

SCEWERO project: A challenging journey from proposal idea to implementation and impact

Adina-Eliza CROITORU
Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca

At the Beginning there was a message from a friend...

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:47 PM

To: ADINA-ELIZA CROITORU <adina.croitoru@ubbcluj.ro>;
adina04@yahoo.com <adina04@yahoo.com>

Subject: FW: RIVA CALL – Horizon Europe – Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence – 2023 Twinning call open

Hi Adina,
Hope you are fine and doing well.

As a member of the scientific committee of your conference, I wanted to inform you that I have recently joined the University of Antwerp. Could you update my affiliation in the conference database accordingly?

Furthermore, I wanted to draw your attention to an email I received from our university's grant office regarding eligible countries for a grant opportunity. Upon reviewing the list, I noticed that Romania is categorized as a "Widening" country, which may be of interest to you or your colleagues.

Best regards,

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:30 AM

Subject: RIVA CALL – Horizon Europe – Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence – 2023 Twinning call open

Message to: ZAP, OP3, AAP, BAP and research and innovation support staff of UAntwerp

Concerns: RIVA CALL – Horizon Europe – Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence – 2023 Twinning call open

Dear researcher

Dear research/innovation manager

The Horizon Europe [Twinning call](#) has opened today (25 April 2023) with a deadline on **28 September 2023**.

Twinning projects provide funding to strengthen a defined field of research in an 'emerging institution' within a so-called 'Widening country' by linking it with at least two internationally-leading counterparts through at least the following activities: short-term staff exchanges, expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training, workshops, conference attendance, organisation of joint summer school-type activities, and dissemination and outreach activities. See below for a full list of 'Widening countries'.

Applicants will have the choice to submit their proposals under either one of the two following options:

- **Topic A:** The (usual) [Twinning Bottom-Up](#): the applicant chooses the field of research or innovation;
- **Topic B:** The [Twinning Green Deal](#): the applicant chooses a defined area of research or innovation directly linked to at least one of the actions listed in the European Green Deal strategy: notably climate research, green technologies, renewable energy, sustainable mobility, biodiversity research or sustainable use of

Tips

- UAntwerp (and other Belgian organisations) cannot participate as a lead applicant within Twinning projects.
- UAntwerp may act though as a project partner, i.e., as one of the two (or more) internationally leading counterparts of the coordinating institution from the Widening country.
- UAntwerp researchers may engage for instance in short-term staff exchanges (e.g. hosting researchers from the coordinator in their lab or group) or in organising or participating in a joint summer school or workshop to train researchers from the coordinating institution.
- In case you and/or your research group have good contacts with a promising professor and/or research group in a Widening country, it may be a good idea to inform them about these funding schemes, to explore opportunities to work together more closely via these and other schemes and/or to see how you may help the research group or institution in the Widening country to become more excellent.
- If you are interested in this call and would like to receive more information, please send an e-mail as soon as possible to Rocío Canovas Martinez (rocio.canovasmartinez@uantwerpen.be).

Specific points of attention (please click to see more)

- [Background info on the Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence program](#)
- [More info on the Twinning call](#)
- [Support from the Grants Office](#)

Met vriendelijke groeten / Kind regards

YES or NO?

Strengths

- Main previous activity research connected to EGD
- Interesting topic identified (!!) perfectly fitted to the call
- Previous international engagement
- Numerous benefits, including training and “upper-level” research

Opportunity

- Great (maybe unique) opportunity for international collaboration
- Topic B: Twinning Green Deal
- Competing with “widening countries” organization
- Lots of explanatory materials available from the EC
- Other friends experienced in HE projects!
- CESO office in UBB and NFC in Romania !!!

Weakness

- **NO experience** in writing HE proposal
- **NO technical skills**/training for writing an international proposal
- **NO idea about the HE project implementation**
- No other international partners
- Bad experience with the national research project competition
- No team trained/experienced

Threads

- High number of applications expected
- Short period (overlapping the summer holiday)
- Potential unavailability of partners

Final response: Why NOT?

