



D 3.16 Report: Second scientific and financial report of WP3



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1. INTRODUCTION

This document serves as second scientific and financial report of WP3 within the framework of the ITINERIS (Italian Integrated Environmental Research Infrastructures System) project and provides a comprehensive account of the activities conducted and the financial resources managed during the project's second year.

This deliverable is expected to be released in Bimester 20 and to be included into the Intermediate Objective 3.9; it is produced under the responsibility of the Operative Unit (OU) of the National Research Council, Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems (CNR-IRET).

The document highlights the evolution during the second year of the project of training activities, the management of WP3 personnel, and the administrative finalization of essential services aimed at strengthening the human capital of Italian Research Infrastructures and school students, as a model target community of citizen engagement. It is structured into 4 chapters, including this one. Chapter 2 details the scientific activities, including the coordination of RTD personnel, the supervision of XXXVIII and XXXIX Ph.D. cycles, and the successful launch of the ITINERIS training platforms and the training courses. Chapter 3 provides a financial analysis of personnel costs, Ph.D. fellowship allocations, and the procurement of goods and services in WP3. Chapter 4 presents an updated list of acronyms to assist the reader.

2. TRAINING SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Work Package 3 demonstrated steady progress throughout the second year of the project. Although some rescheduling variations were reported compared to the original planning, these did not compromise the overall success of the WP activities. The main efforts in this period focused on providing the training programme along with the relevant Digital Training Objects (DTOs), and on developing the two training platforms (i.e. ITINERIS training platform and ITINERIS Semantic Training Platform on Environmental Science) within WP3 with all the relative services.

The various activities carried out under the coordination of OU CNR-IRET (Lecce), which is responsible for WP3, through December 2024, are outlined below:

- **UO's coordination and collaboration:** Effective coordination across all involved Operational Units (OUs) was maintained through bimonthly meetings and a flexible communication framework, ranging from daily to weekly interactions. This approach ensured seamless collaboration with external partners, including Apphia S.R.L. (software development) and Forma.Lab S.R.L. (secretariat support for training activities 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8), as well as the lecturers involved in the training programme.
- **Support for Ph.D. fellowships:** The OUs involved in the training activities of WP3, under the coordination of CNR-IRET Lecce, have supported all the 20 Ph.D. students from the five universities involved in ITINERIS training activities (University of Naples Federico II, University of Naples Parthenope, University of Pisa, University of Salento, and University of Tuscia) who were awarded the co-funded fellowships for the XXXVIII and XXXIX Ph.D. cycles;
- **Training programme development:** The training programme designed for the scientific and technical staff of ITINERIS partner Research Infrastructures (RIs), as outlined in Activity 3.6, as well as specialized courses for RI science communication professionals under Activity 3.8, has been organized and driven by the Level III Technologists across all involved OUs, in close collaboration with ITINERIS Scientific Domain leaders and for the details of the single courses with the selected lecturers. During this period the programme was reorganized in time and thematic according to the need of the Research Infrastructures. Furthermore, the programme for WP3 Ph.D student (XXXVIII and XXXIX Ph.D. cycles) was covering all key environmental domains, including eScience, Atmospheric, Marine, Terrestrial, Solid Earth, VREs and Cross-disciplinary activities. This phase of the training programme (Activity 3.7) was completed with the strategic support of the Ph.D. coordinators from the five participating universities.
- **Procurement of good and services:** Activities focused on the procurement of essential assets and services required to meet WP3 objectives, including the provision of the ITINERIS Training Platform and its associated catalogue, alongside the specialized services for the organization and delivery of the courses scheduled under Activities 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8. In line with FAIR principles, all digital training objects produced during the WP3 courses will be properly metadated and made publicly available. This dissemination process will strictly respect the authors' preferences by attributing appropriate usage licenses to each resource. Additionally, efforts were directed toward the development of the ITINERIS Semantic Training Platform on Environmental Science, including its specific semantic content development.

