AI solutions, bringing together data-driven AI models and science-based (first-principles) models that build on high-quality data.

Then, an overview of the project consortium is presented, including the role of each partner, and the project management structure is defined to ensure the smooth operation of the project in terms of day-to-day management, as well as for interfacing with the European Commission. The management structure involves the following roles: (a) Project Coordinator (PC), (b) General Assembly (GA) - the decision-making body of the consortium, (c) Scientific Coordinator (SC), (d) Technical Coordinator (TC), (e) WP and Task Leaders, (f) Project Steering Team (PST), (g) Exploitation Manager, (h) Dissemination Manager, and (i) Ethics Advisory Board (EAB). The Al-DAPT Grant Agreement and the contacts living document in Al-DAPT's private repository shape the roles, responsibilities, and contacts of all involved persons, including the full list of project participants and contacts (email and office phone), their role in Al-DAPT, the involvement in the Al-DAPT General Assembly and Project Steering Team, the identification of Point of Contact (PoC) for each beneficiary and the subscription to mailing lists.

The time plan regarding the deliverables and milestones with respect to the review periods is presented, including a description of the decision-making process for implementation tasks. With respect to EC reviews, there are three reporting periods, followed by respective reviews, whose schedule is as follows: RV1: M15 (Mar 2025), RV2:M29 (May 2026), RV3: M42 (Jun 2027).

We define the deliverable submission process, including the review process to ensure that the project's deliverables adhere to high quality standards. For each deliverable, two reviewers are assigned, a Deliverable Review Form is used to assist revisions, and a well-defined review process in terms of time limits is defined. Deliverable reviewers have been assigned for all the deliverables that should be prepared in the first year of the project. Deliverable reviewers will be assigned for the deliverables of Year 2, 3 and 4 in a similar way. Information about deliverables' reviewers is maintained in a living document in AI-DAPT's private repository.

To facilitate internal effective project communication, we adopt collaboration tools and processes, including various types of meetings at different levels and with different formats and frequencies to discuss, plan and monitor the progress of the project: (a) Plenary Meetings (2-day physical events, usually every 6 months), (b) Project Steering Team (PST) Meetings (bi-weekly meetings that take place online, with WP/Task leaders/others), (c) WP / Task Meetings (online meetings scheduled and chaired by the respective WP / Task leader).

Moreover, we present project reporting and payment/financial tasks, including the interim activity reporting tasks to monitor the progress of resource usage and the periodic report to be provided for each of the three project periods (M1-M14, M15-M28, M29-M42). Interim Activity Reports will be requested every 7 months. Payments are regulated by processes defined in the Consortium Agreement signed by the AI-DAPT partners. Finally, we describe the risks management policy and the contingency plans decided to follow to resolve issues.



Table of Contents

E	cecutive	Summary	. iv
1	Intr	oduction	1
	1.1	AI-DAPT Project Overview	1
	1.2	Deliverable Purpose and Scope	1
	1.3	Impact and Target Audiences	2
	1.4	Deliverable Methodology	2
	1.5	Document Structure	2
2	Con	sortium, Roles and Management Structure	3
	2.1	Consortium and participant contacts	3
	2.2	Management Structure	4
3	Tim	e Plan and Implementation Aspects	9
	3.1	Deliverables, Milestones and Review Periods	9
	3.2	Decision Making for Implementation Tasks	10
	3.3	Conflict Resolutions	11
4	Deli	verable Quality Assurance	12
	4.1	Deliverable Submission Process	12
	4.2	Deliverables Peer-review Process	13
5	Coll	aboration Tools and Processes	14
	5.1	Meetings	14
	5.2	Contacts and Mailing Lists	15
	5.3	Project Private Repository	15
6	Proj	ect Reporting and Payments	17
	6.1	Reports	17
	6.2	Payments	18
7	Risk	Management	19
	7.1	Significant Barriers	19
	7.2	Critical Risks for Implementation	19
A	nnexes		22
	Annex	I Deliverable Template	22
	Annex	II Deliverable Review Form	24
	Annex	III Presentation template	25
	Annex	IV Project Brand Image	26
	Annex	V Risk Information Template	27

AI-DAPT - AI-Ops Framework for Automated, Intelligent and Reliable Data/AI Pipelines Lifecycle with Humans-in-the-Loop and Coupling of Hybrid Science-Guided and AI Models



List of Figures

Figure 2-1: Partnership landscape	3
Figure 2-2: Project Management Structure	5
FIGURE 5-1: AI-DAPT PRIVATE REPOSITORY STRUCTURE	16



List of Tables

Table 2-1: AI-DAPT partnership and roles	3
Table 2-2: AI-DAPT Roles	7
Table 2-3: General Assembly	7
Table 2-4: Workpackage Leaders	8
Table 3-1: List of Deliverables in chronological order	9
Table 3-2: List of Milestones in chronological order	10
Table 3-3: Reporting periods and candidate review dates	10
Table 4-1: Deliverable Submission Process	12
Table 4-2: Deliverable Reviewers (Reporting Period 1)	13
Table 5-1: Plenary Meetings Scheduling	14



1 Introduction

1.1 AI-DAPT Project Overview

Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has paved a long way since its inception and has started experiencing exponential growth across various industries and shaping our world in ways that were once thought impossible. As AI transitions from research to deployment, leveraging the appropriate data to develop and evaluate AI models has evolved into one of its greatest challenges. Data are in fact the raw material and the most indispensable asset fuelling much of today's progress in AI, generating previously unattainable insights, assisting more evidence-based decision-making, and bringing tangible business/economic benefits and innovation to all involved stakeholders. However, despite their instrumental role in determining performance, fairness, and robustness of AI systems, data are paradoxically characterised as the most under-valued and de-glamorised aspect of AI while a datacentric focus is typically lacking in the current AI research.

Al-DAPT aims to deliver an innovative and impactful research agenda that will provide tangible benefits to a variety of stakeholders that struggle with making Al services. Seeking to reinstate the pure data-related work in its rightful place, and reinforcing the generalizability, reliability, trustworthiness, and fairness of Al solutions, Al-DAPT vision relies on the implementation of an AlOps framework to support and automate Al pipelines that continuously learn and adapt based on their context. It enables proper purposing, collection, documentation, (bias) valuation, annotation, curation and synthetic generation of data, while keeping humans-in-the-loop across five axis: (i) Data Design for Al, (ii) Data Nurturing for Al, (iii) Data Generation for Al, (iv) Model Delivery for Al, (v) Data-Model Optimization for Al.

AI-DAPT brings forward a two-fold data-centric mentality in AI:

- **Data:** Al-driven automation for data pipelines based on Explainable Al (XAI) techniques as well as synthetic data generation and observability.
- Model: Automation on AI model building and hybrid science-AI solutions, bringing together data-driven AI models and science-based (first-principles) models that build on high-quality data.