- **What first:** long discussion with the Belgian partner → **long to-do list:**
 - Topic of the project: **easy!**
 - Working with the EU platform: **medium!**
 - Potential top-level partners list: **medium!**
 - Understanding the logic/language of the call: **difficult!**
 - Contact top-level partners and convince them to be on board: **extremely difficult!**
 - Writing the proposal by myself: **almost impossible!**

But still WHY NOT??

Consortium and proposal writing process...

- Identified potential partners:
 - Mediterranean Center for Climate Change (CMCC) – IT
 - University of Antwerp (UANTWERPEN) – BE
 - Justus Liebig University (JLU) - DE
 - Indeco Software – RO
- Agreement on WPs and research area;
- Writing proposal with challenging sections: ethics, inclusivity, **BUDGET!!!!**
- Temptation to give up?... Every three days!
- 28 September 2023 – submission!
- 26 February 2024 – letter of acceptance

Implementation

- 1 October 2024 – 30 September 2027
- 8 WPs +1 new WP: Ethics requirements

First challenge!

No budget, difficulties in finding and an ethics advisor!

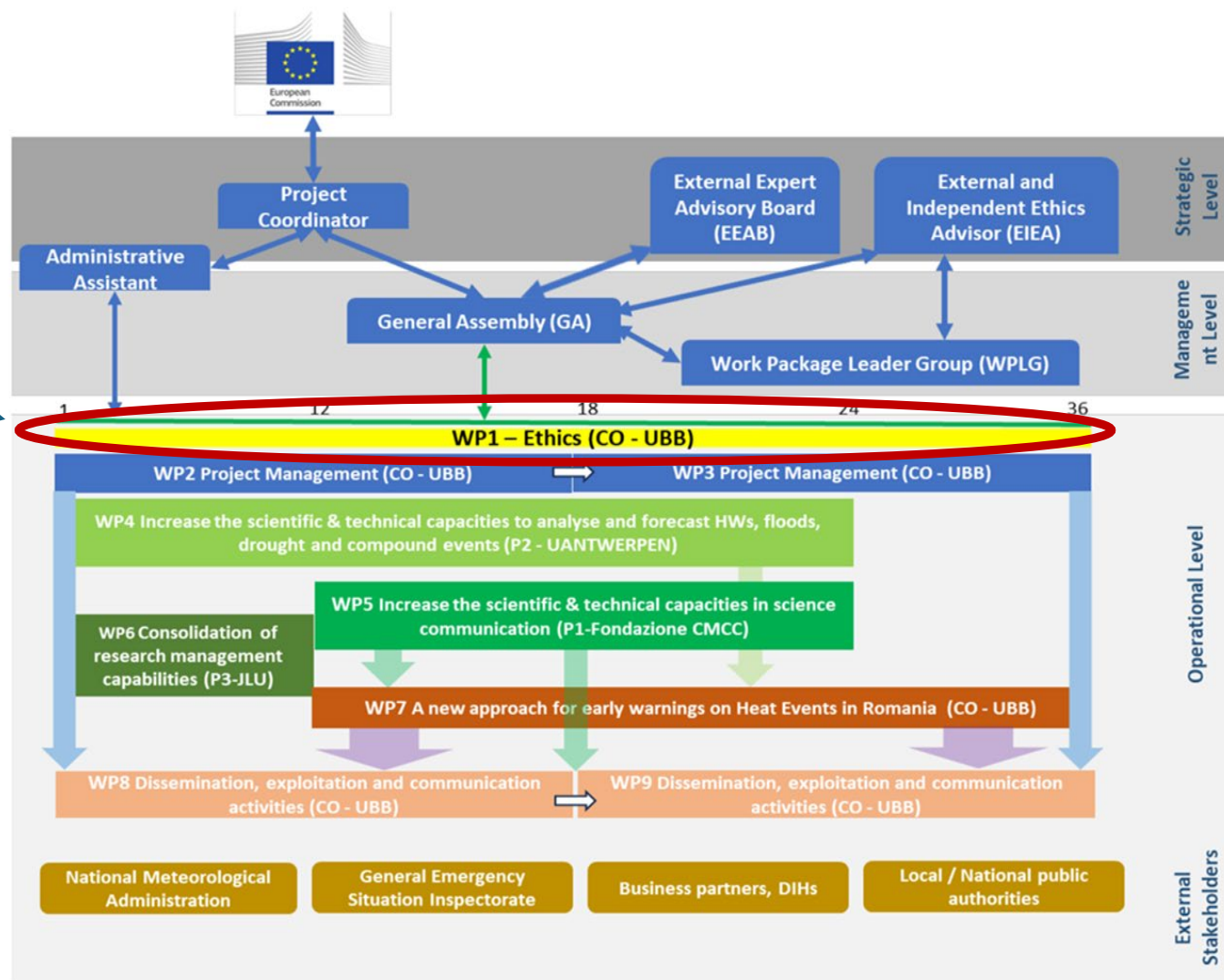
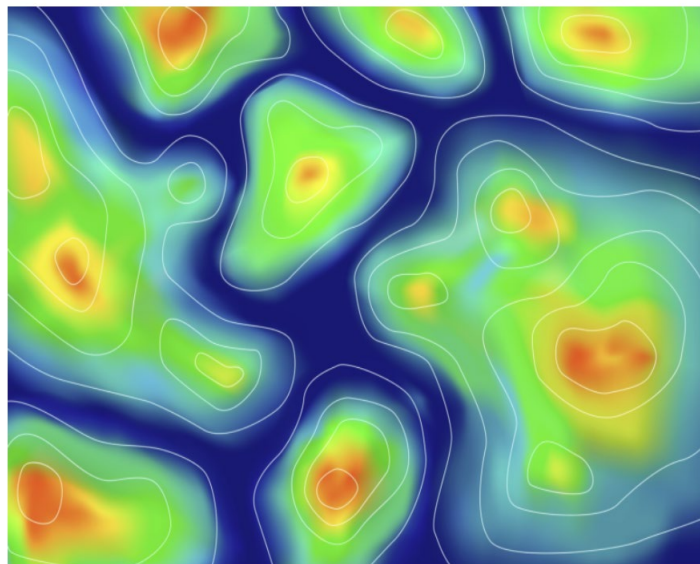


