



Funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily express those of the European Union or the CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Ref. Ares(2024)8573476 - 02/12/2024



### D.3.2. Consultation Expert Panel

# DALIA DANUBE REGION WATER LIGHTHOUSE ACTION

Grant Agreement Number: 101094070

Deliverable name:	Consultation Expert Panel
Deliverable number:	3.2
Deliverable type:	Other, Report
Work Package:	WP3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY
Lead Beneficiary:	BIOEAST HUB CZ
Contact person:	Monika Manolova m.manolova@brcci.eu George Sakellaris g.sakellaris@gmail.com
Dissemination level:	PU
Due Date for Deliverable:	December 31th, 2023

## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>ACRONYM</b>	DALIA
<b>Title</b>	Danube Region Water Lighthouse Action
<b>Grant Agreement Number</b>	101094070
<b>Call</b>	HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	ORSZAGOS VIZUGYI FOIGAZGATOSAG (OVF)

## DELIVERABLE DETAILS

<b>DELIVERABLE TYPE</b>	Report
<b>Deliverable status</b>	Completed
<b>Dissemination level</b>	Public
<b>Due date</b>	31.12.2023
<b>Submission date</b>	December 2023
<b>Work package</b>	WP 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY
<b>Deliverable leader</b>	BIOEAST HUB CZ
<b>Deliverable author(s)</b>	Monika Manolova m.manolova@brcci.eu George Sakellaris g.sakellaris@gmail.com

## REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Reviewer	Modifications
1.0	20.12.2023	George Sakellaris	First version
1.1	19.09.2024	Monika Manolova	Minor format changes, date chapter 1: board link supplements

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The work described in this publication was subsidised by Horizon Europe (HORIZON) framework through the Grant Agreement Number 101094070.

## DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily express those of the European Union or the CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily express those of the European Union or the CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Background.....	5
2.	Consultation Panel Representation and activities .....	6
3.	Scope and Mission .....	7
	Participants – Selection Criteria .....	7
	Operational Mode .....	8
	Tasks & Deadlines.....	8
4.	LINK TO DELIVERABLE 3.1 Multi-actor process and validation framework .....	8

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full name
DPS	Demonstrator pilot site
MAA	Multi-actor approach
CP	Consultation Panel
CG	Consultation Group

## 1. BACKGROUND

The effort to understand and optimize the involvement of citizens and stakeholders in the socio-economic transition towards sustainability has been successfully implemented, thanks to the structured multi-actor approach (MAA) of the DALIA project. Stakeholders have played a pivotal role in evaluating and refining an interactive innovation model that has transformed research and innovation into practical applications. This process has moved beyond mere knowledge sharing, focusing on the concrete implementation of solutions to address social challenges through collaborative engagement.

As part of the DALIA project's Work Package 3 (WP3), Tasks 3.1 and 3.2 have been successfully completed. These tasks encompassed (i) the management of stakeholders and (ii) the evaluation of local activities across the nine selected Demonstrator Pilot Sites (DPS). The stakeholder management process involved a comprehensive analysis of stakeholder profiles, validating their impact, and clarifying their needs, while also fostering strong community ownership. This has laid the foundation for sustainable implementation, uptake, and financing of key project outcomes. Through this participatory process, critical sustainability challenges have been addressed in each DPS, promoting cooperation and developing a shared vision for climate resilience and sustainable transformation.

To support this process, a "Consultation Panel" (CP) was established, composed of regional experts nominated by "Consultation Groups" (CGs) in each Pilot Site. The composition of these CGs reflects the specific socio-economic and sectoral characteristics of each region. The CP meets regularly to offer insights, coordinate stakeholder efforts, and guide scientific and technological plans. This approach is closely aligned with the validation protocols established in the DALIA Multi-Actor Process and Validation Framework ensuring the timely assessment of project impacts and the development of tailored business frameworks.

The CP's contributions include:

- Evaluating the region's positioning within the Bioeconomy.
- Identifying regional Bioeconomy potentials.
- Offering scientific and technological expertise.
- Assessing the level of regional innovation.
- Identifying systemic gaps and challenges.
- Incorporating findings into the education and policy sectors.
- Promoting critical and systems thinking to guide decision-making.

Stakeholder engagement has been a cornerstone of the DALIA project. Across the nine regions, diverse groups of actors—including policymakers, educators, business leaders, academia, marginalized communities, and media—have been actively involved in exchanging knowledge, developing new materials, strategies, and concepts, and fostering cross-sector collaboration. Their voluntary participation will support the enrichment of the DPS ecology, research and innovation actions and generated innovative solutions.



