

RECONNECT Training Framework and materials - Final

Deliverable D6.12



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Acknowledgement

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 776866

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Document Information

Project Number	776866	Acronym	RECONNECT
Full Title	RECONNECT- Regenerating ECOsystems with Nature-based solutions for hydrometeorological risk rEduCTion		
Project URL	http://www.reconnect.eu/		
Document URL			
EU Project Officer	Nicolas Faivre		

Deliverable	Number	D6.12	RECONNECT Training Framework and material - Final
Work Package	Number	WP6	Communication and Dissemination

Date of Delivery	Contractual	12.31.2023	Actual	12.29.2023
Status	Sumbitted			
Deliverable type*	R			
Dissemination level **	PU			

*R – Report, P – Prototype, D – Demonstrator, O – Other.

**PU – Public, PP – Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services), RE – Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services), CO – Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

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Abstract (for dissemination, 100 words)	This deliverable contains a detailed description and specifications of the Final RECONNECT Training Framework and in particular of the training material on-line available and consisting of the webinars registrations and presentations. The RECONNECT Training Framework is intended as a project output aimed at supporting the understanding and the uptake of project results as well as maximizing the impacts. The RECONNECT Training Framework is also considered an important tool to transfer the project results and to foster capacity building within selected RECONNECT's target users. Finally, this project output represents a pillar on which to ground the exploitation and the up-scaling of RECONNECT products as well as their future sustainability. Training activities in RECONNECT will be completed at the project end with the release of a MOOC (D6.5).
Keywords	Webinars, Training, Capacity Building, Transfer of Knowledge, Exploitation, Replication

Version Log				
Issue Date	Rev. No.	Author	Change	Approved by
10-31-2023	1	Marchese	Index and First version	
11-30-2023	2	Molina	Second version	
12-15-2023	3	Marchese	Integration and revision	
12-29-2023	4	Vojinovic	Final revision and submission	Z. Vojinovic

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Executive Summary

This deliverable contains a description of the Final RECONNECT Training Framework, intended as the on-line publication of webinars registration and training material produced on those occasions. The RECONNECT Training Framework is intended as a project output aimed at supporting the understanding and the uptake of project results as well as maximizing the impacts. This deliverable is based upon the report “Deliverable 6.4 - Draft RECONNECT Training Framework” that contains specifications and guidelines to produce training material and activities in line with current offer and needs of training on NbS.

RECONNECT Training Framework is developed under the Communication & Dissemination activities and is considered an important tool to transfer the project results and to foster capacity building within selected RECONNECT’s target users. It is also a pillar on which to ground the exploitation and the up-scaling of RECONNECT products as well as their future sustainability.

The creation of a RECONNECT Training Framework is in line and compliant with the RECONNECT strategy and plan for Exploitation, Dissemination and Communication of Outreach. Training activities and tools in RECONNECT are developed and implemented to favour learning opportunities on the NbS subject. These activities are put into practice as different training actions such as the organisation of a series of online initiatives (webinars) and a MOOC, targeted to selected categories of users and aimed at promoting the uptake of project outputs, maximizing impacts and contributing to the upscaling of NbS.

The present deliverable is intended for a wide audience, specifically the RECONNECT Community of stakeholders. The RECONNECT webinars and related training materials are accessible to everyone, including project partners, RECONNECT stakeholders, and target users, at no cost. Anyone interested in benefiting from the training resources can take advantage of this opportunity.

This deliverable reports on the outcomes of the work done to organize and conduct the three RECONNECT webinars, as well as the related training materials. Additionally, it includes information on where and how to access these materials and some concluding remarks on the results and follow-up of this initiative.

The deliverable is composed, on the one side, by the present document reporting about the webinars organization and related outcomes, and RECONNECT Consortium is highly recommended to read it in order to catch hints to address the final project results. On the other side the on-line material, composed of the webinars registrations and presentations, are also part of this deliverable.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of this deliverable

The present deliverable has the purpose to collect and report on the results of the training activities developed within RECONNECT so far. It is composed of the present document and of the material available on-line at the link: www.reconnect.eu/webinars. At the project end, the RECONNECT training offer will be enriched with the release of deliverable D6.5 “RECONNECT MOOC”, on-line available as well from the RECONNECT website.