Bridging the gap between data-centric and model-centric AI, AI-DAPT will turn over a new leaf in trustworthy AI and will nurture an ecosystem involving all AI and data value-chain stakeholders. The aim is to enhance their prosperous collaboration in order to deliver and apply innovative AI-driven methods that rely on smart and dynamic end-to-end automation of data, AI training/inference pipelines in the cloud-edge computing continuum.

To demonstrate the actual innovation and added value that can be derived through the AI-DAPT scientific advancements, the AI-DAPT results will be validated in two ways:

- By applying them to tackle real-world challenges in four key industries: (4) Health, Robotics, Energy, and Manufacturing.
- By integrating them into various AI solutions, whether open source or commercial, already present in the market.

1.2 Deliverable Purpose and Scope

This deliverable aims to fulfil the following main objectives:

- To establish a quality management system for the project results.
- To identify the responsibilities of all partners within the consortium.
- To ensure proper co-ordination and communication channels among partners during the project lifetime.



• To identify the potential risks of the project, evaluate their impact and exposure, and define a contingency plan.

1.3 Impact and Target Audiences

Since the deliverable involves the efficient management of project's day-to-day administrative, technical, scientific and communication aspects, it targets ALL consortium partners.

1.4 Deliverable Methodology

The deliverable was produced based on the extensive experience of several partners (including the Coordinator) in coordinating large-scale R&I EU projects, as well as detailed input and feedback collected during the discussions in the AI-DAPT kick-off meeting, Jan 23-24, 2024.

1.5 Document Structure

The deliverable is organized as follows:

- Section 2 presents an overview of the project consortium, the role of each partner and the management structure to ensure the smooth operation of the project in terms of day-to-day management, as well as for interfacing with the European Commission.
- Section 3 gives the time plan regarding the deliverables and milestones with respect to the review periods, and describes the decision making for implementation tasks.
- Section 4 defines the deliverable submission process, including the review process to ensure that the project's deliverables adhere to high quality standards.
- Section 5 describes the collaboration tools and processes, including the various types of meetings at different levels and with different formats and frequencies to discuss, plan and monitor the progress of the project.
- Section 6 presents the project reporting tasks and finance issues.
- Section 7 describe the risks management policy and the contingency plans decided to follow to resolve issues.



2 Consortium, Roles and Management Structure

2.1 Consortium and participant contacts

The Al-DAPT consortium comprises 18 partners from 7 EU countries. The partners form a well-balanced team of experts from various fields, bringing to the project collective expertise from industry, research, academia, and technology providers possessing a strong background in Al and big data scientific related sectors. To develop the technological solutions, along with the strategy for their

uptake, AI-DAPT involves key actors covering the whole AI value chain, spanning research practitioners (academic and research centres), technology providers, and end-users (demonstrators), as illustrated in the



Figure 2-1: Partnership landscape

figure. These partners possess the necessary competencies and abilities to achieve the technological and innovation goals of the project, with a strong focus on making research results available in public through the adoption of open science practices (i.e., ATHENA, FRAUNHOFER, CHARITE, UCY, SETU, UNINOVA, UPC), data management, AI, interoperability and security industry experts (Suite5, ATHENA, FHG, MCS, UBITECH, WITSIDE), human-AI teaming and SSH experts (including legal & ethics) (UNINOVA, S&D, MADE,), along with the demo partners (CHARITE, BIBA, OHS, IMECH, ZENITH, DOMX). The AI-DAPT partnership and roles undertaken are presented in the next table.

Table 2-1: AI-DAPT partnership and roles

Partner	Туре	Role
ATHENA (GR)	Research Org	The Al-DAPT Project Coordinator, leading WP7 and T7.1 overseeing the project's administration activities, and executing and monitoring the Research Data Management Plan (T7.3). Leads the activities of WP3 for the development of Hybrid-Science-Al models.
FRAUNHOFER (DE)	Research Org	Leads T2.2 providing input in data curation methods and services.
SETU (IE)	University	Leads T4.4 developing the project's software and validation and verification.
UNINOVA (PT)	NPO	Leads WP6, overseeing the dissemination (T6.1), communication (T6.2) and stakeholders' engagement (T6.3) activities; also leading T1.1
UPC (ES)	University	Leads T3.3 activities: the design and development of mechanisms and corresponding services for the execution and constant monitoring of the intelligent AI pipelines that will be designed.
SUITE5 (CY)	SME/Industry	The Technical Coordinator, leading WP2 and contributing to tasks T2.3 and T2.5, T3.4 and T7.2.
MCS (DE)	SME/Industry	Leads T2.4.
WITSIDE (GR)	SME/Industry	Leads T4.5, working on the integration of the AI-DAPT framework in existing AI platforms and solutions; also, leading T6.5 being responsible for the planning and execution of the project's exploitation management.
UCY (CY)	University	Leads WP1 also leading T1.5 where the project's user stories and technical and AI requirements will be defined.
S&D (IT)	SME/Industry	Leads T7.4 managing and monitoring the project's legal and ethical requirements.





UBITECH (GR)	SME/Industry	Leads WP4 activities and provide its expertise in Data Discovery, Management, and Governance, also assist on all security and data management related issues.
CHARITE (DE)	Hospital/Univ.	Leads the AI for Health experimentation demonstrator (T5.3) together with MCS.
BIBA (DE)	Research Org	Leads the AI for Manufacturing experimentation demonstrator (T5.4)
OHS (DE)	SME/Industry	Involved in AI for Manufacturing experimentation, supporting BIBA.
ZENITH (GR)	SME/Industry	Leads WP5 coordinating all demonstrators' activities and their execution planning through their lead in T5.2; and also leads the AI for Energy experimentation demonstrator (T5.5)
DOMX (GR)	SME/Industry	Involved in the AI for Energy experimentation demonstrator, supporting ZENITH
MADE (IT)	NPO	Provides the AI for Robotics experimentation demonstrator
IMECH (IT)	NPO	Involved in the AI for Robotics experimentation demonstrator, exploiting its IT competences to support MADE.

The AI-DAPT contacts are tracked and maintained in a living internal Document (see Section 5.3) that provides:

- the full list of project participants and their email contacts
- their role in Al-DAPT (e.g., WP leader, Task leader, Dissemination manager, Technical Coordinator, Project Coordinator)
- Point of Contact (PoC) for each beneficiary
- subscription to mailing lists.

Partners are responsible for informing the Project Coordinator about any modification.