2.1 WP3 RTD personnel

The WP3 RTD hiring scheme is detailed in Table 1, while complete information is provided in the dedicated section of Chapter 3. Assigned technologists manage the lifecycle of training courses dedicated to both infrastructure staff and Ph.D. students belonging to their specific

scientific domains and it should be emphasized that all technologists operated within a framework of mutual support, collaborating closely to carry out the various training activities. All the efforts were conducted under the direct coordination of the CNR-IRET Lecce, which ensured the perfect integration of tasks and the achievement of the Work Package objectives.

Table 1 – RTD positions allocation in WP3

| <i>Activity</i> | <i>OU</i> | <i>RTD positions</i> |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Activity 3.1 | CNR-IRETLE | n. 3 |
| Activity 3.2 | CNR-IMAA | n. 2 |
| Activity 3.3 | CNR-IRET RM | n. 2 |
| Activity 3.4 | CNR-ISMARVE | n. 1 |
| Activity 3.5 | CNR-IGG | n. 1 |

Regarding the replacement of the third technologist position previously held by Elena Beli at CNR-IRET, it has been decided not to re-advertise the vacancy. This decision aims to avoid placing further strain on administrative staff and to prevent the overloading of ongoing administrative processes. Activities have proceeded as planned with the support of the CNR-IRET permanent staff.

To ensure the effective coordination of all the UOs' personnel involved, bimonthly online WP meetings were complemented by constant web-based communication. The frequency of these interactions was adjusted based on the intensity of ongoing tasks, ranging from weekly to daily exchanges. This continuous communication framework also facilitated seamless collaboration with the economic operators awarded the contracts for WP3 goods and services. Specifically, these include Apphia S.R.L., for the software development of the ITINERIS training platform, and Forma.Lab. S.R.L., which provided secretariat support for the Specialist Training Services as outlined in WP3 activities 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8 and will manage the uploading of metadata and the development of digital training objects for the ITINERIS Semantic Training Platform.

2.2 XVIII and XXXIX WP3 Ph.D. students

Coordination activities for the XXXVIII and XXXIX Ph.D. cycles within the WP3 of ITINERIS project focus on the management and monitoring of 20 fellowships activated across the five partner universities, University of Naples Federico II, University of Naples Parthenope, University of Pisa, University of Salento, and University of Tuscia. The complete information, including names and hiring dates of the selected students for the XXXVIII Ph.D. and the XXXIX Ph.D. cycles, are reported in the dedicated section of Chapter 3.

The monitoring system, supervised by the CNR-IRET Lecce Operational Unit, requires Ph.D. students to submit bimonthly and annual reports to document their research progress, scientific publications, and attendance at training courses .

It is reported that WP3 Ph.D. students actively participate in project meeting, such as the “2nd ITINERIS General Meeting” held on July 9-20, 2024 in Rome, where they present their research activities through poster sessions.

The WP3 Training Centre ensures a curriculum that balances domain-specific expertise with cross-disciplinary skills through courses scheduled to decrease and avoid conflicts with scientific and field activities. It is also underlined that the activities provides full economic support for attending the transdisciplinary summer and winter schools organized in Activity 3.7.

From December 9 to 12, 2024, Ph.D. students from the University of Pisa attended the first course under Activity 3.7, titled “*Advanced technologies for monitoring and prediction of ground instabilities*”. This course explores landslide types, analyses triggering and runout mechanisms through modelling, and examines detection, monitoring, and early warning systems for ground movement.

2.3 Training programme

During the second year of the project, a significant operational milestone was achieved with the successful awarding of a tender for the logistical and administrative management of ITINERIS training courses for activities 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8, as detailed in Chapter 3. Under the supervision of the CNR-IRET Operational Unit and WP coordinators, the team of Level III Technologists recruited under Activities 3.1–3.5, finalized the advanced training courses. These programs target the scientific and technical staff of ITINERIS Research Infrastructures (RIs), as outlined in Activity 3.6, and RIs employees focused on science communication, as planned in Activity 3.8. Furthermore, in collaboration with Ph.D. coordinators from the University of Naples Federico II, University of Naples Parthenope, University of Pisa, University of Salento, and University of Tuscia, the team finalized the activity 3.7 training program for early-career scientists of the XXXVIII and XXXIX WP3 Ph.D. cycles.