The RECONNECT Training Framework is available to all the partners and target users to favour the exploitation of project results and stakeholders’ engagements. The Training Framework is intended also to support the RECONNECT upscaling strategy, the engagement of institutional stakeholders and the uptake of project products.

The deliverable describes the steps followed to organize and develop the RECONNECT webinars and to create the training material on the project topics, open to whoever has some interest in learning about NbS for hydro-meteorological risk reduction and to catch the experiences from demonstration activities. In addition, the RECONNECT Training Framework has also the purpose to help stakeholders to train others, hence facilitating the replication of project concepts and the acquisition by a wide audience. Finally, each partner of the Consortium has available hands-on material to be used for local stakeholders’ engagement (e.g. stakeholders from Demonstrators and Collaborators) and to support the uptake of project results.

1.2 Plan for the implementation of the Final RECONNECT Training Framework

As from the results of surveys and analysis reported in D6.4, the RECONNECT Final Training Framework has been implemented as a series of **three webinars** each of one based on a specific topic and dedicated to a specific target audience. For each webinar, the main purpose is to educate and create awareness of a particular topic during a live streamed event and after to publish the resulting video content and presentations in a dedicated section of the project website.

The Deliverable D6.4 included the analysis from internal surveys in order to investigate training needs towards their stakeholders and to facilitate the uptake of project results. In addition, deliverable 6.4 proposed a curriculum for RECONNECT Training Framework and drafted the contents of each webinar and related learning outcomes.

Finally, instructions and guidelines on how to produce the training material as well as the technological tools to be used for the webinars organization and implementation were as well provided in that deliverable.

The work to implement the final Training Framework started in November 2021 on the occasion of the 6th on-line GA, just after the submission of the Deliverable D6.4 “RECONNECT Training Framework – draft” where the guidelines for the RECONNECT training were drafted. During this GA, a preliminary commitment by the partners to develop the training activities and material was asked to the partners.

Even if the guidelines for the RECONNECT Training Framework were clear and delivered on time, and the partners fully committed, its finalization couldn’t respect the original deadline and plans. In fact, during a parallel workshop on dissemination and training organized during the 6th GA, some Work Package leaders highlighted the unavailability of significant results and insights at the time the webinars were to be organized, and proposed to postpone their organization of around one year to cope with delays due to

Covid and hence present to the audience a comprehensive evidence base of the pilot sites implementation.

As a consequence of this decision taken by the Consortium, the works for the organization of the webinars started in January 2023 (instead of January 2022) with the consequent postponing of the present deliverable of one year.

The three webinars were held monthly, starting from May 2023 until July 2023. The webinars were organized as live events. In addition, the registrations and the material presented were made available on-line (www.reconnect.eu/webinars) to increase the accessibility by an interested audience.

In parallel with the organization of the webinars, the works for the implementation of the RECONNECT MOOC (Deliverable D6.5) started.

While organizing the webinars, work on implementing the RECONNECT MOOC (Deliverable D6.5) also commenced. This MOOC will provide a comprehensive understanding of RECONNECT concepts to various target users, including both technical and non-technical individuals. It will also enable the creation of training material in form of eLearning modules and lectures, following a methodology that begins with the definition of learning objectives and builds the curriculum accordingly.

