

DELIVERABLE

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Grant Agreement number: 766970

Project Title: Q-SORT. The Quantum Sorter: A New Measurement

Paradigm in Electron Microscopy

Project Handbook

D1.1

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| | | Giancarlo Gazzadi | CNR | |
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| | | Vincenzo Grillo | CNR | the peer reviewers and partners |
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 3 |
|---|----|
| Project management structure | 5 |
| Overall management structure | 5 |
| Project Management Board | 5 |
| Management Team | 6 |
| Work Package and Task Leaders | 8 |
| Advisory Board | 8 |
| Change and risk management | 8 |
| Problem solving | 9 |
| Quality assurance | 9 |
| Project management tools | 10 |
| Internal communication | 10 |
| Mailing lists | 10 |
| Project meetings | 10 |
| Knowledge base and collaborative tools | 11 |
| Project repository | 11 |
| Shared calendar | 11 |
| External communication | 11 |
| Project monitoring | 12 |
| Periodic reporting | 12 |
| Performance Monitoring, Milestones and Indicators | 16 |
| Quality check of deliverables | 19 |
| Deliverable production | 19 |
| Structure of the deliverable | 19 |
| Review and acceptance | 21 |
| Conclusion | 25 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this deliverable is to establish the procedures and methodologies to be adopted during the Q-SORT project lifetime. The objective is to guarantee the successful running and achievement of the project goals while ensuring consensus on activities between project members through the provision of a reference point that establishes the standards and rules to be adopted.

In particular, this deliverable defines a set of rules for the organisation of day-to-day cooperative work within the project, including the procedures to be used, the reporting mechanisms, the organisation of meetings, the control of information flow, the reliability of the output, and the preparation of documentation for submission to the EC.

This deliverable complies with the Q-SORT description of work outlined in Work Package 1, Project management, and it particularly satisfies the specifications outlined in T1.2, regarding the quality assurance.

It is intended to benefit the work of the following interrelated tasks: T1.1 General project management; T1.2 Quality Assurance & RRI Compliance; T1.3 Innovation Management; T6.2 Dissemination and Engagement planning and execution & T3.5 Interdisciplinary Training Webinars and with view to T6.5 IPR management and Exploitation Plan.

The current document is comprised of four main Chapters, an Executive Summary and Conclusions.

The first two Chapters describe the Project management structure and bodies, their responsibilities, and the tools and procedures established for the day-to-day management of the project. Chapter 3 presents the methodologies that have been put in place to monitor Project progress and resource usage against what has been agreed upon in the contract. Chapter 4 outlines the quality assurance process that has been set up to ensure a timely and high-quality delivery of all the Project's results and deliverables.

The project handbook might be updated whenever necessary. Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement take precedence over this document.

1 Project management structure

To ensure a smooth and efficient coordination and integration of the different activities and of existing or emerging scientific capabilities, the project is organised around 6 Work Packages (WPs) with a clear management structure. Here below follows a brief description of the project management bodies and of their main responsibilities with respect to project monitoring and quality control. For more detailed information, please refer to the DoW.

1.1 Overall management structure

The overall management scheme is composed of the Project Management Team, the project Management Board, the Innovation Management and the WP Leaders. Moreover an additional body, the Advisory Board, has been planned to involve those external partners /experts which are willing to cooperate with the project by means of a Cooperation Agreement.

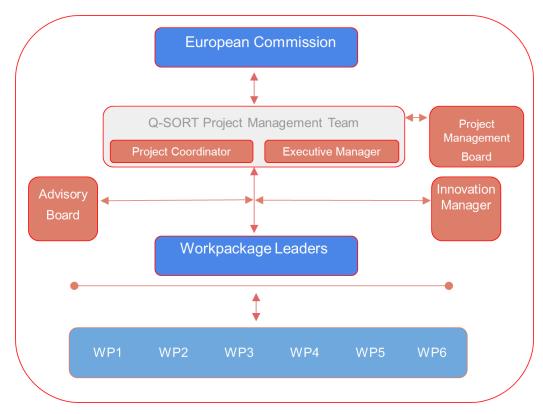


Figure 1. Project management structure

The principles of project management structures, roles, change management, decision-making and conflict resolution rules will be further detailed and formally adopted in the **Consortium Agreement** which is currently being prepared.

1.1.1 Project Management Board

The Project Management Board (PMB) is the strategic decision-making body of the project in charge of all strategic and policy decisions to be made during the project lifetime. It includes one senior member from each partner and it will meet periodically during the project at the plenary project meetings.

The tasks of the PMB include the following responsibilities:

- Strategic orientation of the project;
- Approval of any modifications/deviations to the project workplan, including redefinition of roles;

- Follow-up and validation of the budget (including financial allocation of the EC contribution), and, if necessary, its redefinition;
- Inclusion or exclusion of participants (due to new insight, no functioning, withdrawals, etc.);
- In case of default by a participant, to review participants roles and budget as well as any new entity to replace the defaulting participants;
- To monitor any significant difference between planned and actual advancement of participants' work, particularly with respect of project results and deliverables;
- In case of a deadlock situation within a work package, arbitration on basis of the information provided by the WP Leaders (see Change and risk management below);
- Maintenance of the Background list¹:
- Identification of the Foreground² that could be the subject matter of protection and consequential decisions on dissemination and exploitation activities;
- Allocation of the co-ownership shares over Foreground obtained by several participants;
- Acquisition of rights from third parties and other issues related to the rights of third parties.

| Q-SORT Project Management Board | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Partner | Representative | | | |
| CNR | Vincenzo Grillo | | | |
| FZJ | Rafal Dunin Borkowski | | | |
| FEI | Frank De Jong | | | |
| MPI | Gerd Leuchs | | | |
| UG | Miles Padgett | | | |
| QED Luca M.C. Giberti | | | | |
| UMR | Stefano Frabboni | | | |
| MU | Peter Peters | | | |

1.1.2 Management Team

The Management Team consists of:

- the Project Coordinator, Vincenzo Grillo
- the Executive Manager, Raffaella Santucci

The Project Coordinator is responsible for overall management of the project and has the following responsibilities:

- Administrative Management, which consists of the following main tasks:
 - o Liaise between the consortium and the European Commission.
 - o Coordinate the finalisation of the Consortium Agreement.
 - Assure that the PMB is set up and made fully operative and receive full administrative support.
 - Be responsible for communicating management, administrative, and contractual issues to all the participants.