## 2. CONSULTATION PANEL REPRESENTATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Representatives of the group cover:

- Policy makers – national / regional representatives
- Representatives of the education sector
- Business and industry
- Academic community and Research
- Representatives of marginal and minority groups
- Representatives of art – culture, design
- Media and communication structures. Influencers etc.
- Finance and Funding experts, investors etc.

These stakeholder groups are to be engaged in:

- Get to know the members community & map the expectations
- Select the appropriate engagement strategy tailored for each stakeholder group
- Provide and Action plan, that will specify primarily
  - Common understanding – how to boost education to enhance Bioeconomy in the region
  - Engagement – how to share information, plans, challenges to attract more members (targeting to the collective members – platforms, associations, chambers, the snowball effect)
  - Collaboration – taking part in the discussion on the project results and concrete steps how to proceed

The steps to reach the engagement goals include:

- Mapping the potential stakeholders / already existing networks
- Reach the greatest number of stakeholders
- Provide clear, instructive information, accessible to all stakeholders to support common understanding and present information.
- Make the information channels interactive
- Explain the uncertainties and limits of the project; present several different scenarios
- Be open to feedback – support stakeholders to express their views on your project or your activities
- Guide the discussion to facilitate dialogue and create a synergy among participants.

It is obvious that for this heterogamous group with a wide disciplinarity and backgrounds, it is imperative the establishment of an innovation group, updating with knowledge of any kind, coordinating, communicating and networking within the group and together with groups from other regions.

### 3. SCOPE AND MISSION

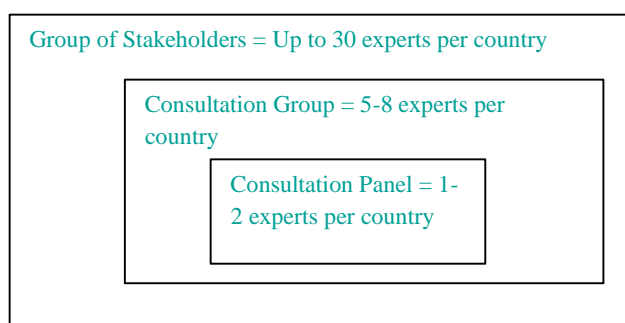
As an operational element of the local stakeholder’s group, the CG is dedicated in consulting, further analyzing and disseminating the outcomes and suggestions. More specifically CGs aim to:

- Update the stakeholders and the wider audience with scientific and technological data
- Analyze and prioritize the regional priorities and needs as they are reported in the stakeholders, considering wider criteria such as, technological, environmental, economic and social.
- Provide operational guidelines for the implementation on a case-by-case basis. Build guidelines of training for skill developments
- Cooperate with the CGs of other regions within the frame of DALIA project

### SETTING-UP

#### *Participants – Selection Criteria*

In each DALIA’s Pilot region, and among the 20-30 stakeholders per country, the CG will be appointed based on the stakeholder’s specific profile, but also comprising external members according to their expertise. The stakeholders contributing to the CG could be (on a case-by-case basis):



- Experts from the Higher Education and Research Organizations
- Experts from the Vocational Training Organizations
- Experts from the Industry and SMEs involved
- Experts from the Policy makers Public Administration
- Experts from funding and financial institutions
- Ad Hoc external experts

The Consultation Board will be selected among the Consultation Panel members according to the scheme: Leaders among the DPS are responsible for the nomination of the CG among the involved actors for each pilot region/country. A common process should be followed. The Criteria for the selection of the CG members should include:

- The interest and willingness to participate
- Their availability and level of dedication
- Their relevance and specific expertise(s)
- The appropriateness
- age and gender are not significant parameters for this kind of group

The following section outlines guidelines for partners to establish and maintain contact with stakeholders as well as principles for their fostering inclusion and effective engagement.



### *Operational Mode*

Dedicated communication materials will be already prepared for the operational purposes of the CGs. These materials will also facilitate understanding and update the dedicated role of the CG members. These materials include:

- **Terms of Reference**, providing meaningful information about the DALIA project and the activities in which members of CG and CP are included, as well as their expected contribution and conditions pertaining to their membership.
- An **official invitation letter** to participate in the CG and accompany the initial communication of consortium partners with selected stakeholders.
- **Declaration of Acceptance, and Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) as well as the Consent Form**, will be completed by the CG members under their capacity as CG members. External members should sign it separately.
- Additionally, an **Interview** will be conducted to the CP members aiming to reflect their views for their respective region on matters relating to the project's priorities and concerns.
- After establishing the Regional CGs, one member from each regional CG will be selected to form together the project's Consultation Board (CP).