RECONNECT Training Framework

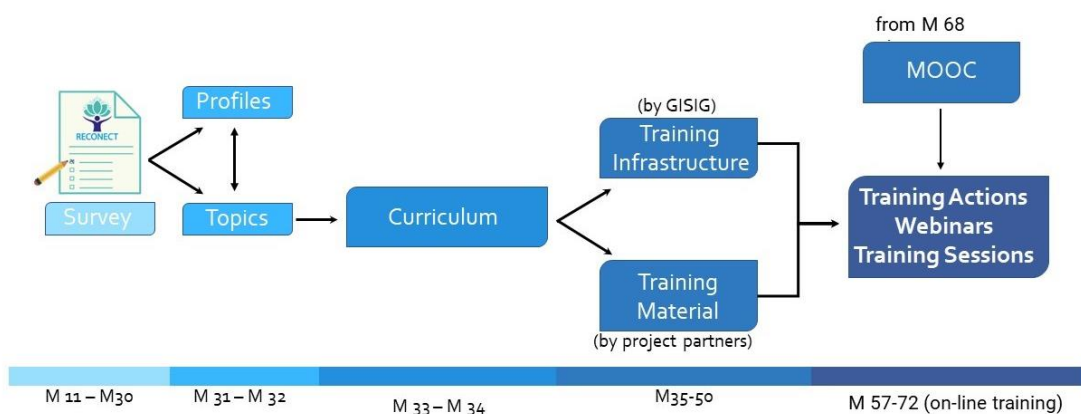


Figure 1: Amended workplan for the implementation of the RECONNECT Training Framework

1.3 Contribution of training to RECONNECT Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy

According to D6.10 (Updated Exploitation Dissemination and Communication Plan for Outreach) RECONNECT develops training activities and tools and favour learning opportunities, including training, e-learning/online courses, MOOC and webinars.

The two main training-oriented project outputs that are going to support dissemination and exploitation of RECONNECT outcomes and knowledge to selected target audiences are the following:

- 1) The RECONNECT Training Framework (D6.4 and D6.12), which will consist of an offer of live and on-demand webinars and related training materials designed to

address the exploitation of project outcomes to selected categories of target audience.

- 2) The RECONNECT MOOC (D6.5), which will address a wide range of users, and is based on serious games and innovative information and communication technologies.

Training activities and tools are also considered in the C&D Strategy as ways to engage specific categories of stakeholders and achieve the expected outcomes. For example, training actions are seen as important dissemination tools to involve a targeted audience, as detailed in the following table:

Table 1: Categories of stakeholders to be engaged also with the use of training, and outcomes expected by their engagement (ref. D6.10 Communication and Dissemination Strategy and Plan)

Target Audience	Actions to be undertaken	Expected outcomes
<i>Government Agencies</i> (mandated to ensure security, protect ecosystems, improve quality of life and health)	RECONNECT will disseminate project results to the immediate participating demonstrator and collaborator agencies through the various project activities. Beyond the project's relevant government agencies, RECONNECT will reach out to EU, regional and national agencies, and where possible global networks of such agencies through the networks of IUCN, GISIG, IHE and generally all the consortium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness on the project - Convince them of the quality of the project main outputs so that they decide to use them or request their use - Train them to use the project outputs - Give them a way to train others
<i>Policy and Decision makers</i> (local authorities with a jurisdiction over the land impacted by the NbS: cities, metropolitan government, river basin authorities, etc.)	RECONNECT results will be disseminated to policy and decision makers and regulators directly connected to the demonstrator and collaborator sites. These contacts will be empowered to communicate further to partner cities, regions, local authorities at national and international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness on the project - Convince them of the quality of the project main outputs so that they decide to use them or request their use - Train them to use the project outputs - Give them a way to train others - Support them with materials to reach out to their partner cities, regions, local authorities at national and international level.
<i>Public and Private Stakeholders</i> (those who own the land or have their activity on the land impacted by a specific large-scale NbS)	RECONNECT results will be disseminated to the Public and Private Stakeholders directly connected to the demonstrator and collaborator sites. Businesses and industries contacts will be empowered to communicate further to partner cities, regions, local authorities at national and international level Schools, education systems, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness through targeted knowledge transfer through educational/learning processes - Trigger positive behaviour
<i>Financiers</i>	RECONNECT results will be disseminated to the financiers directly connected to the demonstrator and collaborator sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition, project partners of WP5 will directly reach out to financiers and insurance companies to contribute to business models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness amongst financiers on the need and importance of large scale NbS to building resilience to ensure long-term financing for NbS. - Connect financiers with relevant agencies seeking financial resources to implement such initiatives.