Fig. 1. Structure of the SCEWERO project

Implementation

- WP4: Increase the scientific and technical capacities to analyse and forecast heatwaves, floods, drought and compound events:
 - 4 trainings for researchers
 - 2 international summer schools
- WP5: Increase the scientific and technical capacities in science communication on weather, climate, water and AI topics:
 - 1 onsite training in Cluj-Napoca
 - 1 training visit of UBB researchers in Bologna
 - 1 international summer school.

Implementation



9-10 July 2025 – Training
for heatwaves analysis



Provided by CMCC



Implementation



11-12 September 2025 -
Training for drought and
floods



Provided by UANTWERPEN and JLU

Implementation. Upcoming...



Provided by
UANTWERPEN
and CMCC

**24-25 February 2026 -
Training for compound
events analysis**



**25-26 June 2026 - Training
for AI tools for extreme
events**

Provided by
CMCC

Implementation



**9-11 September 2025 -
Summer school on extreme
temperature and
precipitation events.**

Provided by CMCC, UANTWERPEN, and JLU



Implementation: upcoming!



22-24 June 2026 - Summer school on the use of AI for the analysis of extreme events.

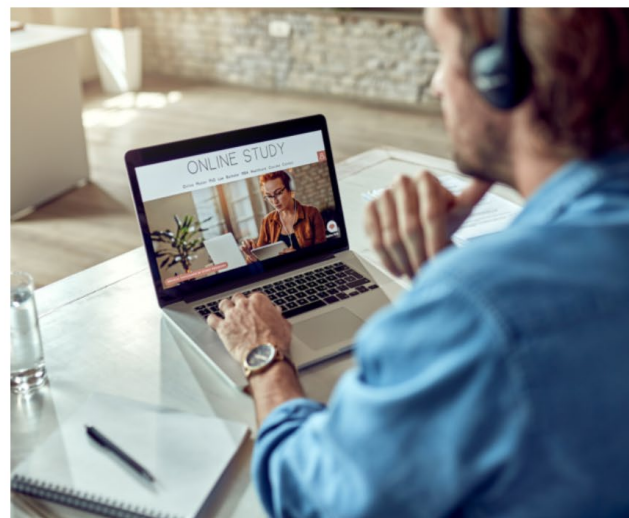


September 2026 - Summer school on science communication

Provided by CMCC

Implementation

- WP6: Consolidation of the research management capacity and administrative skills
 - 1 online workshop;
 - 1 study visit of UBB researchers to JLU



11 February 2025 – Online training session

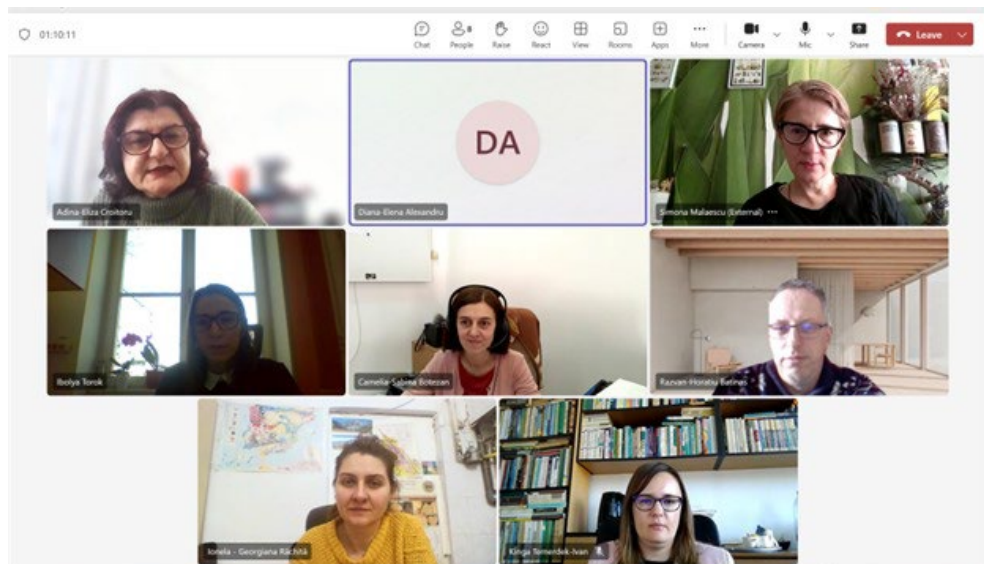
Provided by
UANTWERPEN



24-28 March 2025 – Short visit to the JLU team

Provided by JLU

Implementare



Deliverables

- All training materials are freely available at:

- [Research trainings](#)
- [Staff trainings](#)

Presentations repository

Download!	Descarcă!	Letöltés!
Download!	Descarcă!	Letöltés!
Download!	Descarcă!	Letöltés!
Download!	Descarcă!	Letöltés!