### *Tasks & Deadlines*

- 1-2 experts will represent CG and Innovation Board till M46 (End of DALIA)
- The first online meeting will take place by Q4(M24) of the project (December 2024) after the completion of all selection and agreement steps.

## **4. LINK TO DELIVERABLE 3.1 MULTI-ACTOR PROCESS AND VALIDATION FRAMEWORK**

The Consultation Panel (CP) validates the information as part of the **multi-actor process and validation framework** in the DALIA project through a structured and iterative approach outlined in several steps, ensuring effective stakeholder engagement and accurate data validation. Here's a description of the process based on the framework provided in the document:

1. **Data Collection and Metrics (Step 4)**: Each Demonstrator Pilot Site (DPS) employs quantitative and qualitative metrics, including GIS, IoT, and in situ monitoring, to gather data. This information is then subjected to validation in collaboration with external experts who are part of the CP.
2. **Validation Protocols (Step 5)**: Standardized methods of data collection, sampling, and analysis are tailored to each DPS's characteristics. The validation protocols are refined and validated through discussions and feedback from the CP, which consists of regional experts and stakeholders, ensuring that local context and knowledge are incorporated into the evaluation.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement (Step 3 and 4)**: CP members are involved in stakeholder engagement strategies, gathering feedback, and ensuring that local stakeholders' inputs are integrated into the validation process. The CP reviews the outcomes and impacts on local economies, biodiversity, and ecosystems to guide the accuracy of the data and proposed solutions.
4. **Regular Review and Adaptive Management (Step 7)**: The CP meets regularly to review the progress of the DS activities, providing feedback on the outcomes and offering suggestions for improvement.

This adaptive management approach allows for iterative updates and adjustments to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the project's outcomes.

5. **Scientific and Systems Validation (Step 4.1 and 4.2):** The CP also validates scientific results through peer-reviewed publications, alongside climate modeling and systems validation using real-time data (e.g., GIS). This ensures that ecological and climate impact assessments are scientifically robust and aligned with the broader goals of the DALIA project.
6. **Business Model and Cross-Demonstrator Learning (Step 4.4 and 12):** The CP contributes to developing business models and scenarios based on validated outcomes from each DPS. These models are iteratively improved through cross-site learning sessions, ensuring that the information supports sustainable business and social frameworks across the Danube River region.

In summary, the CP ensures the continuous validation of data, stakeholder engagement, and scientific accuracy by participating in regular reviews, refining validation protocols, and integrating stakeholder feedback into decision-making processes

## ITERATIVE PROCESS

The **validation process within the DALIA project** is designed as an **iterative and adaptive framework** that evolves in response to the specific needs of each Demonstrator Site (DPS). This flexible approach allows for continuous improvement and fine-tuning of project methodologies based on real-time data, stakeholder feedback, and evolving environmental and socio-economic conditions.

The **Consultation Panels (CPs)**, composed of regional experts, play a central role in this iterative validation process. These panels are dynamic in nature, with their composition expanding or decreasing based on the specific methodologies and goals of each DPS. As each site has unique challenges—ranging from water management and ecosystem restoration to socio-economic development—the **tailor-made methodologies** designed for each DPS require different levels of expertise at various stages of the project.

For instance, if a particular DPS is entering a phase that focuses heavily on water management, the CP may expand to include more hydrological experts. Conversely, during phases where community engagement or policy development is the primary focus, the CP may shift to include more social scientists, policy advisors, or regional development specialists. This fluid composition ensures that the panel is always equipped with the most relevant expertise to guide the validation and assessment processes effectively.

Additionally, the **iterative nature of the validation process** allows for regular feedback loops. As new data is collected and analyzed, the CP reviews outcomes, adjusts strategies, and recommends modifications to ensure that the project remains aligned with its sustainability objectives. This **adaptive management approach** ensures that the validation framework is not static but continuously evolving, ensuring the project is responsive to both expected and unforeseen developments.

In summary, the iterative validation process and flexible composition of the CPs enable the DALIA project to remain agile and responsive, ensuring that each DPS receives the tailored expertise necessary to achieve its goals.