The training program officially launched in October 2024 with the inaugural course, “*Access to Research Infrastructures: process and modalities-I*” held in person in Rome from October 23 to 25. While Activity 3.7 training activities commenced in December 2024 with the course “*Advanced technologies for monitoring and prediction of ground instabilities*”, Activity 3.8 is scheduled to begin in early 2025. Throughout 2024, a total of **eight** training courses were delivered, comprising seven courses under Activity 3.6 and one under Activity 3.7 as reported in the relative Deliverables D3.12 and D3.13.

The comprehensive training schedule, as detailed in previous deliverables and hosted on the ITINERIS training platform (<https://training.itineris.cnr.it>), provides exhaustive information for each course, including descriptions, learning objectives, locations, durations, training modules, assigned instructors, and the full syllabus.

To maintain high quality standards, a rigorous feedback mechanism was established. Following each training course, all participants completed a detailed survey directly on the ITINERIS training platform. This 37-question evaluation is divided into four sections: course objectives and general assessment, quality of instruction, resources and materials, and organizational efficiency. The survey utilizes 24 multiple-choice questions (rated 1 to 5) alongside 13 open-ended questions to gather qualitative insights.

The training materials, designated as Digital Training Objects (DTOs), are produced prior to the start of each course by the selected lecturers. They are currently undergoing a metadating process to ensure full compliance with FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) within the ITINERIS catalogue. Furthermore, these objects will be subject to a formal review and copyright clearance process.

2.4 Purchase of goods and services

The following sections provide an update on the goods and services dedicated to knowledge transfer and engagement within the ITINERIS research infrastructures and universities. The operational release of the ITINERIS training platform, the administrative finalization of new training platform developments and the provision of the advanced training courses, represent the WP3's commitment to provide high-quality educational resources and the continuous development of human capital across Italian Research Infrastructure nodes increasing the competitiveness of research groups.

ITINERIS training platform

The ITINERIS training platform has been released and is available on the ITINERIS HUB (<https://training.itineris.cnr.it>). The ITINERIS Training Platform serves as the central digital hub for specialized training within the Italian environmental Research Infrastructures. It is designed to support researchers, technologists, and Ph.D. students offering a multidisciplinary catalogue of resources on ESFRI Environmental domain. By delivering the specialized courses and sharing the relative Digital Training Objects (DTOs), the platform aims to enhance the expertise of the RI's human capital, ensuring centralized and semantic access to high quality educational resources for the entire scientific community.

ITINERIS Semantic Training Platform on Environmental Science

Regarding the ITINERIS semantic training platform on Environmental Science, designed for knowledge transfer and engagement in environmental science to the primary and secondary school students, as model target community of citizen engagement, the decision to award the software development contract via a negotiated procedure was submitted on November 18, 2024. The Evaluation Committee, appointed in December 2024, is finalizing the technical and economic assessments of the bidders. Contract signature is expected in early 2025.

Training services for Activities 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8

The tender for the procurement of specialized training services, conducted as an open invitation above the community threshold on the Consip SPA platform (pursuant to Art. 71 of Legislative Decree 36/2023), has been awarded to Forma.Lab S.R.L.. These services,

structured into three functional lots as defined by UO CNRIRET-LE for Activities 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8, target ITINERIS technical-scientific staff, doctoral students, and science communication personnel. The delivery of first training activities successfully started in October 2024.

More details are described in the specific financial areas in Chapter 3.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

A detailed financial reporting for WP3 activities is organized into three paragraphs. The personnel costs related to the hiring of Level III personnel are analyzed in Paragraph 3.1, reflecting the human resources involved in Activities 3.1 to 3.5. Paragraph 3.2 focuses on the economic coverage of the ITINERIS Ph.D. fellowships (XXXVIII and XXXIX WP3 Ph.D cycles), highlighting the project's investment in early-career researchers. Paragraph 3.3 summarizes the administrative and logistical expenditures for goods and services planned within the WP3.