Target Audience	Actions to be undertaken	Expected outcomes
	development. These contacts would have a national or international scope of work in which the RECONNECT outputs could be exploited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counter anti-NbS lobbying on financiers - Convince them of the quality of the assessment framework - Train them to use the project outputs
<p><i>Industry (and private sector)</i> Those who generate revenue or enhance their commercial image by implementing NbS (Service and equipment providers; developers of NbS; Private sector CSR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RECONNECT partners will disseminate knowledge and project results within their companies and organisations and through their networks to influence uptake of well-established and standardised large-scale NbS and promote a green economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of good practice - Share guidelines and standards - Support with materials that trigger positive behaviour
<p><i>Practitioners</i> (engineers, regulators, land use planners, biologists, insurance brokers, and all those whose practice should be affected by the implementation of innovative NbS)</p>	RECONNECT partners form members of the practitioner community and will disseminate project results within their networks through targeted meetings, newsletters, and sharing results through targeted workshops, and provide opportunities for practitioners to engage with RECONNECT activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness on the project to foster exchanges - Convince them of the quality of the project main outputs so that they decide to use them - Train them to use the project outputs - Support them with materials to reach out to their professional partners at national and international level.
<p><i>Scientific Community</i></p>	Many of the RECONNECT partners are heavily engaged in collaboration with other projects and offer access to a global networks. This enables the transfer of knowledge and the opportunity for further research and practices to achieve new knowledge and techniques concerning nature based solutions, building resilience to hydro-meteorological risks, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration and enhancement and water management technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness on the project to foster exchanges - Awareness on project results to foster synergies between projects - Share project reports to support knowledge exchange between projects - Share publications and encourage citing

Finally, according to the RECONNECT Vision/Theory of Change developed in D6.9 (and continuously updated along the project with the contribution of many WPs), training can be included in the whole process driving to the change and the transformation, supporting in particular the steps: 1) “influencing implementation”; 2) upscaling NbS; and 3) supporting market demand for NbS.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation of project activities and impacts, the logframe matrix for C&D (D6.10, section 4.3) sets specific KPIs to measure the success and the performance of training, as detailed in the table below. The KPIs for training activities in RECONNECT are detailed in Chapter 4 “Statistics and analysis from the webinars”

Table 2: Monitoring and Evaluation of Training Activities and outputs through a “logframe” matrix (ref. Deliverable 6.10)

Activity	Output	Outcome	Indicator	Source of verification	Tools
6.2.7 Capacity building and training (Training Framework)	Training modules and training activities	Train target users to use project outputs	Training materials Webinars On a when needed and planned basis	Number of downloads for training material (500) Attendees feedback, registrations to training events	E-learning platform, web Webinar tools

2 Design of RECONNECT webinars

2.1 Recap of Deliverable D6.4 “RECONNECT Training Framework and materials - draft”

As reported in D6.4, the activities to design the RECONNECT Training Framework started in February 2021 with a meeting with the WP leaders aimed at 1) presenting the preliminary idea of Training Framework; 2) assessing interconnections with other RECONNECT outputs and activities (e.g. MOOC); and 3) better understanding the project training needs and potential collaborations with other initiatives (e.g. training of IUCN).

In a second step, a survey was submitted to the whole RECONNECT Consortium as a structured process aimed at involving all the partners and collecting valuable inputs to put the basis for the development of the Training Framework, its Curriculum (intended as the topics, objectives, content, and activities to be covered in the training program) and its target audience.

The first version of the RECONNECT Curriculum, presented in D6.4 and putting the basis to the Final RECONNECT Training Framework, is included in the following tables.

The curriculum is structured into three main topics, each consisting of several subtopics. For each topic, specific target audience and primary learning objectives are identified. It was hence planned to dedicate a webinar to each topic.