Table 1: Confirmed Stakeholders in the DALIA Consultation Panel\*

AUTHORITY REPRESENTED	AUTHORITY ADDRESS/WEBSITE	AREA OF EXPERTISE
North-Transdanubian Water Directorate	9021 Győr, Árpád út 28-32. <a href="http://www.eduvizig.hu/">http://www.eduvizig.hu/</a>	Water management, flood protection, and ecological restoration. The Directorate is responsible for managing water bodies and related infrastructure in North Transdanubia, Hungary, relevant for implementing sustainable water solutions.
Union of Biomass Product Line	<a href="https://www.bitesz.hu/kuldetesnyilatkozat/">https://www.bitesz.hu/kuldetesnyilatkozat/</a>	Biomass production and sustainable energy solutions. This organization promotes the use of biomass for energy generation and contributes to the Bioeconomy objectives of the DALIA project.
county of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen	<a href="https://www.neuburg-donau.de/landratsamt-neuburg-schrobenhausen_id3498">https://www.neuburg-donau.de/landratsamt-neuburg-schrobenhausen_id3498</a>	Regional development, environmental management, and sustainable land use. The county's role in the DALIA project focuses on implementing sustainable regional practices in the floodplain and agricultural management.
the State Office for Water Management, Ingolstadt	Auf d. Schanz 26, 85049 Ingolstadt, Germany	Water management and hydrological research. The office specializes in the regulation, management, and protection of water resources, particularly relevant to floodplain restoration efforts in the DALIA project.
BIOPEL Company	Skurinjska cesta 58 51000 <a href="https://www.biopel.sk/sk/">https://www.biopel.sk/sk/</a>	Biomass energy production and green technologies. The company specializes in producing biomass fuel pellets and energy, contributing to sustainable energy solutions in the DALIA project.
Žilina self-governing region, department of regional development	Hollého 652/2, 010 01 Žilina <a href="http://www.zilinskazupa.sk">www.zilinskazupa.sk</a>	Regional planning, economic development, and sustainable infrastructure. The region supports socio-economic transformation through sustainable development practices, aligning with DALIA's goals.
Žilina University, Department of Energy Technology,	Univerzitná 1 010 26 Žilina <a href="http://www.kves.uniza.sk/?lang=en">http://www.kves.uniza.sk/?lang=en</a>	Renewable energy, energy technology, and efficiency. The university provides academic and technological expertise on energy-related topics crucial for sustainable development in the DALIA project.
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Hydraulic and Water Resources Engineering	3 Műgyetem rkp., K building ground floor 12. Budapest, H-1111, Hungary <a href="https://vit.bme.hu/?language=en">https://vit.bme.hu/?language=en</a>	Hydraulic engineering, water resources management, and sustainable infrastructure. The department contributes expertise in water system management, particularly relevant to



		flood management and ecological restoration in the DALIA project.
Hungarian Association of Environmental Enterprises (HAEE)	Keleti Károly u. 11/A., 1024 Budapest, <a href="https://kszgysz.hu/en/">https://kszgysz.hu/en/</a>	Environmental protection, sustainable industry practices, and green technologies. HAEE promotes environmental innovation, waste management, and sustainability, aligning with the project's environmental goals.
Danube Region Strategy // Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary	1027 Budapest, Bem rkp. 47. <a href="https://danube-region.eu/contact/national-coordinators/">https://danube-region.eu/contact/national-coordinators/</a>	Regional cooperation, sustainable development, and environmental policies in the Danube Region. The strategy coordinates cross-border cooperation in water management, climate resilience, and socio-economic transformation.
Ministry of Interior Hungary	1051 Budapest, József Attila u 2-4.	National coordination of water management, environmental security, and public administration. The ministry plays a key role in policy implementation and regulatory frameworks concerning water and environmental management.
ICPDR	Wagramer Strasse 5, 1220 Vienna, Austria <a href="https://www.icpdr.org/about-icpdr/organisation/secretariat">https://www.icpdr.org/about-icpdr/organisation/secretariat</a>	Water protection, river basin management, and environmental governance in the Danube River. ICPDR supports the sustainable management of water resources and ecosystems in the Danube River Basin.
University of Szeged	H-6722, Szeged Egyetem u. 2-6. <a href="https://geosci.u-szeged.hu/gisgeo/oktato-kutatok/dr-kiss-timea-egyetemi-230203">https://geosci.u-szeged.hu/gisgeo/oktato-kutatok/dr-kiss-timea-egyetemi-230203</a>	Geosciences, GIS, and environmental analysis. The university provides expertise in mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) for assessing environmental impacts and supporting ecosystem-based projects.
Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine"	Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 25, Novi Sad 21000, Serbia <a href="https://vodevojvodine.com/">https://vodevojvodine.com/</a>	Water management, flood control, and ecological restoration. The company is responsible for managing water resources in Vojvodina, Serbia, contributing to the ecological sustainability goals of the DALIA project.
Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine"	Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 25, Novi Sad 21000, Serbia	

\*The initially confirmed list of experts is subject to change and iterations as the group of engaged experts changes and increases based on the tailored needs of each DPS

# PARTNERS



This project has been funded by the European Union.

[DALIA-DANUBE.EU](https://dalia-danube.eu)