2.2 Management Structure

The role of project management and coordination is to ensure the smooth operation of the project in terms of day-to-day management, as well as for interfacing with the European Commission. To support this role and responsibilities, a management structure and respective tools and procedures are setup, with the following objectives:

- establish a strong and coherent project management scheme, ensuring that all partners understand their roles and obligations and are aware of the project's processes in terms of monitoring and reporting;
- establish a strong and coherent scientific and technical direction within the project, and monitor its alignment to the project's objectives;
- successfully achieve the project's objectives on time and within budget;
- ensure that efficient tools for communication and collaboration among partners are in place;
- support and facilitate synergies among the partners;
- support and facilitate the effective dissemination and exploitation of the project's results;
- execute continuous quality assurance activities for the operation of the project and the implementation of its scientific and technical results in accordance with the foreseen timeplan;
- continuously monitor for risks and initiate corrective actions if needed;
- coordinate the organization and execution of the various project meetings, and the participation of the project in various external or self-organized events.

Figure 2-2 presents the project management structure.



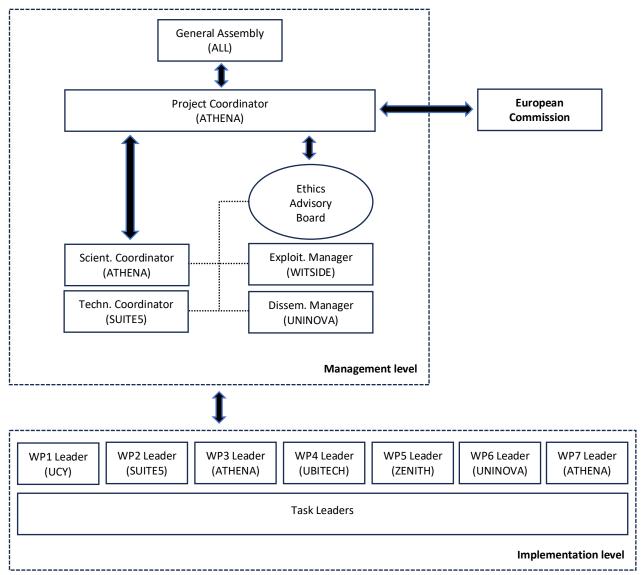


Figure 2-2: Project Management Structure

The **Project Coordinator (PC)** is the intermediary between the Consortium and the EC. The role and responsibilities are defined in Article 7 of the Grant Agreement (GA) and in Article 6.4 of the Consortium Agreement (CA). They mainly involve:

- monitoring that the action is implemented properly;
- distributing the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay;
- collecting, reviewing to verify consistency, and submitting reports, other deliverables (including financial statements and related certification) and specific requested documents to the granting authority;
- organizing project-level communication for coordination issues in the project;
- preparing the meetings, proposing decisions, and monitoring the implementation of decisions taken;
- handling any revisions of the Grant Agreement, e.g., for the involvement of new participants
 or withdrawal of existing ones or for amendments resulting from other changes to the project;



- re-organizing the budget allocation among partners in reaction to possible reallocation of activities and tasks;
- monitoring compliance with all applicable data protection acts both at European and at National level.

The **General Assembly (GA)** consists of one representative of each partner and is the decision-making body of the consortium. Its role and responsibilities are defined in Article 6 of the Consortium Agreement, which also describes the organization of meetings, the voting rules, and the veto rights. The General Assembly is responsible for decisions such as:

- proposals for changes to Annexes 1 and 2 of the Grant Agreement to be agreed by the Granting Authority;
- changes to the Consortium Plan;
- modifications to the CA;
- entry or withdrawal of a partner to the project;
- identification of a breach by a partner of its obligations under the Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement.

The **Scientific Coordinator (SC)** is responsible for the theoretical and scientific aspects, dealing with the task to safeguard and guarantee that the research performed in the project is state-of-the-art and applicable to the needs of the project and in line with the project's objectives.

The **Technical Coordinator (TC)** is responsible for all technical aspects of the project. Together with the WP Leaders she defines the specifications and design principles and is responsible for the consistency of all project results through the implementation phase. The Technical Coordinator is responsible for smooth adoption and implementation of all those aspects both to the technological WPs/Tasks as well as during the pilot operation and validation.

The **WP Leaders** are responsible for the smooth execution of each Work Package. The main responsibilities include coordination of WP partners via close collaboration also with the **Task Leaders**; review and evaluation of WP results; cooperation with other WP leaders in order to ensure smooth evolution the project's various phases; reporting to the Project Coordinator on the WP progress.

The **Project Steering Team (PST)** includes the **Technical** and **Scientific Coordinators**, the **Exploitation** and **Dissemination Manager**, the **WP leaders** and the **Task leaders**. It plans, monitors, and supervises the implementation of the project. Its main role and responsibilities include:

- plan the work and effort allocation at the level of individual WPs and Tasks;
- prepare the Table of Contents and assignments for the respective deliverables and monitor their progress;
- collect information about the progress of the work, including any risks and open issues, and communicate it to the Coordinator on a regular basis;
- discuss the overall progress of the project and important results to be communicated to external stakeholders.

The **Exploitation Manager** has the responsibility of developing and maintaining the exploitation plan throughout the project's implementation, while all partners will contribute by providing their organisation's detailed individual exploitation plans.

The **Dissemination Manager** will showcase the project's research and technological outcomes, highlight unique contributions to the field and engage with experts and stakeholders to gain feedback and insights, via a well-planned dissemination roadmap. Emphasis will be given on rigorous scientific and research events, also attending industry-relevant events such as conferences, fairs, exhibitions, and info-days as strong dissemination and communication competences in both industrial companies and the academic world.



The **Ethics Advisory Board (EAB)** is in charge of the ethical oversight of the project research activities to provide advice to the partners on legal and ethical issues, as well as contribute to the ethics reporting. Periodic calls, one every 4 months, will be organized. The EAB will comprise at least 3 selected intra-consortium experts, besides the Ethics Mentor. The composition should cover multidisciplinary backgrounds such as human factors, data/AI ethics and AI research, sociotechnical aspects, privacy, data protection, societal issues, Trustworthy AI and Human-AI Collaboration. S&D has the responsibility to setup the EAB, and has already initiated the procedure.

Next, detailed contact information is presented for the AI-DAPT roles, the General Assembly, the Work Package Leaders and the Task Leaders. Note that all AI-DAPT contacts are tracked and maintained in a living Document (Section 5.3).