¹ Information, knowledge, software tools held by the participants prior to their accession to the Grant Agreement and made available to the project.

² Tangible and intangible results generated during the project, including information, materials, knowledge, prototypes, etc.

- o Ensure the signature, by all the contractors, of the Grant Agreement.
- Receive the entire financial contribution from the Commission and manage this
 contribution by allocating it to the participants according to the Grant Agreement and the
 Consortium Agreement.
- · Financial management, which consists of:
 - o Carrying out the overall administrative and financial execution.
 - Preparing annual accounts so that it is possible, at any time, if requested by the Commission or by the participants, to inform them of the distribution of funds among the participants, specifically the amounts allocated and the dates of payment to each contractor.
 - Ensuring that individual financial statements are in line with project activities.
 - Ensuring that, if applicable, certificating institutions will be contacted in reasonable time to carry out the required certificate on financial statements.
- Scientific Coordination, i.e. to ensure hierarchical coordination and management and monitoring of
 the scientific work of partners and WP leaders, the supervision of the project global critical path as
 well as the scientific review of the work performed by the partners including scientific deliverables.
 For the technical administration of the Project, the Coordinator relies upon the Executive Manager.

The Executive Manager will respond to the Project Coordinator and assist him in the management of the technical activities in order to ensure their coherent progress. The Executive Manager will take care of the following tasks:

- Executive Management, i.e. to ensure that the project will deliver the expected outcomes by:
 - Organising technical meeting and phone conferences, providing the means for technical partner communication and sharing.
 - Mediating between technical and other partners and ensuring and modulating the flow of information to make sure project implementation respects the scheduled plans.
 - Supervising the evolution of technical activities: typically, design and implementation activities may imply changes impacting on other implementation activities. Corrective actions must be taken to overcome the obstacles and still achieve the expected results.
 - Collecting and transmitting the project deliverables to the Commission.
- Project Monitoring, i.e. to organise and schedule the activities, meetings, inputs and outputs of the overall project by:
 - Organising and timetabling the project meetings.
 - Preparing and distributing agenda and minutes for project meetings.
 - Requesting regular reporting from all partners to verify tasks, WP, monitor delays, and obtain precise corrective actions.
 - Monitoring resources usage to assure that this fits both the activity plan and the results provided by the partner and to verify that the actual costs relate correctly to the expected costs.
 - Collecting and reviewing the scientific and financial reports, to verify their consistency with the project tasks and to finally submit them to the Commission.
 - o Preparing a self-assessment RRI survey based on RRI Toolkit's Self-Reflection Tool.

In addition, because of the importance of innovation in the project activities, Q-SORT appointed a dedicated **Innovation Manager (IM)**: Frank de Jong (FEI) will be in charge of the IM. The IM will support innovation in peer review process and dissemination of research results is key aim of the project. IM's main responsibilities will be to ensure that each individual partner, but also the project as whole, unfolds the innovation potential that lies in the planned project activities. The IM will in particularly make sure that the results of the project meet real requirements coming from the targeted communities and support the process of turning the outcomes into successful solutions and products.

1.1.3 Work Package and Task Leaders

The Work Package Leaders (WPL) are responsible for coordinating the work and the WP tasks, managing the dependencies across the work packages and resolving all issues at the operational level. They report to the Project Coordinator. The WPL monitor that the task leaders respect the rules of the Project Handbook, and report on results achieved and resources spent. The WPL meet physically during project meetings and virtually on a monthly/bimonthly basis and communicate electronically to conduct the day-to-day running of the Consortium. Ad-hoc meetings will be held if needed at a more operational level to coordinate progress on specific work packages or issues. The need for such meetings is determined by the Project Coordinator and the Executive Manager in consultation with the WP leaders.

The WPL (one responsible for each WP) guarantee the scientific compliance of the activities. The WPLs are appointed on the basis of their experience and know-how about the corresponding WP topic. The WPLs monitor the progress being made within each WP and are responsible for identifying risks and contingency steps to circumvent any delays. The WPLs follow the day-to-day planning, progress, control and successful completion of their work packages and the optimal interaction within the project of their research team.

The WPLs are in charge of:

- Coordinating activities within the WP.
- Continuously monitoring the progress of the WP participants.
- Ensuring that milestones and deliverables of the WP are fulfilled and provided in due time.
- Elaborating progress reports on the state of advancement of the WP.
- Arranging, if needed, special meetings to determine suitable measures to be taken.
- Organising audio conferences, if considered necessary for the work progress.

The Task Leaders are responsible for coordination and for carrying out the activities of a Work Package task, as described in the Description of Work (DoW). He/she establishes the detailed schedule of the task activities, leads the task team, submits task deliverables for project internal peer review and formalizes reaching task milestones.

1.1.4 Advisory Board

An Advisory Board has been set-up, whose members are nominated by the external partners which have signed/will sign a Cooperation Agreement to allow them to actively participate to the activities of the project.