Session 1. Heatwaves

Session 2. Drought

Session 3. Floods

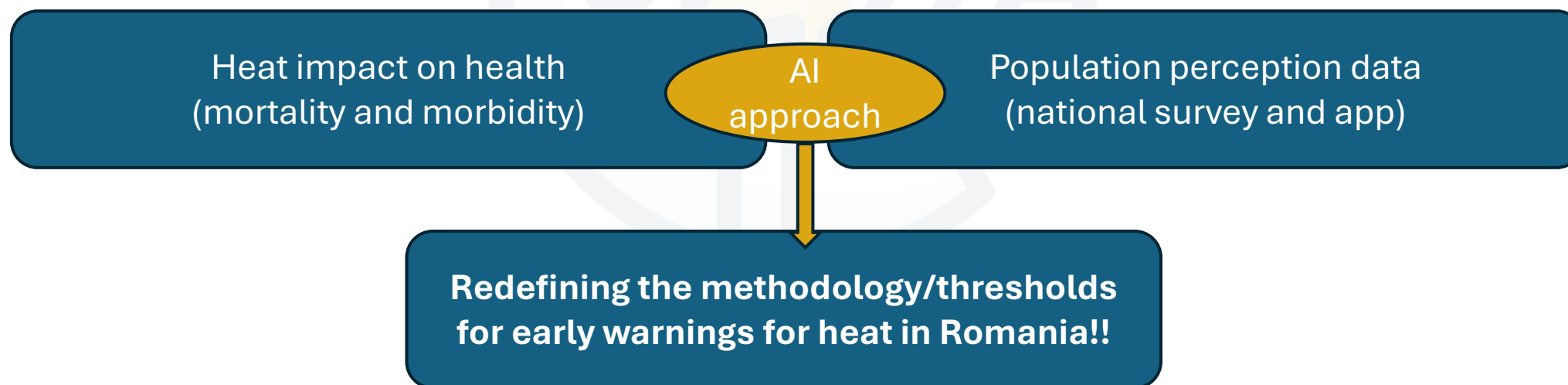
Session 4. Compound Events

Training materials repository

 Download	Training material workshop from UAntwerpen
 Download	Funding and tending portal Proposal Structure
 Download	Impact of proposal Dissemination KPI
 Download	Open Science

Implementation

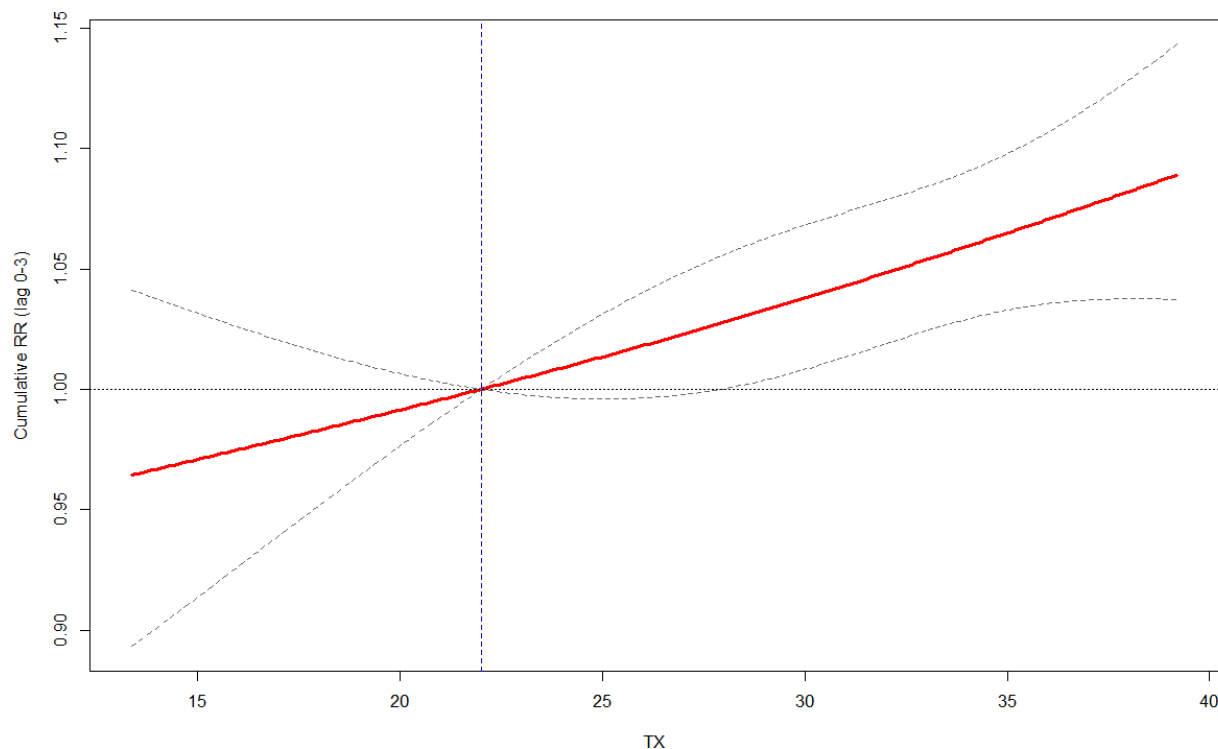
- WP7: A new approach for early warnings on heat events in Romania (research)
 - Heat impact on health (mortality and morbidity)
 - Population perception data
 - Redefining the methodology/thresholds for early warnings for heat events in Romania