Table 2-2: AI-DAPT Roles

AI-DAPT Roles	Person	Partner
Project Coordinator	Theodore Dalamagas	ATHENA
Scientific Coordinator	Theodore Dalamagas	ATHENA
Technical Coordinator	Fenareti Lampathaki	SUITE5
Dissemination and Exploitation Manager	Carlos Agostinho	UNINOVA
Exploitation Manager	Stelios Genouzos	WITSIDE

Table 2-3: General Assembly

Partner	Representative	Partner	Representative
ATHENA	Theodore Dalamagas	S&D	Marina Cugurra
FRAUNHOFER	Yury Glickman	UBITECH	Kostis Perakis
SETU	Gary McManus	CHARITE	Andreas Pfeiffer
UNINOVA	Carlos Agostinho	BIBA	Robert Hellbach
UPC	Adrián Asensio	OHS	Carl Hans
SUITE5	Sotiris Koussouris	ZENITH	Dimitrios Bimpikas
MCS	Fihmi Mousa	DOMX	Stratos Keranidis
WITSIDE	Stelios Genouzos	MADE	Francesco Dellino
UCY	George Pallis	IMECH	Fabio Floreani



Table 2-4: Workpackage Leaders

Workpackage	Leader	Name
WP1 Automated Al Pipeline Lifecycle Management Framework	UCY	George Pallis
WP2 Data for AI Foundations	SUITE5	Nefeli Bountouni
WP3 Hybrid Science-Al Models Foundations	ATHENA	Vasilis Gkolemis
WP4 System Architecture, Continuous Integration, Testing and Technical Verification	UBITECH	Kostis Perakis
WP5 Demonstration, Benchmarking, Business Validation and Impact Assessment	ZENITH	Dimitris Bibikas
WP6 Dissemination, Communication, Stakeholder Engagement, Exploitation	UNINOVA	Carlos Agostinho
WP7 Project Coordination, Scientific, Technical and Innovation Management	ATHENA	Theodore Dalamagas



3 Time Plan and Implementation Aspects

3.1 Deliverables, Milestones and Review Periods

AI-DAPT has a duration of 42 months (Ian 2024 – Jun 2027). Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 list project deliverables and milestones, respectively, in chronological order.

Table 3-1: List of Deliverables in chronological order

Deliverable	Leader	Date		
Reporting Period 1 (M1-M14)				
D7.1 Project Management Handbook	ATHENA	M2 (Feb 2024)		
D6.1 Dissemination, Communication, Engagement & Innovation Plan	UNINOVA	M3 (Mar 2024)		
D1.1 AI-DAPT Automated AI Pipeline End-User Needs and Scientific/Technology Radar	UNINOVA	M6 (Jun 2024)		
D7.2 Data Management Plan – Draft Version	ATHENA	M6 (Jun 2024)		
D1.2 AI-DAPT Automated AI Pipeline Design and Technical Requirements – Draft Version	UCY	M12 (Dec 2024)		
Reporting Period 2 (M15-M28)	1			
D4.1 AI-DAPT Reference Architecture and API Documentation	UBITECH	M15 (Mar 2025)		
D5.1 Demonstrators Evaluation Framework and Use Case Plan	DOMX	M15 (Mar 2025)		
D2.1 Data for AI Foundations – Draft Version	SUITE5	M18 (Jun 2025)		
D3.1 Hybrid Science-Al Models Foundations – Draft Version	ATHENA	M21 (Sep 2025)		
D6.2 Dissemination, Communication, Engagement, Innovation and Exploitation Report – Draft Version	UNINOVA	M21 (Sep 2025)		
D4.2 AI-DAPT Platform – Alpha Release	UBITECH	M24 (Dec 2025)		
Reporting Period 1 (M29-M42)	1			
D5.2 Demonstrators' Activities Implementation Results – Draft Version	ZENITH	M30 (Jun 2026)		
D7.3 Data Management Plan – Final Version	ATHENA	M32 (Aug 2026)		
D1.3 AI-DAPT Automated AI Pipeline Design and Technical Requirements – Final Version	UCY	M33 (Sep 2026)		
D2.2 Data for AI Foundations – Final Version	SUITE5	M33 (Sep 2026)		
D3.2 Hybrid Science-Al Models Foundations – Final Version	ATHENA	M33 (Sep 2026)		
D4.3 AI-DAPT Platform – Beta Release	UBITECH	M36 (Dec 2026)		
D4.4 AI-DAPT Platform – Final Release	UBITECH	M42 (Jun 2027)		
D5.3 Demonstrators' Activities Implementation Results – Final Version	ZENITH	M42 (Jun 2027)		



D6.3 Dissemination, Communication, Engagement, Innovation	UNINOVA	M42 (Jun 2027)
and Exploitation Report – Final Version		

Table 3-2: List of Milestones in chronological order

Milestone	Means of Verification	Date
MS1 AI-DAPT End-User Needs and Scientific/Technology Radar	D1.1, D6.1, D7.1, D7.2	M6 (Jun 2024)
MS2 AI-DAPT Framework Definition & Research Agenda	D1.2	M12 (Dec 2024)
MS3 AI-DAPT Reference Architecture and V&V Plan	D4.1, D5.1	M15 (Mar 2025)
MS4 Data and AI Pipelines Methods & Services – Draft Release	D2.1, D3.1, D6.2	M21 (Sep 2025)
MS5 AI-DAPT Platform – Alpha Release	D4.2	M24 (Dec 2025)
MS6 Demonstrators' Implementation Results – First Phase	D5.2	M30 (Jun 2026)
MS7 AI-DAPT Platform – Beta Release & Final Methods	D4.3, D1.3, D2.2, D3.2	M36 (Dec 2026)
MS8 AI-DAPT Platform – Final Release & Demos Final Results	D4.4, D5.3, D6.3	M42 (Jun 2027)

With respect to EC reviews, there are three reporting periods, followed by respective reviews, whose schedule is presented in the next table:

Table 3-3: Reporting periods and candidate review dates

Reporting Period	Review	Review Date
RP1: M1-M14	RV1	M15 (Mar 2025)
RP2: M15-M28	RV2	M29 (May 2026)
RP3: M29-M42	RV3	M42 (Jun 2027)

3.2 Decision Making for Implementation Tasks

All formal and major decisions relating to the project will be made by the General Assembly (GA). Details about the operational procedures for the GA are presented in Section 6.3 of the Consortium Agreement (CA). Meetings will be planned every six months or according to needs and attendance by all members is mandatory. The Project Coordinator is the responsible for the meeting formation (agenda of the meeting) and the communication of the meeting details (time, place, agenda) at least 2 weeks before to allow time for the scheduling and preparation of the necessary information for the meeting. Meeting minutes will be compiled after each meeting and will be distributed to all participants. Ad-hoc meetings (technical/WP team) may be organised if needed.



All change requests (i.e. modifications to initial plans) will be documented and include reasons for the change, change description, impact on the project, implementation schedule and responsible partners. The requests will be delivered to the corresponding WP leader for analysis and approval/rejection. Both the final decision and decided actions must be documented and delivered to the GA which will also have to accept the change request.