The Advisory Board will report provide feedback to help the Management Team and the PMB to shape the activities of the project in the right direction, thus maximising the impact of the project and contributing to the enlargement of the Q-SORT network. The members of the Advisory Board will also contribute to the peer review of the deliverables, participate to the networking and dissemination activities, participate to the testing and validation phase, etc.

| Q-SORT Advisory Board | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Organisation | Representative | | | |
| University of Ottawa, Canada | Ebrahim Karimi (Chairperson) | | | |
| Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria | Monika Ritsch-Marte | | | |
| Technion, Israel | Mordechai Segev | | | |

1.2 CHANGE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Change and risk management is under the responsibility of the PMB. During the Project life, critical events can generate difficulties and require modifications in the research plan, leading to re-scheduling and re-planning of certain actions and activities.

The procedure to be followed for the necessary changes including the resolution of risky critical conditions consists of the following steps:

- 1. The participant that encounters the critical event within the activity she/he is carrying out in a specific Work Package (WP), informs the WPL of the difficulty by means of the convened internal communication flow channels.
- 2. The WP Leader exchanges the information with the Management Team.
- 3. The WP leader submits a description of the issue and a proposal for further action. The Management Team evaluates the proposal and sends feedback to the WPL. He/she goes ahead executing the plan, if not pressing, in seven business days.
- 4. The Management Team coordinates the impact on other WPs and intervenes if changes to the proposal should be required and, if necessary, elaborates a Risk Management Activity Plan in order to resolve the critical situation. Such plan may include relevant decisions concerning reallocation of resources, a partial re-scheduling or re-planning of the Project activities and the involvement of other WPs.
- 5. The Management Team submits the Risk Management Activity Plan for approval to the PMB, who approves or rejects the plan.
- 6. The PMB finally formalizes the approval of the Risk Management Activity Plan and ensures that all partners and team members are informed.

1.3 PROBLEM SOLVING

All problems and issues arising shall be reported, together with a proposal for follow-up action, to the Management Team, who will decide the steps to be taken, according to the DOW, GA, CA, and general EU project management guidelines.

General questions regarding the whole project:

- DoW
- Reporting
- Administrative questions

and more in general any kind of question that a partner may have and does not know how to handle, will be addressed by the Management Team (in particular as Executive Manager collaboration with the Project Coordinator).

Partners may freely contact the Management Team at any time in whatever form they prefer (email, skype, phone) and will receive either direct answers or will be forwarded to the partner who has the competence to answer them.

1.4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The project will use quality assurance procedures based on the ISO9000 series of standards. For the project this means that:

- deliverables will be reviewed by partners not involved in their creation
- versioning and configuration management will be used for all software, documents, and other outputs (e.g. training materials)
- technical and administrative information will be collected periodically from the partners to monitor delays and resources usage

During the Q-SORT Kick-off Meeting the partners who will be responsible for reviewing each of the project deliverables have been identified, together with the deadlines set for the deliverables to be submitted for

Q-SORT Deliverable D1.1 Project Handbook

review, the time allowed for review and the time allowed for changes to the deliverables in response to review comments, inputs and suggestions.

Templates and standards for deliverables are available on the private area of the project website. All deliverables will be created using these templates, and will not be accepted for review otherwise.

Software development will take into account integration/interoperability.

At six-monthly intervals, technical and administrative information will be collected from the partners, who will be required to deliver to the Executive Manager a detailed report containing information related to the activities that have been performed and to the actual use of resources.

For more details on the monitoring of activities and resources usage please refer to **Chapter 3**. For more details on the quality check process for deliverables please refer to **Chapter 4**.

Regarding Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), a self-assessment survey will be prepared based on RRI Toolkit's Self-Reflection Tool. Each partner will fill in the survey, which will include spaces for suggestions and questions on the nature and meaningfulness of RRI. At every reporting period (M12, M30, M42) the results from the survey will be summarised in the periodic reports (part of D1.5, D1.6, D1.7 - Review Meeting Documents).

2 Project management tools

A continuous process of integration and information exchange between all consortium members is deemed essential for the success of the project. Collaborative tools and information flow procedures are activated for this purpose.

2.1 INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

2.1.1 Mailing lists

The consortium makes use of several general mailing lists for the purpose of day to day communication, enquiries, discussion of topics, ideas, actions and workflow.

qsort@nano.cnr.it

A general all inclusive mailing list for discussion involving all partners

qsort-admin@nano.cnr.it

A mailing list for administrative discussions

2.1.2 Project meetings

The main instruments for internal communications are Face-to-Face and Virtual Meetings: Plenary Meetings, Work Package Leaders Meetings, Work Package Specific Meetings.

- General Assembly
 - o Attendance: All Consortium Partners
 - Time planning: Once per year. For budgetary reasons plenary project meetings will where possible be organised in conjunction with other project events, such as the International Conferences and Workshops.
 - Objectives: checking the status of the work for each Work Package: steps taken, problems, solutions, steps forward, success indicators, deliverables, etc.; planning the next steps; strategic and policy decision making; ensuring that the project delivers the results within time and budget constraints.
- Work-Package Leaders Meetings
 - Attendance: Task Leaders of those tasks that are being carried out, WP Leaders, Project Coordinator, Executive Manager
 - Time planning: monthly/bimonthly with timing closely related to overall planning of milestones, deliverables and EC reviews

 Objectives: update on the project ongoing status; coordinating work in progress across work packages and tasks; establishing progress at Task and WP Level; formulating corrective measures if the project gets off track; reviewing project planning at Task and WP Level for the next three to six months, including dependencies and risks; identifying opportunities for dissemination of the project.