Table 3: Topic 1 of RECONNECT Curriculum, dealing with general context and definition of NbS

Topic 1	General context of NbS for hydro-meteorological risk reduction and climate change adaptation
Sub-topics 1	<p>General principles and benefits from an ecosystem-based approach</p> <p>Policy framework (climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, building resilience, biodiversity strategy, green deal and green transition)</p> <p>Upscaling NbS, drivers and barriers</p> <p>Funding mechanism and opportunities</p>
Target Audience	Government Agencies and Decision Makers, Finance and investor sector
Objectives and learning outcomes	<p>The attendees of this training get a comprehensive knowledge of what an ecosystem-based approach and NbS are, and of the EU and international policy framework behind their implementation and application.</p> <p>Moreover, the attendees of this training understand the mechanism of NbS upscaling and are able to recognize drivers and barriers.</p> <p>Finally, attendees are able to identify NbS funding sources and opportunities</p>

Table 4: Topic 2 of RECONNECT Curriculum, on planning and building a NbS

Topic 2	Planning and building NbS for hydro-meteorological risk reduction and climate change adaptation
Sub-topics 2	<p>Co-creation and co-design of NbS</p> <p>Implementation of NbS</p> <p>Maintenance and decommissioning of NbS</p>

	Examples and demonstrations by RECONNECT Network of cases
Target Audience	Public and Private companies, Practitioners
Objectives and learning outcomes	The attendees of this training know the overall process to plan and build a NbS. They understand and describe in a quite detailed way the steps needed to co-create and co-design a NbS. They can understand technical specifications and apply to work in a team.

Table 5: Topic 3 of RECONNECT Curriculum, about monitoring and evaluation of NbS performance

Topic 3	Co-Monitoring and Co-evaluation of NbS for hydro-meteorological risk reduction and climate change adaptation
Sub-topics 3	NbS performance indicators Remote sensing and monitoring and evaluation of water parameters Monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystems Monitoring and evaluation of socio-economic parameters ICT tools and platforms for assessing NbS performance
Target Audience	Public and Private companies, Practitioners
Objectives and learning outcomes	The attendees of this training get significant knowledge on tools and methodologies to monitor and evaluate the NbS performance. They are able to identify needed parameters and the most suitable techniques to monitor them. Finally, attendees get practical knowledge on available ICT tools and platforms to process and monitor data and assess the performance of NbS. They are also able to perform some analysis

The RECONNECT Curriculum is developed with the main assumption that training content should be designed based on clearly defined learning outcomes. These outcomes are in accordance with the 2017 EQF Recommendation, which defines learning outcomes as statements that describe what an individual should know, understand, and be able to do after completing a learning process. These outcomes are defined in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy.

The methodology used in RECONNECT was hence to preliminary define which knowledge and skills a trainee should acquire from our training, and then define contents accordingly. A particular attention and discussion were dedicated to the individuation of the target audience of our training, that differs a bit from Topic 1 (focused on decision makers and government agencies) to Topics 2 and 3 (focused on an more technical audience).

2.2 Kick-off workshop for the organization of RECONNECT webinars

A further refinement/validation of the training contents and target audience was done on the occasion of a parallel workshop organized during the 6th RECONNECT General Assembly of December 2021 (on-line meeting).

The parallel session was described and detailed in the 6th GA Agenda as in the following:

Table 6: The webinars kick-off workshop was organized as a parallel session of the 6th RECONNECT General Assembly