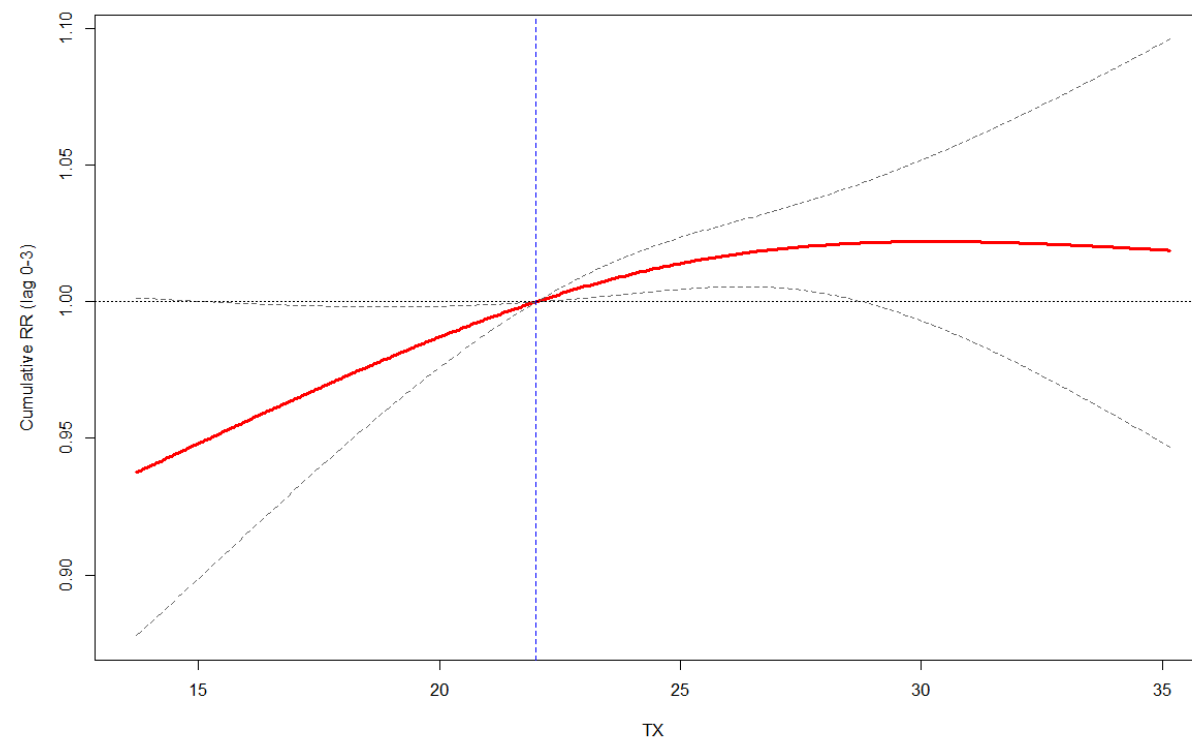
Implementation

First results: the existing early warning thresholds are overestimated!