Work-Package Specific Meetings

- Attendance: WP Leader, Task Leader(s), other Experts specific to the WP, Project Coordinator or Executive Manager (if appropriate)
- Time Planning: ad hoc, no fixed time planning. During the plenary meetings, separate sessions can be also organised to discuss specific topics (e.g. ingestion, Working Groups, requirements & validation, etc.)
- Objective: within the framework of the DoW: operational coordination and alignment of tasks at the level of the WP

2.2 KNOWLEDGE BASE AND COLLABORATIVE TOOLS

A number of collaborative tools have been implemented and is accessible through the reserved area of the project website. Access to this area is regulated by a username-password authentication. For more details on the collaborative tools currently installed on the project website please refer to **Task 6.3 Website design and execution.**

2.2.1 Project repository

The aim of the Project repository is to archive all the documents that are useful for the project, as a way to preserve them and to share them among the partners. It contains all day-to-day information of project activities, including information on project meetings and phone conferences (agendas and minutes), schedules of project activities, working documents, confidential deliverables, official documents (e.g. Grant Agreement, DoW, Consortium Agreement), templates for deliverables and presentations, materials for the reviewers and the PO and other useful documents.

The repository contains one folder for each Work Package. Each WP Leader will have the right to create new files and subfolders.

2.2.2 Shared calendar

A common Q-SORT Calendar was set up and should be kept up to date with all deadlines, events and meetings by all WP leaders who have been given access to modify the calendar. All partners can ask for dates to be set there by the coordinator.

This is a Google Calendar where it is possible to view all the events and appointments that are scheduled from any device. Its main purpose is to have a general overview of the planned meetings/skype calls/etc. and to plan the Project's activities without overlapping.

2.3 EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

The dissemination and promotion of a project like Q-SORT calls for a high degree of cooperation and coordination throughout the consortium members. Consistency in the dissemination activities requires that the partners share the same guidelines and planning strategy.

The methodology and planning of the dissemination activities will be outlined in **T6.2 Dissemination and Engagement planning and execution.**

Q-SORT Dissemination & Networking Events Report Form

| n | |
|--|---------|
| General information | |
| Event Title | |
| Date | , |
| Country | |
| Venue | |
| Organiser | |
| Event website (if any) | , |
| Please attach the full program of the event | |
| | <u></u> |
| Q-SORT Participants in relevant workshop/session (if applicable) | |
| Workshop/session title | |
| Brief description of workshop program/session | |
| Number of attendees to overall event | |
| Audience demographics (i.e., how many librarians, professors, etc.) | |
| | |
| Cooperation with other | |
| projects/initiatives (if applicable) | |
| Were other projects/initiatives invited to the relevant workshop/session? If yes, please, indicate the names of attending representatives | |

| Brief description of contacts made | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| and potential collaborations | |
| discussed | |
| | |
| Q-SORT presence and dissemination | |
| Objectives of Q-SORT participation | |
| Impact | |
| Nature of Q-SORT's contribution to | □ Presentation |
| the event | |
| | Poster session |
| | □ Workshop |
| | - Workshop |
| | ☐ Dissemination material |
| | |
| | □ Networking |
| | |
| | Other |
| | |
| | |
| Please list Q-SORT promotional | |
| materials distributed at the event | |
| | |

Figure 2. Event reporting form

A reporting form template has been prepared by the dissemination team in order to keep track of every formal or informal occasion of dissemination that each Q-SORT partner will have and to have it shared with the rest of the consortium. The Event Reports will be collected and stored in the reserved area of the project's website.

3 Project monitoring

It is the responsibility of the Project Coordinator and the Executive Manager to check that the WP leaders are monitoring progress to a satisfactory level of detail and accuracy. WP status will be discussed by WP leaders on a monthly/bimonthly basis using phone (Skype) calls coordinated by the Executive Manager and the Project Coordinator. This allows to ascertain the level of progress and to determine any supportive or remedial action which may be necessary. The Executive Manager and Project Coordinator work in close collaboration, ensuring a joint monitoring of the project. Each partner will also submit a six-monthly table effort to the Executive Manager. This will be matched against the original table of expected effort in the DoW to identify any discrepancies and eventually investigate whether these constitute a problem for the project or not.

3.1 Periodic reporting

Progress reporting will have two different levels of activity:

- Annual reports to the Commission
- Intermediate six-monthly reports for internal use

The official annual reports are planned at month 12, 30 and 42. The report's format will follow the outline of the EC template for annual reports – including a publishable summary and information on the progress of work and the resources employed – and its preparation is under the responsibility of the Project Coordinator and Executive Manager, with the contribution of the WP leaders.

Furthermore, each partner will provide every six months an update on the progress for each WP in which the partner is active, including a summary of the activities carried out in the period and of the main results achieved, problems and actions undertaken, any eventual change from the planned activities and the reasons for this, etc. The report will also provide a list of dissemination and training activities organised or participated in by the partner (seminars, workshops, etc..), including any possible publication (articles, books, notes..).

Finally, a separate Excel sheet will provide a summary of the costs incurred by the partner in the period, divided by category of cost: personnel costs, subcontracting costs and other direct costs.

A template for this report is available for download by all the partners in the Project repository.

The Executive Manager is in charge of reminding the partners of each deadline and of collecting and checking the reports. A named person within each partner organisation will be responsible for any question related to the report. Thanks to this frequent reporting requests, the Management Team is enabled to track overall progress; such detailed information will indeed make the preparation of review reports much easier.