<p>Title of the session: WP6 parallel session on RECONNECT Training Framework and Webinars' organization</p>
<p>What is the objective of the session: Inform and engage partners in the tasks dealing with the implementation of a RECONNECT Training Framework and the organization of Webinars</p>
<p>Background: (Why are we organising this session) Among the objectives of WP6 is fostering the capacity building on the RECONNECT topics. This is undertaken, in particular, in tasks 6.2 and 6.3. Task 6.3, expected to start in Y4, is dedicated to develop a MOOC, whilst task 6.2, among others, aims to set tools and contents of the RECONNECT Training Framework and carry out training activities. In September 2021, the Deliverable 6.4 "RECONNECT Training Framework and materials – draft" was submitted. It includes a detailed description and planning of all phases expected to be accomplished to deliver the final result "RECONNECT Training Framework", including the schedule and the specifications for the organization of 3 webinars. Final Training Framework must be delivered in October 2022, so it's time now to engage partners in sharing project outputs and results by supporting webinars organization or by preparing training material and documents.</p>
<p>Short outline of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to D6.4 • Introduction to the Training Framework implementation phases and presentation of the RECONNECT Curriculum (contents of the webinars) • Interaction with partners (via slido) to validate training topics and target users • Q&A session
<p>Preparation required by participants: Think on how to contribute to RECONNECT webinars (as a chairman, as a presenter, to disseminate the events) Be ready to participate to slido polls (through PC or smartphone)</p>
<p>Expected outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General schema and time schedule for the Training Framework implementation is presented - Contents of each webinar are presented, validated and (in case) updated - Main target audience of webinars is validated, the best dissemination channel(s) to inform and engage participants is discussed - Feedback by the partners on the proposed tool for webinars are collected - Candidatures for chair the webinars and deliver lectures / presentations are collected

After a presentation by GISIG of the Training Framework and deliverable D6.4, the participants were invited to split into three heterogenous groups and access dedicated sessions on Sli.do. The results from the short interactive session are reported here below:

Q1: What is for you the RECONNECT topic that most needs to be taught?

New suggested topics not included in the RECONNECT Curriculum submitted with D6.4 are:

- Successful (or unsuccessful stories)
- NBS potential – why they are better than other measures?
- NBS Impact Assessment
- NBS modelling (hydrologic, hydraulic)
- Cost-benefit analysis

Slido – question N.1



The RECONNECT topic that most needs to be taught is ...

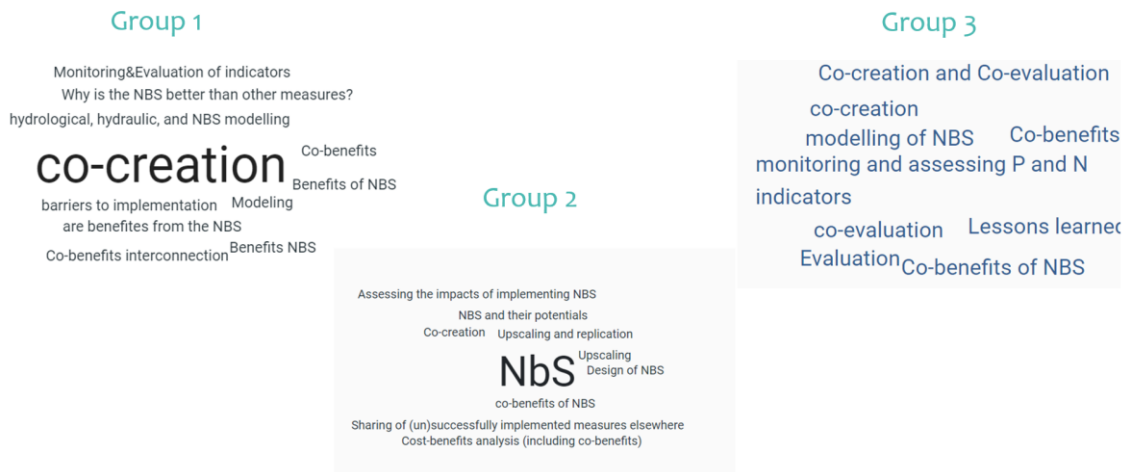


Fig 2: world clouds derived from answers to question 1

Q2: Who will most benefit from RECONNECT webinars?

The participants confirmed the 4 categories of target audience already proposed in D6.4 and derived from the surveys. Therefore, some slight deviations were found. They related with an increasing in the preferences for categories “practitioners” and “scientific community” whilst the categories “government agencies” and “policy and decision makers” remained stable if compared to what reported in D6.4.