3.3 Conflict Resolutions

In case of a conflict, the following procedure will be applied:

- First, the implementation team will inform the WP leader for the conflict occurred.
- The WP leader will decide if the issue concerns the WP team or is a technical/scientific issue out of the WP responsibility to be discussed in the relevant structure body (WP Technical/Scientific Coordinator). The WP Leader/Technical/Scientific Coordinator will inform the Project Coordinator for the planned actions. The result of the meeting will be communicated to the Project Coordinator.
- If no decision is taken in both body structures, the Project Coordinator will contact the responsible persons and will try to resolve the conflict.
- In case of disagreement, the issue will be escalated in the General Assembly, whose decision will be then considered as the final resolution. See Section 6.3 in CA for details on the operational procedures for the General Assembly.



4 Deliverable Quality Assurance

4.1 Deliverable Submission Process

A quality assurance process will be followed during the project to ensure that the project's deliverables adhere to high quality standards. Each deliverable is associated to a Beneficiary (Partner) which is fully responsible for the deliverable quality and timely submission, and is required to maintain adequate control of the involved participants' contributions.

Deliverables must be finalized and submitted to the EC within the deadlines defined in Annex I of the Grant Agreement. The submission to the EC is done by the Project Coordinator via the EC Participant Portal electronically. A Deliverable template is provided the project's private repository.

The following process shall be followed to prepare and submit each deliverable:

Table 4-1: Deliverable Submission Process

Timing before delivery date	Activity required				
3 months	The Deliverable Leader prepares a draft Table of Contents (see ANNEX I for the Deliverable Template), and discuss with the involved partners to finalize the sections' writing assignments.				
	File naming scheme : D <number>-v0.<y>, where y=0, 1, 2 (revised versions) before proceeding to the next step.</y></number>				
1 month	The Deliverable Leader circulates a full draft Deliverable version for review to the peer-reviewers, notifying also the Project and the Technical Coordinator.				
	File naming scheme: D <number>-v1.0</number>				
20 days	The peer-reviewers provide their feedback and comments to the Deliverable Leader using track changes function and the Deliverable Review Form (see ANNEX II).				
10 days	The Deliverable Leader provides the pre-final draft to the peer-reviewers, the Project and the Technical Coordinator for the final check and confirmation to proceed for submission. If needed, a further iteration with the Deliverable Review Form is performed.				
	File naming scheme : D <number>-v1.<y>, where y=1, 2 (revised versions) before proceeding to the next step.</y></number>				
3 days	The Deliverable Leader circulates the final version to the Project and Technical Coordinator who executes the latest controls.				
	File naming scheme: D <number>-v2.0</number>				
Due date	 Submission of the final version of the Deliverable by the Project Coordinator in: EC Participant Portal AI-DAPT private project repository File naming scheme: D<number>-v2.<y>, where y=1, 2 (revised versions)</y></number> 				
After EC acceptance	Deliverable upload in Project website, where needed, in case of public documents.				



4.2 Deliverables Peer-review Process

The peer-review process is organised as follows. For a deliverable of a WP, the WP Leader

- discusses with the WP team and assigns one person as a reviewer (Reviewer-1)
- asks the Leader of another WP to assign one more person (from that other WP) as a reviewer (Reviewer-2)

For Reviewers-2, the following conventions hold:

- WP1 (UCY) provides the Reviewers-2 for WP2 (SUITE5)
- WP3 (ATHENA) provides the Reviewers-2 for WP4 (UBITECH), and vice versa
- WP6 (UNINIVA) provides the Reviewers-2 for WP7 (ATHENA), and vice versa
- WP5 (ZENITH) provides the Reviewers-2 for WP1 (UCY), and vice versa

Table 3-1 lists project deliverables in chronological order. The next table presents the partners that have been assigned to be responsible for all the deliverables that should be prepared in the first Reporting Period (RP1: M1-M14) of the project. Partners will be assigned for the deliverables of the other two Reporting Periods (RP2: M15-M28, RP3:M29-M42) in a similar way. Information about individual assignments for deliverable reviewers is maintained in a living document:

 Reviewers_for_deliverables.xlsx in WP7 folder of AI-DAPT's private repository - See Section 5.3.

Deliverable	Leader	Date	Reviewer-1	Reviewer-2			
Reporting Period 1 (M1-M14)							
D7.1 Project Management Handbook	ATHENA	M2 (Feb 2024)	WP7: SUITE5	WP6: UNINOVA			
D6.1 Dissemination, Communication, Engagement & Innovation Plan	UNINOVA	M3 (Mar 2024)	WP6: MADE	WP7: ATHENA			
D1.1 AI-DAPT Automated AI Pipeline End-User Needs and Scientific/Technology Radar	UNINOVA	M6 (Jun 2024)	WP1: UCY	WP5: ZENITH			
D7.2 Data Management Plan – Draft Version	ATHENA	M6 (Jun 2024)	WP7: ATHENA	WP6: UNINOVA			
D1.2 AI-DAPT Automated AI Pipeline Design and Technical Requirements – Draft Version	UCY	M12 (Dec 2024)	WP1: UCY	WP5: DOMX			

Table 4-2: Deliverable Reviewers (Reporting Period 1)

The Deliverable Template and the Delivery Review Form (see ANNEX I, II) are provided in the AI-DAPT private repository (see Section 5.3)



5 Collaboration Tools and Processes

5.1 Meetings

Meetings at different levels and with different formats and frequencies are foreseen as a means to discuss, plan and monitor the progress of the project.

Plenary Meetings include at least one, but typically more, representatives per partner. They are planned as 2-days, normally physical meetings with frequency approximately every 6 months. These meetings focus on long-term planning and the presentation and demonstration of the main achievements throughout the course of the project. The Project Coordinator is responsible for scheduling and chairing these meetings, and for preparing the agenda and minutes, in collaboration with the Technical Coordinator. The agenda will be circulated at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A tentative schedule for plenary meetings is shown in Table 5-1:

Meeting	Tentative Dates	Purpose	Host
1 st Plenary Meeting	23-24 Jan 2024 (done)	Project kick-off and planning for MS1	ATHENA
2 nd Plenary Meeting	Jun 2024	Progress review and planning of core techn. WPs 2,3,4,5.	TBD
3 rd Plenary Meeting	Sep 2024	Progress review and planning for MS2,3	TBD
4 th Plenary Meeting	Jan 2025 (end)	Progress review and planning for MS4	TBD
5 th Plenary Meeting	July 2025	Progress review and planning for MS5	TBD
6 th Plenary Meeting	Jan 2026	Progress review and planning for MS5	TBD
7 th Plenary Meeting	July 2026	Progress review and planning for MS7	TBD
8 th Plenary Meeting	Jan 2027 (end)	Progress review and planning MS8	TBD
9 th Plenary Meeting	May 2027	Final Release, Demos, Final Result	TBD

Table 5-1: Plenary Meetings Scheduling

After each plenary meeting, minutes/notes shall be compiled within 15 calendar days from the event and will be circulated to partners using the project mailing list. Partners if necessary will report their comments and requests for modification in 7 calendar days. The coordinator will circulate the edited minutes in 7 calendar days. The minutes will be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days upon sending them, no partner has declared any written objections to the Project Coordinator with respect to the accuracy of the draft version of the minutes.