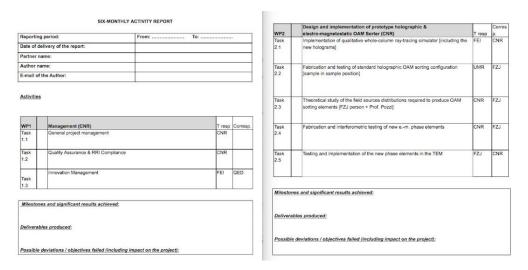


Figure 3. Activity report template

| Personnel Co | Personnel Costs | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Number of productive hours in one month according to the beneficiary's normal practices (EC average = 140) | | | | | | 140 | |
| WP | Name and Surname | Staff position | Worked hours | Hourly cost of Personnel | Personnel total cost | Worked time in person- months | |
| WP1 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| VVFI | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| | | | | Total WP1 | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| WP2 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| VVPZ | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| | | | | Total WP2 | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| WED O | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| WP3 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| Total WP3 | | | | | | 0,00 | |
| 10.00.4 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| WP4 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| Total WP4 | | | | | | 0,00 | |
| 14.50.5 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| WP5 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| | | | | Total WP5 | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| 10 <i>0</i> 0.6 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| WP6 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| Total WP6 | | | | | 0,00 | 0,00 | |
| | | | | Total | 0,00 | 0,00 | |

| Subcontracting Costs | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Beneficiary | Description of contract | Amount (Euro) | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Total | - | | | |

| Travel & Accomodation Costs | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Name and Surname | Date and Destination | Purpose of travel | Amount (Euro) | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Total | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Dissemination & Networking Costs (materials, dispatching, publications, conferences, w | | | | | |
| | Description | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | Total | - | | |

Figure 4. Resources usage report template

The working time of each employee of each participant spent on the project shall be recorded and certified at least once a month throughout the duration of the project.

The time records should be certified/signed by the person(s) designated by that participant to direct their work on the project. If this is not possible then the time records are to be certified/signed in accordance with the normal practice of the participant. This could be by the person's immediate superior or by another hierarchical or administrative overseer from the participant.

Such employees must be directly hired by the participant in accordance with her/his national legislation, be under the sole supervision of the latter and the results of their work must belong to the participant.

A simple and user-friendly model for a monthly timesheet, which meets minimum requirements, is provided with these notes in Excel format.

It is important to note that the use of this model timesheet is not obligatory. Whatever time recording system is used, it should record hours worked on the Q-SORT project and should also enable reconciliation of total hours in cases where personnel work on several projects during the same period.

It is important also to remember that an effective time-recording system (a system which certifies the reality of the hours worked) is a requisite for the eligibility of the costs. A simple estimation of hours worked is not sufficient.

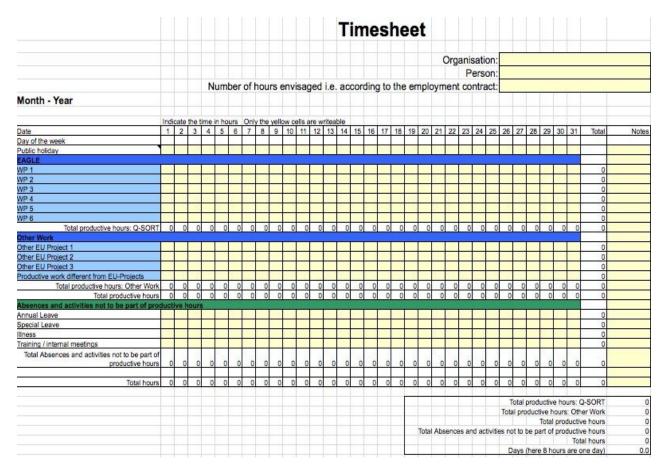


Figure 5. Timesheet model

3.2 Performance Monitoring, Milestones and Indicators

Performance monitoring is carried out on the basis of performance measurement throughout and after the funding phase. Performance monitoring is carried out on the basis of success indicators and performance measurement throughout and after the funding phase. The results of performance measurement and evaluation (indicators and their values) will be part of the progress reporting to the European Commission.

The following table provides a summarised view of the quantitative indicators adopted and a very rough quantification of targets, against which the state of achievement of the results can be measured over the over consecutive periods.

| WP | Metric | Value/Result attended | Date |
|---------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| WP 1 | Number of successful project reviews | 1/2/3 | M12/M30/M 42 |
| WP 2 | Number of fabricated test holograms | 4 | M8 |
| WP 2 | Number of characterizations of e.m. elements | 2 | M16 |
| WP 3 | Number of detailed projects for possible e.m. programmable phase plate. | 2 | М8 |
| WP 3 | Number of simulated electrode/current simulations for generalized sorter | 3 | M8 |
| WP 3 | Number of optical Test of possible generalized sorter | 2 | M18 |
| WP 3 | Total number of webinars | 3/7/9 | M12/M30/M 42 |
| WP 3 | Number of e.m. sources that can be programmably addressed in the new programmable phase plate. | 7 | M18 |
| WP 4 | Theory or simulations ideas for plasmonic dichroism. | 2 | M13 |
| WP 4 | Number of fabricated plasmonic structures. | 2 | M18 |
| WP 5 | Number of tests of instrumentation for Cryomicroscopy setup in Juelich. | 2 | M8 |
| WP 5 | Number of attempted cryomicroscopy experiment. | 2 | M16 |
| WP 5 | Number of attempted cryomicroscopy experiment. | 4 | M29 |
| WP 6 | Total number of followers on social networks | 500/1000/ 1500 | M12/M30/M 42 |

| WP 6 | Maximum post reach on social networks | 5000 | M42 |
|---------|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| WP 6 | Number of countries reached through social networks and website | 5/10/12 | M12/M30/M 42 |
| WP 6 | Number of visitors on project website | 100/200/300 | M12/M30/M 42 |
| WP 6 | Number of views for project video | 1000/2000 | M30/M42 |
| WP 6 | Total number of brochures/flyers distributed | 4000/8000/ 12000 | M12/M30/M 42 |
| WP 6 | Number of conferences attended by Q-SORT staff | 12/30/42 | M12/M30/M 42 |
| WP 6 | Number of papers published | 4/6 | M30/M42 |