Slido – question N.2



who will most benefit from RECONNECT webinars?

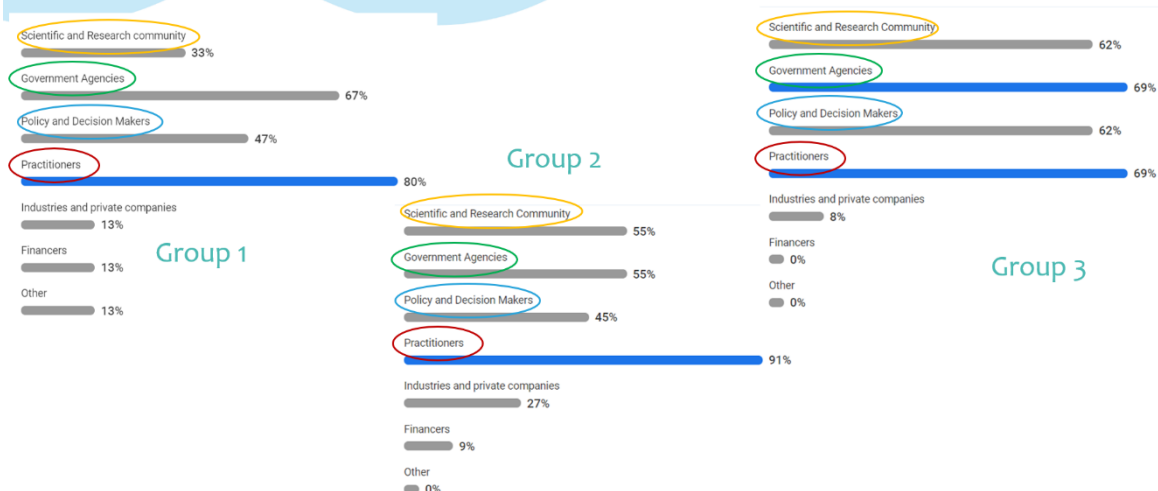


Fig 3: categories of target audience for webinars derived from Slido question 2

Q3: How much would you like to contribute to the webinars' organization?

During the Sli.do session a first assessment on the availability of the partners to contribute to the webinars organization was done. The availability of each participant was assessed on a scale from 1 (no contribution) to 10 (chair a webinar). The majority of participants in Group 1 and 3 gave a medium availability (provide material and deliver a speech) whilst the majority of participants in Group 2 were available only to participate. In addition, some single participants (including the coordinator) gave the availability to chair a webinar or coordinate the preparation of the training material.

The participants confirmed the 4 categories of target audience already proposed in D6.4

