

# RIVIERADE Kick off Meeting

*16 - 17 - 18 February 2026, Trieste*

A brief overview of the presentations delivered during the Kick-off Meeting (KoM) is presented below. Specific aspects and technical issues raised during the working sessions of each WP are also included.

For further details, please refer to the relevant PPT presentations available in the shared project repository.

## *DAY 1 - 16 February*

### **Welcome and Icebreaker event**

<b>Participants registration</b>	Registration of participants and distribution of the welcome kit (OGS gadgets).
<b>Welcome intro - PC</b>	The Project Coordinator (PC) welcomed all Project Partners (PPs) representatives and briefly outlined the objectives and activities planned during the KoM.
<b>Partner's introduction</b>	Each PP introduced their institution and the team members involved in the Project.

## *DAY 2 - 17 February*

### **Sessions**

<b>Welcome intro - <i>Stefano Salon</i></b>	The PC presented the agenda for the second day and introduced the EC Project Officer (PO).
<b>EC Project Officer presentation - <i>Ciara Phelan</i></b>	<p>The EC PO provided a brief introduction to the role of REA, together with an overview of the results of the call Horizon-CL6-2024-CLIMATE-01-6 and the Horizon context of RIVIERADE (i.e. projects funded under the same topic).</p> <p>The PO then presented an overview of the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant Agreement provisions</li><li>• Reporting obligations and related deadlines</li><li>• Eligibility of costs and how to avoid common recurring errors</li><li>• Acknowledgement of EU funding and disclaimer requirements</li><li>• Amendments</li></ul>

	<p>The PO concluded her presentation with several important recommendations for successful project management (e.g. email updates every 3 months and when necessary, keep the periodic reporting clear and comprehensible, tag REA social media leaflet, suggest names of independent experts for the review).</p>
<p><b>Vision, Objectives, and Expected Impact - Stefano Salon</b></p>	<p>The PC provided an overview of the state of the art and gaps (i.e. resolution, missing biogeochemical data, uncertainty, decadal horizon, coastal risk limitations) motivating the project proposal, the project specific objectives, the project ambition and innovative aspects. The PC then discussed the project vision and how it translates in practice for science, economy, society, the project impacts for science, economy, society and how to measure and maximize them.</p>
<p><b>WP1 Project Management and Governance - Caterina Fanara</b></p>	<p>The Project Manager (PM) provided an overview of the objectives and tasks of WP1. Particular attention was given to the description and appointment of the Governance and Technical Bodies. She also presented the key aspects of the project's financial management and reporting activities.</p>
<p><b>WP1 Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation (CDE) Strategy - Francesca Petrera, Alessandra Tognolli</b></p>	<p>The Communication Manager (CM) provided an overview of the CDE (communication - dissemination - exploitation) strategy, highlighting objectives, activities, deliverables, milestones and KPIs.</p>
<p><b>WP3 Overview - Panos Athanasiadis</b></p>	<p>WP3 Leader presented the overview of WP3 activities and discussed the scientific aspects of decadal predictions, specifically highlighting the benefits of better initializations and the focus on analysing the predictable component of climate internal variability.</p>
<p>WP3 Dedicated working session - All</p>	<p>The discussion covered many interesting aspects for the three target seas: which variables and indicators will be made available; when to initialize the simulations; how it can be the impact of increased resolution. ULiege discussed the approach for BLK, IOW for BAL (with focus on the sea surface salinity prediction skill) and CMCC for MED and BLK, highlighting trends related to AMV and NAO as important predictable components.</p> <p><b>Two actions were agreed</b> in order to support the internal project scientific community on the topic of the decadal predictions: 1) CMCC will organize a webinar within June 2026; 2) LP will make available a shared folder where to gather scientific papers and materials concerning decadal prediction.</p>
<p><b>WP4 Overview - Samuel Somot</b></p>	<p>WP4 leader presented the overview of WP4 activities and highlighted the importance of reaching a consensus on the simulation protocol and finalized modelling platforms as required by Milestone 10 (MS10, December 2026). Milestone 11 (MS11, June 2027) is also very important to avoid delays in production. Within</p>

	MS11 it is also strategic to have storage available at Cineca.
WP4 Dedicated working session - <i>All</i>	The discussion covered strategic aspects of WP4 activities: different products for different users, with uncertainty quantification; coordination with sister projects for protocol (especially for ocean stand-alone simulations); model naming and versioning; keep the ensemble as large as possible; use ERA5 e ORAS4/5 in the hindcast; a priori bias correction will be explained in the protocol.
<b>WP5 Overview - Donata Canu</b>	WP5 leader presented the overview of WP5 activities and focused on the importance of 1) coordination with WP3 and WP4 for protocol, ensuring coherence in decadal/multi-decadal production; 2) alignment of scenarios (including rivers, important for the three target seas); 3) BGC variables naming; 4) agree on a single protocol within Task 4.1 and 5.1.
WP5 Dedicated working session - <i>All</i>	<p>The discussion covered different aspects: necessity from users to have data from the worst possible scenario (critical infrastructures); focus on practicability (e.g. interest from insurance companies); regional warming levels vs global warming levels. All PPs involved in WP5 presented their contributions.</p> <p><b>Agreed action:</b> establish a working group on scenario, also to coordinate with sister projects (involving Erika Coppola from ICTP as external expert as well).</p>