3.1 Financial report for the recruitment of the WP3 personnel hired

This section provides a comprehensive synthesis of the Lev III RTD personnel within Training Centre, including associated costs categorized by their respective Research Institutes, as detailed in Table 3.1 and 3.2. It is important to note that during this reporting period, the personnel remained stable, with no new recruitments or further resignations recorded.

The personnel costs presented here, have been calculated based on active contracts covering the period from Bimester 8 (January - February 2024).through Bimester 13 (November-December 2024).

- IRET-LE

N. 2 Level III Technologists: Mario Ciotti and Paola Coli.

- IRET-MLB

. 2 Level III Technologists: Erica Volpato and Paolo Sconocchia.

- CNR – IGG

N.1 Level III Technologist: Daniela Andreani.

- CNR - IMAA

N. 1 Level III Researcher: Francesco Cardellicchio.

N. 1 Level III Technologists: Quinzia Palazzo.

- CNR-ISMAR

N. 1 Level III Technologist: Giulia Bologna.

Table 3.1: CNR personnel direct and indirect costs for each bimester and OU.

| Bimester | Personnel CNR IRET-LE/IRET-RM | | Personnel CNR-IGG | | Personnel CNR-IMAA | | Personnel CNR-ISMAR | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € |
| B8 | 37.389,00 | 2.617,23 | 9.471,00 | 662,97 | 24.255,00 | 1.697,85 | 12.441,00 | 870,87 |
| B9 | 33.876,00 | 2.371,32 | 10.584,00 | 740,88 | 21.348,00 | 1.494,36 | 9.000,00 | 630,00 |
| B10 | 38.484,00 | 2.693,88 | 6.804,00 | 476,28 | 23.220,00 | 1.625,40 | 10.548,00 | 738,36 |
| B11 | 35.604,00 | 2.492,28 | 9.252,00 | 647,64 | 15.048,00 | 1.053,36 | 7.704,00 | 539,28 |
| B12 | 45.360,00 | 3.175,20 | 11.952,00 | 836,64 | 20.376,00 | 1.426,32 | 10.260,00 | 718,20 |
| B13 | 33.300,00 | 2.331,00 | 10.188,00 | 713,16 | 19.116,00 | 1.338,12 | 9.108,00 | 637,56 |
| <i>Total €</i> | <i>224.013,00</i> | <i>15.680,91</i> | <i>58.251,00</i> | <i>4.077,57</i> | <i>123.363,00</i> | <i>8.635,41</i> | <i>59.061,00</i> | <i>4.134,27</i> |

Table 3.2: CNR personnel total costs of the CNR personnel organized for each Bimester B8-B13.

| CNR | B8 | | B9 | | B10 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € |
| IRET-LE/RM IGG IMAA ISMAR | 83.556,00 | 5.848,92 | 74.808,00 | 5.236,56 | 79.056,00 | 5.533,92 |
| CNR | B11 | | B12 | | B13 | |
| | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € | Direct costs € | Indirect costs € |
| IRET-LE/RM IGG IMAA ISMAR | 67.608,00 | 4.732,56 | 87.948,00 | 6.156,36 | 71.712,00 | 5.019,84 |

3.2 Financial reporting of XVIII and XXXIX Ph.D. cycles

This section presents a detailed financial overview of the ITINERIS PhD fellowships for the XXXVIII and XXXIX cycles within WP3. It outlines the expenditures for the universities participating in WP3 training activities, providing a clear synthesis of fund allocation during the project's second year. Table 3.3 summarizes the personnel costs, expressed as annual payments, for the period from Bimester 8 to Bimester 13.