A number of milestones have been identified, which are summarised in the following table (taken from the DoW). These milestones will help to monitor and periodically assess the progress towards the achievement of the project's objectives at given stages in the project lifetime.

| Milestone number | Milestone name | Related WPs | Estimate d date | Means of verification |
|---------------------|--|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Mi1 | Project Logo Website publication | WP6 | M2 | D6.1 [Logo used in deliverables and project documents] |
| Mi2 | Calculation of ray-tracing configurations for Sorter | WP3 | M6 | D2.1 [Start of T2.2 (and of 3.3)] |
| Mi3 | First Q-SORT International Conference | WP6 | M11 | D1.2 Proceedings |
| Mi4 | Specification of requirements of the protein-specific Sorter | WP5 | M12 | D3.1 first release [Start in T3.3, T3.4] |
| Mi5 | Integration of cryo elements in the main TEM machine | WP5 | M16 | D5.1 second release [Start of activity in T5.2] |
| Mi6 | First realisation of electro-magnetostatic phase elements | WP2 | M21 | Submission of D2.5, Start of experiments in T4.3, T4.4, T5.3 |
| Mi7 | Second Q-SORT International Conference | WP6 | M26 | D1.2 Proceedings |
| Mi8 | Protein-specific sorter ready | WP3 | M30 | D3.3 [Start of activities in T5.4] |
| Mi9 | Confirmation of plasmonic dichroism | WP4 | M36 | D4.3 [Configuration used in T5.4 is employed in T5.3] |

Q-SORT Deliverable D1.1 Project Handbook

| Mi10 | Third Q-SORT International Conference | WP6 | M41 | D1.2 Proceedings |
|------|--|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Mi11 | Submission of paper on magnetic circular dichroism measurement | WP4 | M42 | D4.4 and receipt of submission |

4 QUALITY CHECK OF DELIVERABLES

The objective of this section is to formalise a set of rules for the production, formatting, presentation and quality control of each deliverable that will be submitted by the Project.

Deliverables are generally technical documents and have an essential role for the Commission's appraisal on how the project is evolving, since they are written reports in which the information and results obtained along the project development are collected and analysed. The deliverables will contain thorough documentation about the activity carried out during the relevant Work Package and the results achieved, and could be accompanied by additional information or bibliographical references in an Annex.

4.1 DELIVERABLE PRODUCTION

Each deliverable is associated to a specific Task and Work Package and has a partner (the WP or Task Leader) who is responsible for the production of the document and for co-ordinating the work of the partners involved (see Table in section 4.3). Before the implementation of the deliverable, the responsible for the deliverable will define the document structure and the contributions expected from each partner and will propose a plan for the delivery of the document. Objective of this plan is to clarify the main objectives of the deliverable and to charge the different contributors with specific tasks in the report. It should contain a clear indication of:

- Table of Contents
- Person responsible for the deliverable
- Persons in charge of each chapter/section
- A timetable for the deliverable development, setting deadlines for the submission of contributions and for the production of the first draft and of the following versions

The responsible for the deliverable should take into account realistic timings for the submission of inputs, and therefore propose the above plan enough in advance, in order to meet the established date for its submission to the European Commission, as per the DoW.

Upon receiving the inputs from the different contributors, he/she will merge them into a single document. This first draft will then be circulated among the partners involved and asked for comments: each partner will check its consistency with the plans and give their feedback and approval. This iterative procedure will be repeated as necessary, until approval is given by all involved partners. A final draft will then be prepared by the responsible of the deliverable and submitted to the peer review (see Chapter 4.3).

4.2 STRUCTURE OF THE DELIVERABLE

A deliverable should comprise five parts as follows:

Part I (Cover Page)

Projects are requested to fill in the front page according to the template provided by the European Commission and ensuring that all the information is correctly provided, particularly those appearing in the contract.

Part II (Table of contents)

An index of the deliverable contents should be provided.

Part III (Executive Summary)

One or two pages executive summary of the deliverable should be provided. Reading this should prepare the reader for the rest of the document. This, plus the conclusion, can act as a sort of summary.

This section should also describe:

- The Role of this Deliverable in the Project
 - o What element or aspect of the project does this deliverable represent?
 - How does the work reported herein contribute to the overall progress of the project?

- o Which are the inputs and dependencies for the work described in deliverable?
- o In which manner this deliverable feeds into further work in this and other work-packages?
- The Structure of the document
 - Brief description of the chapters which compose the document

Part IV (Full description of the deliverable content)

The deliverable body or substance should include a description of the methodology used, the work done to achieve the relevant tasks and the detailed results.

Part V (Conclusions)

This should include a brief summary description of the results of the work carried out and how these results contribute to the progress of the project. Take-home messages, suggestions and recommendations will be also provided, focusing on the next steps.

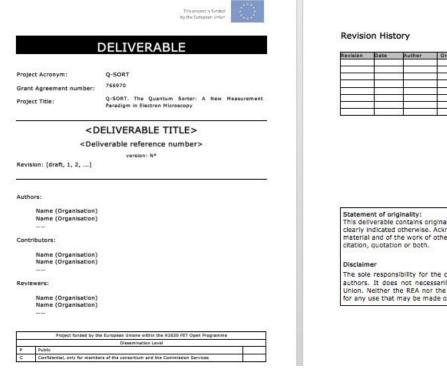
If there is a broader (beyond project) impact, this should be mentioned here too.

Part VI (Bibliography and References)

Here should be provided the following:

- a list of the documents and other key references relevant to the deliverable;
- annexes containing the documents that have been used or produced.