BUCURESTI (summer) - RR vs TX (ref = 22.00)



CLUJ_NAPOCA (summer) - RR vs TX (ref = 22.00)



SCEWERO in numbers

**WP4
Ongoing**

No	Event	Participants	Target	Achieved
1	Training on heatwaves	15 researchers	Minimum 15 researchers	17 researchers in total
2	Training on drought and floods	8 researchers		
3	Summer school on extreme temperature and precipitation events	17 participants 8 countries/6 widening countries (70 registrations)	45 participants	21 confirmed

**WP6
Finalised!**

No	Event	Participants	Target	Achieved
1	One online training (UA)	14 researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 5-7 researchers One technical group created at FAG-UBB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 researchers in total Technical group created!
2	One training visit (JLU)	10 researchers		
3	One additional training organised in UBB	12 participants (UBB) 8 participants (FAG)		

WP8
Ongoing

No	Social media account	Followers	Target	Achieved
1	LinkedIn	342	>500	652
2	Facebook	236		
3	Instagram	74		

Invited to **Climate festival**
Climateurope2

Climate Capsule visit to
Cluj-Napoca
Joint organized
workshop on **Climate**
Services
24-25 March 2026

Visibility and
reputation!



 **Climateurope2**
1,778 followers
3mo • Edited •

Continuing into the [#Climateurope2BelgradeFestival](#) session are climate dialogues in Southeast Europe: Innovation, Impact, Inclusion. Moderated by Vladimir Djurdjevic, the panel gathers regional researchers and practitioners to showcase active projects and, above all, to chart how climate services can move from pilots to reliable, operational tools.

Panelists include [Gorjan Jovanovski](#), [Vassiliki Kotroni](#), [Ibolya TOROK](#), [Biljana Basarin](#)

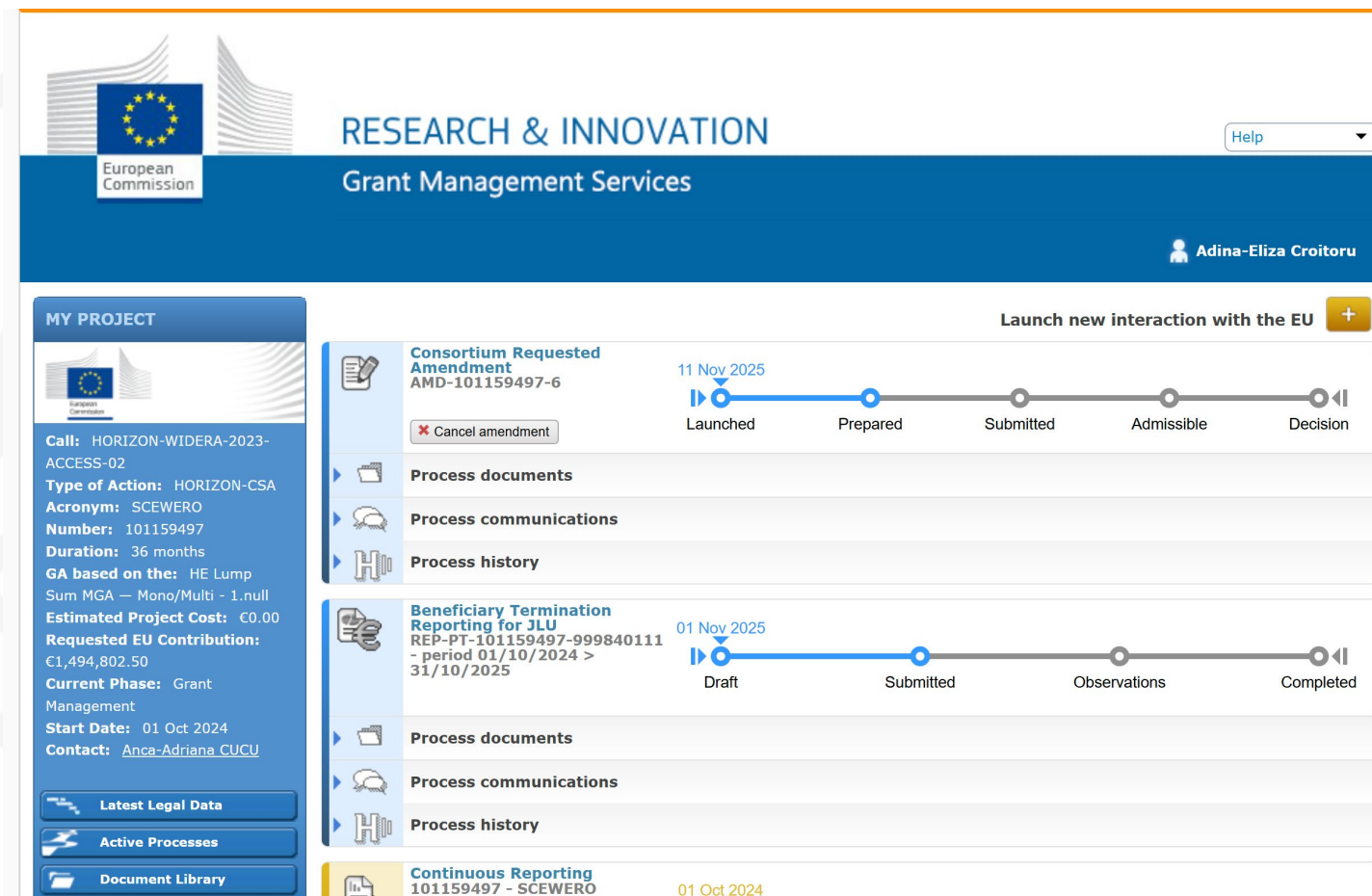
Discussion will focus on practical cross-border collaboration to enhance services and strengthen resilience; concrete strategies for integrating research outputs into national and local early-warning systems; and the real—rather than assumed—use of data and technology in public and private climate strategies, including the opportunities and limits of AI.