Table 3.3: Ph.D. personnel costs

| Ph.D. Cycle | Personnel second year costs | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | Direct costs | Indirect costs € |
| University of Pisa | 60.112,44 | 4.207,87 |
| University of Salento | 64.981,74 | 4.548,72 |
| Tot € | 125.094,18 | 8.756,59 |

During the second year of the project (2024), funding was allocated to cover the second-year payments for the University of Pisa and the University of Salento. Payments for the University of Tuscia and the University of Naples Parthenope could not yet be processed. The University of Naples Federico II has already received its first and second annual payments, consistent with the reporting in D3.8.

Here is reported the comprehensive list of all Ph.D. students enrolled in both the XXXVIII (Table 3.4) and XXXIX (Table 3.5) Ph.D cycles.

Table 3.4: Students and relative University for the XXXVIII Ph.D. cycle

| University | Ph.D. students |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| University of Naples Federico II | Alessia Pignatelli |
| University of Naples Federico II | Ali Zeeshan |
| University of Naples Federico II | Matteo Manzo |
| University of Pisa | Amedeo Martella |
| University of Pisa | Marco Chimenti |
| University of Pisa | Matteo Salvadori |
| University of Salento | Ludovico Lezzi |
| University of Salento | Marco Elia |
| University of Salento | Zeinab Arianpouya |
| University of Tuscia | Claudia Fiorella Huamani Cahuas |
| University of Tuscia | Deborah Eko Omobola |
| University of Tuscia | Lucrezia Luciani |

Table 3.5: Students and relative University for the XXXIX Ph.D. cycle

| University | Ph.D. students |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| University of Naples Parthenope | Elena calvo |
| University of Naples Parthenope | Matteo Sabatini |
| University of Salento | Alessandro Fiore |
| University of Salento | Francesco Giangrande |
| University of Salento | Grazia Bramato |
| University of Tuscia | Daria Ferraris |
| University of Tuscia | Laura Briante |
| University of Tuscia | Nour Zaher |

3.3 Financial commitment for goods and services

During the second year of the project, the development of the initial open procedures was successfully completed. Furthermore, new administrative procedures were launched for the procurement of the ITINERIS Semantic Training Platform on Environmental Science as planned under Activity 3.8.

DIRECT ASSIGNMENT OF THE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE AND SERVICES NECESSARY FOR THE CREATION OF THE TRAINING PLATFORM AND THE METADATA CATALOG OF THE ITINERIS TRAINING RESOURCES.

CIG: IRETLE_A0326E8221

WP: 3.01

COST: 98.000 € (VAT included)

PUBLICATION DATE: 30.11.2023

STATUS: The platform has been paid on 29.10.2024 and it is available on the ITINERIS HUB (<https://training.itineris.cnr.it>)

OPEN INVITATION ABOVE COMMUNITY THRESHOLD ON THE ASP TELEMATIC PLATFORM OF CONSIP SPA PURSUANT TO ART. 71 OF LEGISLATIVE DECREE N. 36/2023 AND S.M.I. FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF SPECIALIST TRAINING SERVICES FOR THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC STAFF OF THE ITINERIS INFRASTRUCTURES, FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

AND INFRASTRUCTURE STAFF DEDICATED TO THE SCIENCE COMMUNICATION DIVIDED INTO 3 FUNCTIONAL LOTS.

BATCH 1- *“Training courses for the technical and scientific staff of ITINERIS infrastructures”*. The purpose of this batch is to provide organizational services for an initial set of 18 training courses, each with an average duration of 24 hours, spread over 5 days (from Monday arrival and commencement to Friday conclusion and departure). Additionally, there is the potential to extend this service to a second block, accommodating up to 36 courses as outlined in the training plan of the funded ITINERIS project, all maintaining an average duration of 24 hours.