Project Steering Team (PST) Meetings are bi-weekly meetings that take place online with a typical duration of approximately 1.5 hours. They are scheduled and chaired by the Project Coordinator or the Technical Coordinator. All WP leaders are required to participate. Task leaders and other WP participants may participate when needed and decided by the corresponding WP or Task leaders. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that all partners are kept up-to-date about the overall progress of the project, that the progress is in line with the project's implementation plan, and that opportunities and needs for synergies, as well as risks, are identified and addressed in a timely manner. They focus on short-term progress reporting and planning (i.e., previous and following weeks). Progress report is provided by the WP and Task leaders, is tracked in a living Document in the private project's repository (see Section 5.3), and includes:

- general updates at the WP level, including an outline of key achievements, progress of deliverables, and open issues;
- for each Task, an outline of recent progress, next steps, and open issues.

WP / Task Meetings are online meetings scheduled and chaired by the respective WP / Task leader that include the partners involved in the WP / Task. The purpose of these meetings is to plan and monitor the progress of the work at the WP / Task level, to discuss and decide work assignments and synergies among the participating partners, and to ensure that the contributions to the relevant deliverables are prepared on time.

5.2 Contacts and Mailing Lists

A contacts living document (contacts.xlsx in Admin folder of AI-DAPT's provate repository - See Section 5.3) keeps the roles, responsibilities and contacts of all involved persons including the full list of project participants and contacts (email and office phone), their role in AI-DAPT (e.g. WP X leader, dissemination manager, project coordinator, etc.), the involvement in the AI-DAPT General Assembly and Project Steering Team, the identification of Point of Contact (PoC) for each beneficiary and the subscription to mailing lists.

Mailing lists have been established from M1 to support information exchange among partners as in the following table.

- aidapt-admin@lists.athenarc.gr. Used for technical discussions, mainly regarding WP2, WP3, WP4
- aidapt-tech@lists.athenarc.gr. Used for technical discussions, mainly regarding WP2, WP3, WP4.
- aidapt-all@lists.athenarc.gr. Used for general topics, all members are added to this list.

Members subscription is managed and maintained by the Project Coordinator. In the project contacts excel in the project repository, the updated subscription list is available to partners. Consortium partners are responsible to inform the Project Coordinator whether any modification of their representatives is needed.

5.3 Project Private Repository

The Project Coordinator created and put at the disposal of partners a private repository. The repository is based on Microsoft SharePoint on cloud Office 365 infrastructure and accessible using the following URL: https://imisathena.sharepoint.com/sites/HORIZONAIDAPT

Major repository folders are:

 <u>Admin</u> contains contains administrative documents like cost statement, payments document, etc., as well as all official documents including signed Grant Agreement, signed Consortium Agreement.



- <u>Proposal Submission</u> contains the proposal and ESR.
- <u>Meetings</u> contains one folder for each meeting including agenda, logistic information, minutes, PPTs and any other material connected to the meeting.
- <u>Submitted Deliverables</u> contain all deliverables submitted and accepted by EC.
- <u>Templates and Project Branding</u> contains document templates: deliverable template (ANNEX I), presentation template (ANNEX II), Deliverable Review Form (ANNEX III), Project Brand Image/logos (ANNEX IV), Risk Information Template (ANNEX IV).
- <u>WPs</u>: each WP have its own folder. Each WP leader can self-organize the sub-folder structure and the material managed. It is required to keep a deliverable folder where to store connected material, contributions, the editing versions, peer-review and the final word version of the submitted deliverable.

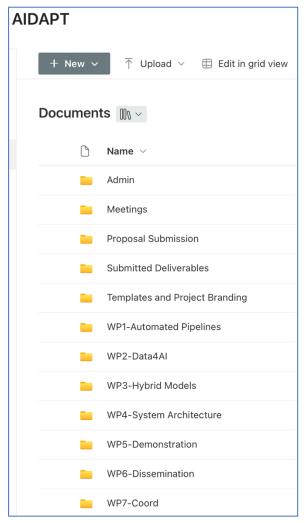


Figure 5-1: AI-DAPT Private Repository Structure



6 Project Reporting and Payments

6.1 Reports

The Project Coordinator is responsible to collect the appropriate information and reports from the partners and consolidating it before sending it to the EC. Partners are responsible to fill the requested info in the appropriate EU portal forms, under the guidance of the Project Coordinator, where needed. It is important to highlight that project reporting is a responsibility of the Consortium on its whole, and every partner must be actively involved.

There are two reporting documents including technical and financial information:

- Project Periodic Report (Technical and Financial) which refers to the official report that must be submitted to the EC according to the EC guidelines and templates.
- Interim Activity Report that will be used as control measures to effectively monitor the technical and economic progress of the project.

Project Periodic Reports must be submitted to the EC by the Project Coordinator, covering the Reporting periods. The (official) Reporting Periods for AI-DAPT are:

- RP1: M1-M14 (Jan 2024-Feb 2025)
- RP2: M15-M28 (Mar 2025-Apr 2026)
- RP3: M29-M42 (May 2026-Jun 2027)

The reports shall be submitted to the EC for each reporting period within 60 days after the end of the period under assessment, as follows:

• Technical Periodic Report

- The Project Coordinator provides the Technical Report Template to all partners.
- o Partners provide info for the Technical Report.
- The Project Coordinator reviews all Technical Reports prior to their submission to the EC portal, asking for revisions where needed.
- The Project Coordinator submits the Technical Report to the EC Portal.

Financial Periodic Report

- The Project Coordinator provides the Financial Report Template to all partners.
- o Partners provide info for the Financial Report.
- The Project Coordinator reviews all Financial Reports prior to their upload to the EC portal, asking for revisions where needed.
- o Partners fill the appropriate EC portal forms (Financial Statements), based on the Financial Report, without proceeding to the official submission.
- The Project Coordinator reviews again all partners' Financial Statements, asking for revisions where needed.
- o The Project Coordinator submits the Financial Statements to the EC Portal.

Interim Activity Report. Interim Activity Reports will be requested every 7 months. The Project Coordinator is responsible to collect the appropriate information and reports from the partners, based on templates delivered.