A deliverable template has been produced and it is available on the Project's repository.



Statement of originality:
This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.

Disclaimer
The sole responsibility for the content of this deliverable lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the REA nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the Information contained therein.

Figure 6. Deliverable template

4.3 REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

In general, the partner responsible for the deliverable is responsible for the quality of the document. He/she will check the deliverable under the following points of view:

the deliverable covers the objectives stated in the DoW;

- the quality of the work described in the document is good and is in accordance with what is expected:
- the quality of the document is good (errors, organisation of topics, readability, illustrations);
- the deliverable is complete (there are no missing parts, non-existing references, topics not covered, arguments not properly explained);
- the deliverable is clear and suitable to its potential readers (it is possible to find in it complete and clear answers to the questions raised by the stated objectives, in a form that can be useful for the Users of the work and/or for the continuation of the work).

The internal peer review is a final quality control before submitting deliverables to the European Commission. Each deliverable will be reviewed internally by at least one or two partners not directly involved in its creation in order to check the content and provide feedback for improvements.

The peer review process has been defined as follows:

- the responsible for the deliverable submits the deliverable to the partners responsible for peer review 2-3 weeks before the official due date, with copy to the Executive Manager and Project Coordinator;
- 2. the peer reviewers have 1 week to carry out the review and return the reviewed copy of the deliverable returned to the author, with copy to the Executive Manager and Project Coordinator;
- 3. the responsible for the deliverable has 1 week to change it in response to the review and to deliver the updated version to the Executive Manager and Project Coordinator;
- 4. the Executive Manager carries out a final formal check, to ensure all templates are complied with, submits the deliverable to European Commission Services and publishes it on the project website (public or reserved area depending on the dissemination level of the deliverable);
- 5. the submitted version of the deliverable is retained on the website until the end of project.

The following should be noted:

- The content of the deliverables is the most important material to review. Peer reviewers will have expertise in the general topic of the deliverable and be able to assess its quality. They will also be familiar with the overall project, and so able to judge the deliverable's contribution to the project.
- The Executive Manager will carry out occasional spot-checks, to ensure that quality check procedures are being adhered to. While the review of a third party deliverable is not usually the most exciting aspect of a project, its importance for the overall value of the project cannot be underestimated.
- The Executive Manager will monitor the progress of the peer review process. In order to allow time for review and for enhancements, the preceding stages must be completed on time. The Executive Manager will be alerted to any possible late deliverables and late reviews and he/she must inform the Project Coordinator. However, if a delay is detected and cannot be avoided, the Executive Manager and the Project Coordinator will seek the permission of the EC project officer to submit a late, but high-quality, deliverable rather than submitting a weak deliverable on time.

Below follows the list of the peer reviewers as agreed during the kick-off meeting.

| DE Number | Title | Lead Participant | Mont h | Reviewers |
|--------------|--|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| D1.1 | Project Handbook | CNR | 1 | Dieter Weber, Frank De Jong |
| D1.2 | International Conference Proceedings (release 1) | CNR | 12 | Call for Paper with Peer Review |
| D1.3 | International Conference Proceedings (release 2) | CNR | 27 | Call for Paper with Peer Review |

| D1.4 | International Conference Proceedings (release 3) | CNR | 42 | Call for Paper with Peer Review | |
|-------|---|-----|----|--|--|
| D1.5 | Review meeting 1 documents | CNR | 14 | All partners | |
| D1.6 | Review meeting 2 documents | CNR | 32 | All partners | |
| D1.7 | Review meeting 3 documents | CNR | 42 | All partners | |
| D1.8 | Innovation Report (release 1) | FEI | 21 | Luca Giberti, Dieter Weber | |
| D1.9 | Innovation Report (release 2) | FEI | 42 | Luca Giberti, Dieter Weber | |
| D2.1 | Report about ray tracing software | FEI | 6 | Roberto Balboni, Dieter Weber | |
| D2.2 | Report about working holographic sorter configuration | UMR | 11 | Miles Padgett, Ebrahim Karimi | |
| D2.3 | Manuscript for paper and/or patent documentation on calculation of em. design sources distributions required to produce OAM sorting | CNR | 4 | Vittorio Morandi, Stefano Frabboni | |
| D2.4 | Short report on characterisation of fabricated em. sorter (release 1) | CNR | 12 | Peter Tiemeijer, Alberto Roncaglia | |
| D2.5 | Short report on characterisation of fabricated em. sorter (release 2) | CNR | 19 | Peter Tiemeijer, Ebrahim Karimi | |
| D2.6 | Manuscript for paper on implementation of new phase elements in TEM | FZJ | 21 | Alberto Roncaglia, Vittorio Morandi | |
| D3.1 | Manuscript for paper or report on theory advances/test on diagonalisation of operator through coordinate transformation (release 1) | MPI | 12 | Giulio Pozzi, Mordechai Segev | |
| D3.2 | Manuscript for paper or report on theory advances/test on diagonalisation of operator through coordinate transformation (release 2) | MPI | 24 | Giulio Pozzi, Vittorio Morandi | |
| D3.3 | Short report on new hologram on protein-specific sorter | FZJ | 28 | Raimond Ravelli, Giulio Pozzi | |
| D3.4 | Report or Manuscript on new em. devices for protein-specific sorter | CNR | 30 | Giancarlo Gazzadi Stefano Frabboni | |
| D3.5 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 1) | QED | 6 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski | |
| D3.6 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 2) | QED | 11 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski | |
| D3.7 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 3) | QED | 12 | Active Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski | |
| D3.8 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 4) | QED | 18 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski | |
| D3.9 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 5) | QED | 24 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski | |
| D3.10 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 6) | QED | 26 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski | |

| | | | 1 | |
|-------|---|-----|----|--|
| D3.11 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 7) | QED | 30 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski |
| D3.12 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 8) | QED | 36 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski |
| D3.13 | Interdisciplinary Training Webinar (release 9) | QED | 41 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin - Borkowski |
| D4.1 | Report or Manuscript for paper on first test of plasmonic OAM spectrum | FEI | 21 | Elisa Molinari, Ebrahim Karimi |
| D4.2 | Report on magnetic circular dichroism measurement | FZJ | 30 | Roberto Balboni, Elisa Molinari |
| D4.3 | Manuscript for paper on OAM Sorter characterisation of plasmons | CNR | 36 | Elisa Molinari, Ebrahim Karimi |
| D4.4 | Manuscript for paper on magnetic circular dichroism measurement | FZJ | 42 | Roberto Balboni, Giulio Pozzi |
| D5.1 | Report on integration of cryo-blades and cryo-imaging into the Titan-Holo microscope at FZJ (release 1) | FZJ | 11 | Vincenzo Grillo, Giancarlo Gazzadi |
| D5.2 | Report on integration of cryo-blades and cryo-imaging into the Titan-Holo microscope at FZJ (release 2) | FZJ | 16 | Cryo-microscopy experts from the Advisory Board to be identified, Stefano Frabboni |
| D5.3 | Manuscript for paper on imaging with SPP | CNR | 21 | Monika Ritsch-Marte, Ebrahim Karimi |
| D5.4 | Manuscript for paper on the solution of one instance of the protein orientation problem | MU | 30 | Cryo-microscopy experts from the Advisory Board to be identified, Roberto Balboni |
| D5.5 | Manuscript for paper on lowest-dose wave recognition of proteins | MU | 42 | Cryo- microscopy experts from the Advisory Board to be identified, Monika Ritsch-Marte |
| D6.1 | Project website and logo (release 1) | QED | 2 | Frank De Jong, Ebrahim Karimi |
| D6.5 | Project website and logo (release 2) | QED | 8 | Frank De Jong, Elisa Molinari |
| D6.6 | Printed materials (release 1) | QED | 12 | Frank De Jong, Elisa Molinari |
| D6.7 | Printed materials (release 2) | QED | 30 | Frank De Jong, Elisa Molinari |
| D6.8 | Printed materials (release 3) | QED | 42 | Frank De Jong, Ebrahim Karimi |
| D6.9 | Project video (release 1) | QED | 18 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin-Burkowski |
| D6.10 | Project Video (release 2) | QED | 36 | Vincenzo Grillo, Rafal Dunin-Burkowski |
| D6.2 | Dissemination and Public Engagement Plan including graphic design guidelines (release 1) | QED | 5 | Vincenzo Grillo, Stefano Frabboni |
| D6.3 | Dissemination and Public Engagement Plan including graphic design guidelines (release 2) | QED | 12 | Vincenzo Grillo, Stefano Frabboni |

Q-SORT Deliverable D1.1 Project Handbook

| D6.4 | Dissemination and Public Engagement Plan including graphic design guidelines (release 3) | QED | 24 | Vincenzo Grillo, Stefano Frabboni |
|-------|--|-----|----|--------------------------------------|
| D6.11 | Dissemination and Public Engagement Report | QED | 42 | Vincenzo Grillo, Elisa Molinari |
| D6.12 | Exploitation and IPR Plan (release 1) | FEI | 30 | Dieter Weber, Alberto Roncaglia |
| D6.13 | Exploitation and IPR Plan (release 2) | FEI | 42 | Dieter Weber, Alberto Roncaglia |
| D1.10 | Open data management plan | CNR | 6 | Vittore Casarosa, Paolo Manghi |
| D1.11 | Open data management update 1 | CNR | 15 | Vittore Casarosa, Paolo Manghi |
| D1.12 | Open data management update 2 | CNR | 38 | Vittore Casarosa, Paolo Manghi |

5 Conclusion

The Q-SORT consortium consists of many partners, from all over Europe and with different levels of expertise, therefore it is necessary to set up suitable rules, methodologies and procedures that properly guide all the partners towards the achievement of the objectives of the project in the most efficient, timely and successful way. The Project Coordinator and the Executive Manager are always available to assist the partners for any need they might have.

The progress of Q-SORT's work will be monitored against the milestones defined in the DoW. Each phase of the actual work during the project's lifetime will be carried out with proper attention to a qualitative approach. The Quality Plan will be the reference document for the procedures adopted by the project and is the instrument that the Management Team will use to assure adherence to these procedures.

The Project Handbook is to be considered an open document informed by a general and shared approach, it can be enriched during the project's lifetime as new procedures and templates are established.

SHORT NAME OF PARTICIPANTS

| Partner | Country | Short Name |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| National Research Council (Project scientific coordinator) | Italy | CNR |
| Forschungszentrum Jülich, Ernst Ruska-Centre for Microscopy and Spectroscopy with Electrons | Germany | FZJ |
| FEI - Thermo Fisher Scientific | The Netherlands | FEI |
| The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light | Germany | MPI |
| University of Glasgow, Department of Physics and Astronomy | United Kingdom | UG |
| QED Film & Stage Productions Ltd UK | United Kingdom | QED |
| University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Department of Physics, Informatics, and Mathematics - IT | Italy | UMR |
| Maastricht University, Maastricht MultiModal Molecular Imaging Institute | The Netherlands | MU |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| Consortium Agreement | CA |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Description of Action | DoA |
| Description of Work | DoW |
| European Commission | EC |
| Grant Agreement | GA |
| Kick-off Meeting | KoM |
| Project Management Board | РМВ |
| Work Package | WP |
| Work Package Leader | WPL |