CIG: IRETRM_B0C25D0E0A

WP: 3.06

VALUE OF THE PROCUREMENT: 1.400.000 € (VAT included)

PUBLICATION DATE: 22.12.2023

WINNING TENDERER’S PROPOSAL: 1.354.488,00 € (VAT included)

STATUS: The tender was awarded on August 2, 2024, and the contract with Forma.Lab S.R.L. was finalized on October 29, 2024. The 20% advance payment of the total contract price, equal to € 270.897,60 was paid on 27.11.2024

BATCH 2 - *“Advanced training courses for Ph.D. students”*. The objective of this batch is to provide organizational services for an initial block of 18 training courses, each with an average duration of 24 hours, spread over a period of 5 days (from Monday arrival and commencement to Friday conclusion and departure). Additionally, there's potential for extending this service to a second block comprising up to 36 courses as outlined in the training plan of the funded ITINERIS project, all with an average duration of 24 hours.

CIG: IRETRM_B0C25D2FB0

WP: 3.07

VALUE OF THE PROCUREMENT: 941.490 € (VAT included)

PUBLICATION DATE: 22.12.2023

WINNING TENDERER’S PROPOSAL: 922.660,20 € (VAT included)

STATUS: The tender was awarded on August 2, 2024, and the contract with Forma.Lab S.R.L. was finalized on October 29, 2024. The 20% advance payment of the total contract price, equal to € 184.532,04 was paid on 11.12.2024

BATCH 3 - *“Training courses for infrastructure staff dedicated to science communication”*. The aim of this contract is to provide organizational services for an initial set comprising 6 intensive training courses and 2 summer-winter schools, each averaging 32 hours in duration, spread over 5 days (from Monday arrival and commencement to Friday conclusion

and departure). Furthermore, there's the potential to extend this service to a second set encompassing a total of 14 courses, consisting of 12 intensive courses and 2 summer-winter schools, all with an average duration of 32 hours. This extension also includes the development of content for the semantic training platform of ITINERIS, as outlined in the funded project and subject to a separate tender for its realization.

CIG: IRETLE_B0C25D1EDD

WP: 3.08

VALUE OF THE PROCUREMENT: 625.000 € (VAT included)

PUBLICATION DATE: 22.12.2023

WINNING TENDERER'S PROPOSAL: 600.000,00 € (VAT included)

STATUS: The tender was awarded on August 2, 2024, and the contract with Forma.Lab S.R.L. was finalized on October 29, 2024. This component of the tender also provides for the organization of scientific talks and the development of the Training Digital Objects required for Activities 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8, ensuring their alignment with project aims. The 20% advance payment of the total contract price, equal to € 120.000,01 was paid on 12.12.2024

DECISION TO CONTRACT FOR THE AWARDING OF THE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FOR A SEMANTIC TRAINING PLATFORM THROUGH A NEGOTIATED PROCEDURE WITHOUT PUBLICATION OF A CALL FOR TENDERS, PURSUANT TO ART. 76, PARAGRAPH 2, LETTER B, POINT 2, OF LEGISLATIVE DECREE 36/2023 WITHIN THE NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN (PNRR) MISSION 4 COMPONENT 2 INVESTMENT 3.1 "FUND FOR THE REALISATION OF AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURES" PROJECT IR0000032– ITINERIS, CUP B53C22002150006

CIG: IRETLE_B410D5989D

CUP: B53C22002150006

WP: 3.08

VALUE OF THE PROCUREMENT: 561.600,00 € (VAT included)

WINNING TENDERER'S PROPOSAL: 488.591,70 € (VAT included)

PUBLICATION DATE: 29.07.2024

STATUS: Proposals were submitted by November 18, 2024. The Evaluation Committee, appointed in December 2024, started the technical and economic

assessments during December 2024. The contract is expected to be awarded in early 2025.

4. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASP: Application Service Provider

CIG: Tender Identification Code (In italian - Codice Identificativo Gara)

CUP: Unique Project Code (in italian - Codice Unico di Progetto)

DTO: Digital Training Objects

ESFRI: European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable

ITINERIS: Italian Integrated Environmental Research Infrastructures System

OU: Operative Unit

PNRR: National Recovery and Resilience Plan (In italian - Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza)

RI: Research Infrastructure

VAT: Value Added Tax

VRE: Virtual Research Environment

WP: Work Package