The Interim Reporting Periods for AI-DAPT are:

- IRP1: M1-M7 (Jan 2024-Jul 2024)
- IRP2: M8-M14 (Aug 2024-Feb 2025)
- IRP3: M15-M21 (Mar 2025-Sep 2025)

AI-DAPT - AI-Ops Framework for Automated, Intelligent and Reliable Data/AI Pipelines Lifecycle with Humans-in-the-Loop and Coupling of Hybrid Science-Guided and AI Models



- IRP4: M22-M28 (Oct 2025-Apr 2026)
- IRP5: M29-M35 (May 2026-Nov 2026)
- IRP6: M36-M42 (Dec 2026-Jun 2027)

ATHENA administration contacts for helpdesk/support:

- Sofia Emmanouilidi, semmanouilidi@athenarc.gr
- Emma Lydaki, emmanouela@athenarc.gr

6.2 Payments

The EC will execute the following payments to the coordinator:

- pre-financing
- interim payment following the reporting periods
- final payment

For payments from the coordinator to the partners, please refer to the AI-DAPT Consortium Agreement.



7 Risk Management

7.1 Significant Barriers

Below are the main barriers that could prevent the achievement of identified project impacts, which all stem from factors such as technological, scientific, economic, legal, and environmental factors that fall outside the project's control.

<u>Disruptive advancements on AI and data management – Technical/Scientific Barrier:</u> Since AI-DAPT sits at the intersection of multiple domains (identified in Section 1), there is a potential risk that a significant innovation could disrupt one or more of these domains, resulting in a shift in the current technological and business landscape. This could bring about new challenges while rendering existing technologies obsolete. However, the consortium has a wealth of expertise in these areas and valuable partnerships with leading organizations at the forefront of these domains. As a result, the consortium is capable of detecting such occurrences early on, assessing them in light of the project's goals, and taking all necessary measures to respond promptly.

<u>Standardisation changes and emerging standards not aligned with the ones considered in the project – Technical Barrier:</u> Since the project is dealing with domains of ongoing standardization, there is a case of new standards being introduced, or existing ones being amended in a way that does not align with the project's concept and technical development. This could have an impact on the project's results' usability and exploitation. To address this barrier, the consortium will collaborate with standardization bodies through partners who are already active members of such committees to quickly incorporate changes, and will concentrate on leveraging open standards and monitoring the technical evolution of the domains addressed to overcome this challenge.

Reluctance of AI Operators, Data Scientist/Engineers to accept the novel AI-DAPT services – Societal Barrier: The innovations promoted by AI-DAPT may make some users become sceptical about adopting new methods for their data or AI operations, despite being advertised as more robust, secure, privacy-preserving, intelligent, and efficient. To overcome this barrier, the consortium shall clearly explain to end-users the role and placement of such innovations within the AI-DAPT Reference Architecture. Additionally, the consortium will work to make the methods powering AI-DAPT more comprehensive and explain the handling of GDPR privacy, Responsible AI, IPR, and FAIR data principles in plain language. Appropriate and complete documentation will be delivered to all stakeholders/operators, allowing them to cultivate their skills and fully understand AI-DAPT.

Changes in legislation imposing potential restrictions in the use of AI – Legal/Environmental Barrier: The discussion regarding the responsible and ethical use of AI is an ongoing topic, with constantly new directions such as the recently EC approved version of the proposed Artificial Intelligence Act. However, there may be legal or environmental restrictions (e.g., constraints on use of high-energy consuming technologies) that prohibit or limit the use of AI in certain areas involving personal, EU critical, or industry-valuable data. These restrictions may be imposed not only at EU, but also at the local level, and may relate to ethical AI, data usage, and sharing, among other things. While the consortium has little control over such decisions, in the unlikely event changes in the law conflict with or restrict the project's scope, the consortium will strive to adapt its approach to fully comply with the new conditions, ensuring that the project's objectives will get aligned to any changes in legislation.

7.2 Critical Risks for Implementation

Risks [Impact/Likeliness] [L]- Low, [M] – Medium. [H] - High	WP	Contingency Plans
General Risks		



Losing critical staff at crucial points of the project [M/L]	All	Continuous and effective monitoring of partner's progress / Enough diversity and expertise to address losses within organizations / The knowledge of other partners can cover defaulting/leaving partners / If critical competencies lack in existing partners, find new ones with the same profile since most partners participate in relevant projects and clusters / Communication with all partners, redistribution of tasks
Unexpected delays in deliverables [M/M]	All	WP leaders to monitor progress and prevent undesired delays. In case a delay is foreseen, recovery plans will be established / The coordinator will deliver to the EU detailed reports describing the cause of the delay and the contingency plan
Technical Risks		
Performed design is ineffective resulting in project drifting into wrong direction [H/L]	2-4	The Technical Coordinator and technical partners hold significant experience and knowledge of the domains involved and coupled in AI-DAPT, holding similar roles in relevant previous and on-going R&I activities / The Tech. Coordinator will monitor the design process to quickly identify ineffective designs and take proactive measures.
Reluctance from demo partners to provide data due to confidentiality. [H/M]	2-5	CA will define the terms regarding access to data and existing knowledge / Secure mechanisms will be deployed for data sovereignty and sharing for data which is characterized as "sensitive" and "confidential"
Interoperability problems between artifacts that have been built on heterogeneous frameworks/libraries [L/L]	2-4	The consortium includes major experts in the corresponding fields, very experienced in EU projects and large systems development, who have already worked on and developed solutions for the data market / Allow for a two-phase process for the architecture specification, enabling early detection of problems.
Business Risks		
Limited acceptance by the end- users [L/L]	2-4	Well defined user requirements and baseline, along with cost-benefit validation of the solution / Specific engagement activities are foreseen to ensure co-creation with end-users towards enhanced acceptance
Unforeseen competition could limit exploitation [L/L]	6	Market intelligence activities, as part of the exploitation planning, will ensure continuous monitoring of the competition landscape / WP6 Leader to ensure the thoroughness and quality of the resulting reports
Disputes over ownership of IPR amongst consortium partners [M/L]	6	Standard IPR and access rights clauses will be included in the CA which will be signed before the project start / Foreground will be available as open source, but if the need arises, the consortium will decide according to the CA.



Beside the risks that already have been identified and presented, AI-SAPT adopts a risk management approach that will continuous monitoring WP execution, taking a proactive stance for risk identification, definition of proactive measures and monitoring potential background reasons causing a risk. This stance involves:

- **Risk Identification:** All Consortium Partners are involved in risk detection. When a risk is detected, it is reported to the respective WP Leader, who is assessing the risk. Risks that are serious are further reported to the Project Coordinator, and GA is involved. Unresolved issues or conflicts impacting the project plan will be escalated following Consortium Agreement rules.
- **Risk Estimation:** Risk estimation measures the *risk likelihood* and *risk impact*. Risks are estimated using three levels: low, medium and high.
- Risk Mitigation and Follow-up: Each identified risk shall have an owner who is responsible for its
 risk mitigation, monitoring and reporting. In addition, the risk owner proposes a preventive and
 corrective treatment, consisting of suitable actions to reduce the severity and the probability of
 occurrence of the risk.