[#ClimateServices](#) [#ScienceCommunication](#) [#ArtScience](#) [#Climateurope2](#)
[#BelgradeFestival](#)

Biggest challenge

• P4 termination:

- First information: March 2025
- Difficult communication with the partner;
- Conflicting information from the partner;
- Negotiation with the remaining partners to undertake the remaining activities/tasks of the terminated task;
- Preparation of AMDs, TERA, and the terminated partner report.
- Today status: still work in progress...



The screenshot displays the 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION Grant Management Services' interface. The user is logged in as 'Adina-Eliza Croitoru'. The main section is titled 'MY PROJECT' and shows details for project 'AMD-101159497-6'. The project details include: Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02, Type of Action: HORIZON-CSA, Acronym: SCEWERO, Number: 101159497, Duration: 36 months, GA based on the: HE Lump Sum MGA — Mono/Multi - 1.null, Estimated Project Cost: €0.00, Requested EU Contribution: €1,494,802.50, Current Phase: Grant Management, Start Date: 01 Oct 2024, and Contact: Anca-Adriana CUCU. Below the details are buttons for 'Latest Legal Data', 'Active Processes', and 'Document Library'. The right side of the interface shows a progress timeline for 'Consortium Requested Amendment' and 'Beneficiary Termination Reporting for JLU'. The 'Consortium Requested Amendment' timeline has stages: Launched (11 Nov 2025), Prepared, Submitted, Admissible, and Decision. The 'Beneficiary Termination Reporting for JLU' timeline has stages: Draft (01 Nov 2025), Submitted, Observations, and Completed. There is also a section for 'Continuous Reporting' with a date of 01 Oct 2024.

Instead of conclusions....

- It is not easy, but it is challenging!
- Is it worth it?
 - Definitely YES!
- Would I try again?
 - **Yes, WHY NOT?...**

Thank you very much!

Contact:

office@scewero.eu

www.scewero.eu



UNIVERSITATEA
BABEȘ-BOLYAI



Universiteit
Antwerpen



UNIVERSITATEA
BABEȘ-BOLYAI



Universiteit
Antwerpen



Funded by
the European Union

Grant Agreement 101159497