### DAY 3 - 18 February

#### Sessions

<b>WP2 Overview - Alessandro Dell'Aquila</b>	WP2 leader presented an overview of WP2 activities. Important topics were also discussed concerning: the distinction between stakeholders and users, aiming at minimum 3 users per each target sea; the definition of a common template for contacting users; the organization of a side event at EGU, possibly in 2029; coordination with WP3-4-5-6 to define the catalogue (variables, indicators, demonstrators), possibly within summer 2026.
WP2 Dedicated working session – Task2.1 - <i>Stefano Salon, All</i>	<p>In agreement with WP2 leader, it is decided that Deliverable 2.1 will be kept updated as a living document, also sharing networks with sister projects. The PC presented the questionnaire provided to the stakeholders and users already contacted during the proposal phase and discussed the feedback received by SLU for BAL, MMU for BLK, CORILA and BIG for MED.</p> <p><b>Actions agreed:</b> PC will prepare a few slides / marketing package presenting the project and why climate change matters (examples, use cases, stories,...); PC will make available some shared folders where to upload materials for the three target seas.</p>

WP2 Formal constitution of the USAB	USAB was formally constituted including: SLU for BAL, MMU for BLK, CORILA and BIG for MED.
<b>WP6 Overview - Bettina Fach</b>	<p>WP6 leader presented the overview of WP6 activities and specifically stressed on: the importance of receiving inputs from WP3-4-5 on time; sharing existing demonstrators already in place (e.g. BS-BRIDGE DTO); defining and developing few simple indicators that may reflect the differences among the three target seas.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> WP6 leader will define responsables for subtasks 6.1.1 and 6.1.2, with also PP involved.</p>
WP6 Dedicated working session - All	The discussion focused on the importance of involving stakeholders in the proposed use cases, given that different groups may have different perceptions of safety. All agreed on the added value of high resolution (both for input data, e.g. wind, and for outputs) and the way to communicate uncertainty based on scenarios ensemble. <b>Proposed action</b> for the assessment of indicators: remove some simulations and to make a posteriori bias correction. WP6 partners made a brief overview of their contributions for the WP6 activities, also considering synergies with other projects.
Cross-WP Discussion: Protocols and Model Integration - WP Leaders	The topics planned in this slot were already extensively covered within the single WP slots. All PPs agreed on the necessity to be coordinated to define the simulation protocols (Tasks 3.1, 4.1, 5.1) for ocean-atmosphere coupled models, ocean stand-alone and ocean biogeochemistry. In terms of model integration, all agreed on: establishing the list of input and output variables for the models and discussing the selection of GCMs.
<b>WP1 Initial Data Management Plan (DMP) and Risk Management - Stefano Salon</b>	<p>The PC presented the actions to prepare the initial version of the DMP (Deliverable 1.2): a questionnaire will be sent to PPs to gather the preliminary information on data and products delivered by the project, in alignment with Open Science objectives and exploitation strategies.</p> <p>The PC gave an overview of the Risk Register (RR), as included in the DoA, and will ask all WP leaders to review a first version of the document and keep it updated, while suggesting new risks under the continuous reporting.</p> <p>The Gantt chart of the project was discussed, highlighting the main milestones, in particular in the first 18 months.</p> <p>A proposition of deliverable preparation and review process was also presented and discussed, stressing on the responsibility of the Task Leader and the WP Leader, and the necessity to keep the process monitored by the LP. <b>This issue will be rediscussed in the following periodic meeting and a draft of the procedure for the preparation and approval of project deliverables presented.</b></p>

<p><b>WP1 Project Meetings Schedule &amp; Next Steps - <i>Caterina Fanara</i></b></p>	<p>The PM provided an overview of the key aspects of the internal communication, including the shared web-based system, mailing lists and the Management Handbook. She also presented the Work Plan for the first year, outlining the planned meetings and short-term activities.</p>
<p>Short discussion on how RIVIERADE can contribute to IPCC-AR7 - <i>All</i></p>	<p>The next AR7 will have more emphasis on topics concerning the regional and coastal ocean dimension. Presently, WG1 has a schedule ranging from March to October 2027, with some minimal requirements in terms of data production (data must be published on ESGF or be open). WG2 schedule is expected to start later in 2028. After the discussion, there is no consensus in proposing a fast action for the project data production. All PPs agreed on gathering scientific papers published after January 2021 for the three target seas.</p> <p><b>Action agreed:</b> to have a list of papers for IPCC AR7 within the June internal progress meeting.</p> <p>Notes: GCM CMIP7 will be released in summer 2026.</p>
<p>Final Wrap-up and Adjournment - <i>Stefano Salon</i></p>	<p>The PC scheduled the first quarterly progress meeting to be held between the end of March and the beginning of April. For this extent the PMO will provide a calendar for all the meetings in 2026. It is agreed that the collaborative platforms will be Google Drive for documentation and Zoom for online meetings. The next Annual Meeting is scheduled between January and February 2027: IOW, ENEA, CNRS offered to host the event.</p>