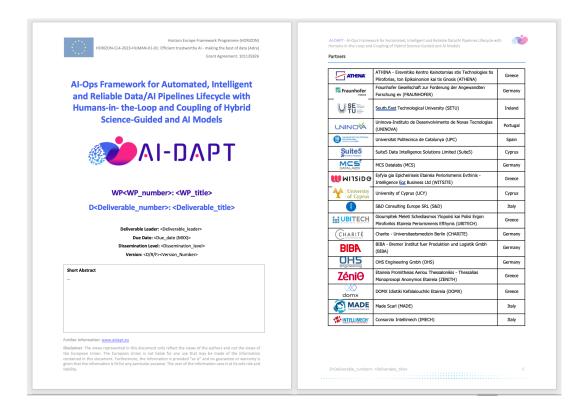
Risks will be assessed for their impact on the project and the probability of the risk materializing. The team will establish risk mitigation plans to reduce the impact and likelihood of the risk occurring, as well as action plans to manage the risk should it arise. A Risk Information Template is provided (see ANNEX V) used for identifying and monitoring risks.

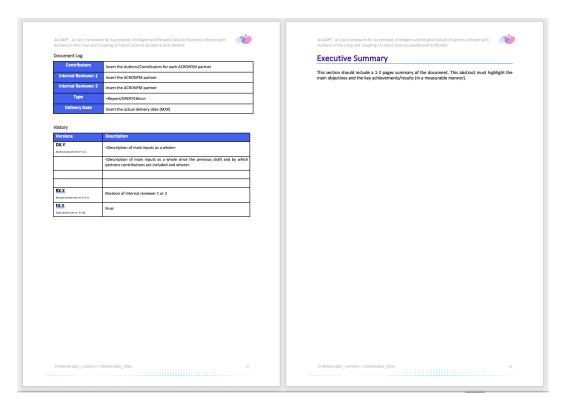


Annexes

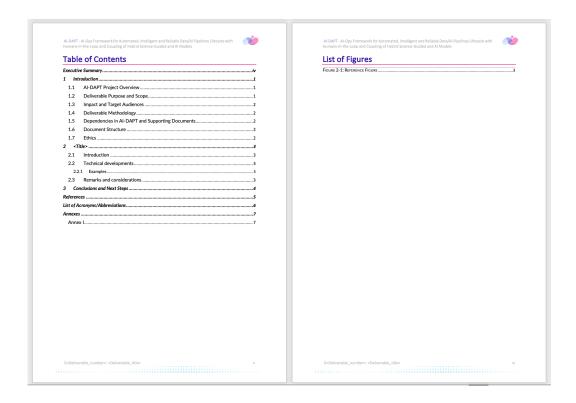
Annex I Deliverable Template

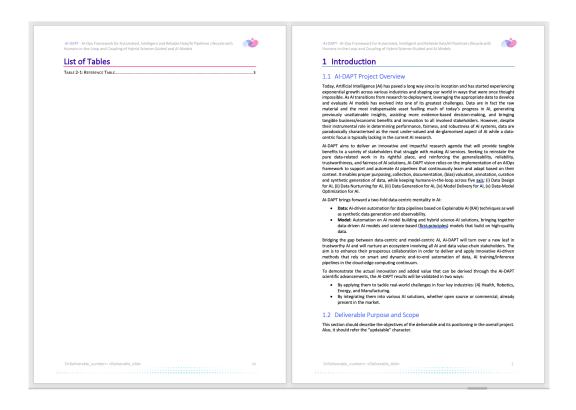
Note that there is a project overview section which should be common to all project deliverables.













Annex II Deliverable Review Form

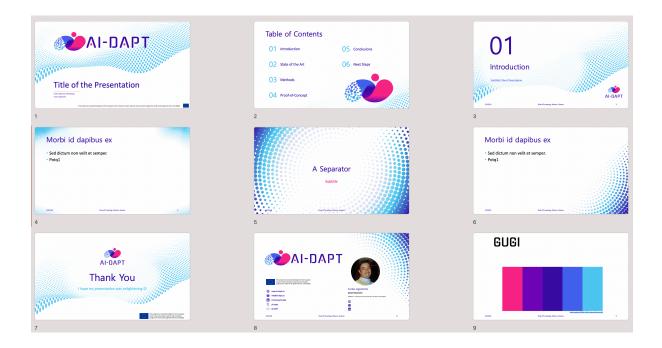
Deliverable Revie	ew Form				
Main Information	1				
Deliverable:					
Lead Partner:					
Reviewer:					
Revision number:	v1. <y>, where y=0, 1, 2 (revised versions)</y>				
Review date:					
Evaluation:	[Accept / Revision / Reject]				
Presentation					
Language:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high]			
(Is the use of lang appropriate?)	uage and terminology				
Executive Summa	ry (abstract):	[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high]			
(Is the executive s	ummary sufficiently informative?)				
Structure:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high]			
(Is the structure o	f the document clear and				
Visuals:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high]			
(Are the figures, t	ables, symbols, etc. readable?)				
Content					
Relevance:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high]			
(Does the content	comply to the DoA?)				
Novelty:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high / NA]			
(Are the contribut the-art clear and	tions with respect to the state-of-appropriate?)				
Technical depth:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high / NA]			
(Is the presented	work technically sound?)				
References:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high / NA]			
(Are the reference	es sufficient and appropriate?)				
Software					
Code:		[Yes / No / NA]			
(Is the code availd	able?)				
Documentation:		[1-5 scale; 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high / NA]			





(Is the documentation adequate?)				
License:	[Yes / No / NA]			
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Annex III Presentation template





Annex IV Project Brand Image





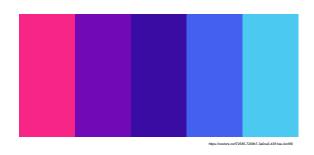








GUGI





Annex V Risk Information Template

WP<i>"Title of the Work Package" – {Technical | Impact | Management} risks

Objectives:

- To ...
- To ...
- To ...

Time Frame Risks Validity: M<x>-M<y> (WP<i>i) implementation timeframe)

Risks Owner: WP<*i>* Leader (<*Organization Short Name>*)

	OWNICH: WI VI VI LEG	٠. ٠. ر					
#	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Exposure	Triggering Factors	(to reduce	Risk Contingency / Recovery Actions (if the risk actually occurs)
R1		{H W H}	{H W H}	{H M H}	•	•	•
R2					•	•	•
					•	•	•