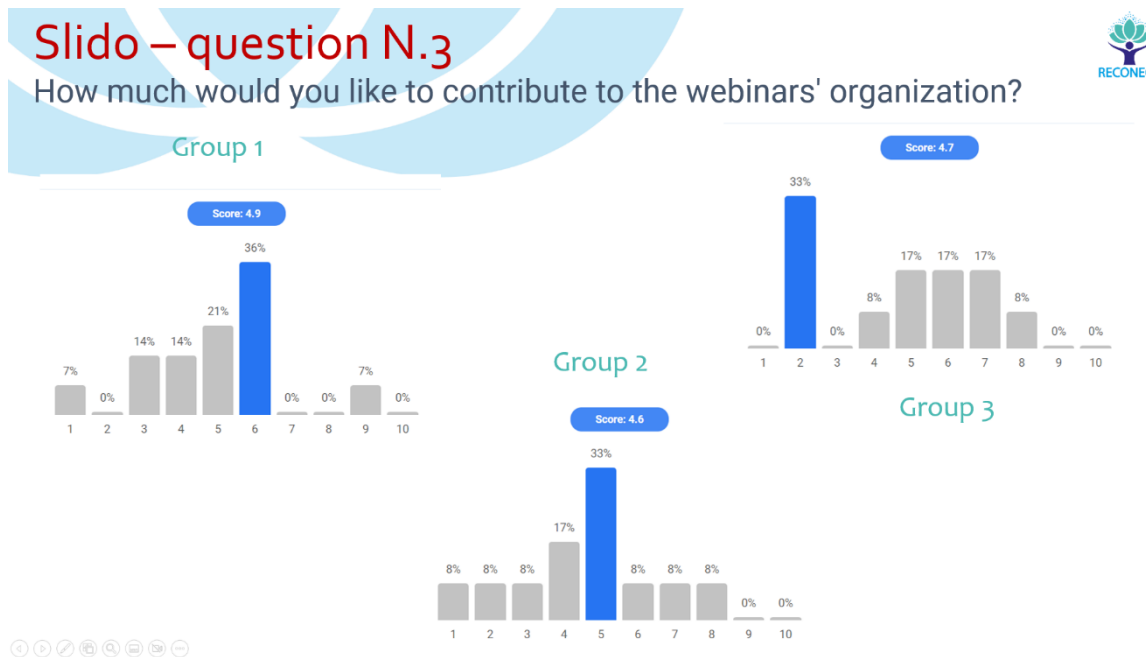


Fig 4: availability by the partners to contribute to webinars organization

2.3 Working Groups for webinars preparation and definition of final contents

In January 2023 three working groups were established in order to finalize the definition of webinars titles, contents and programme, and start with the organizations.

The three working groups met on a regular basis and had periodic interactions, according to the plan set for webinars' organization.

The final contents and programme of each webinar were the following:

Webinar 1

Introduction and opportunities for NbS – Reflections from RECONNECT

Agenda

- NbS introduction and policy framework (Z. Vojinovic, 10')
- Innovative aspects and technologies for implementation of NBS (N. Manojilovic, TUHH 20')
- Co-creation and upscaling (Diana Dushkova, UFZ, 20')
- NbS replication potential and business models (Alvaro Fonseca, RAMBOLL, 20')
- Q&A session (20')

<p>Main target audience: government agencies, decision makers, practitioners, researchers, investors, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS</p>
<p>Objectives and learning outcomes: The first RECONNECT webinar introduces the context where NbS are co-created, implemented and upscaled with the aim to reduce hydro-meteorological risks. Participants in this webinar are expected to get knowledge on the EU and international policy framework supporting NbS, and on innovation and technologies for their implementation. Moreover, attendees will be taught on NbS co-creation and upscaling and finally will receive an overview of NbS replication potential and examples of business models</p>

Webinar 2

<p>Sourcing the evidence base from RECONNECT NbS demonstration cases</p>
<p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the second RECONNECT webinar (Zoran Vojinovic, <i>IHE Delft</i>) • Making room for the sea. A NbS to improve protection of people, nature and landscape: the Seden Strand case (DK) (Lars Kildahl Sønderby, <i>Odense Municipality</i>) • Prevention against erosion and shallow landslides in a high-value landscape: the NbS in the Portofino Park (IT) (Guido Paliaga, <i>GISIG</i>) • River restoration as NBS: the Thur case (CH) (Mario Schirmer, <i>Eawag</i>) • Coping with floods and droughts through a NbS approach: the case of the Elbe estuary (DE) (Christian Ebel, <i>BUKEA</i>) • Q&A
<p>Main target audience: public and private companies, practitioners, researchers, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS</p>
<p>Objectives and learning outcomes: The second RECONNECT webinar provides the attendees with knowledge and experiences from a NbS implementation process. Selected RECONNECT demonstrators across Europe and representing different rural environments are showcased with the purpose to support the participants in understanding effectiveness, barriers and opportunities of a NbS approach.</p>

Webinar 3

<p>RECONNECT experiences in co-monitoring and co-evaluation of NbS</p>
<p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction to the third RECONNECT webinar (Jess Penny, University of Exeter) • Remote sensing in NbS monitoring and evaluation (Rolf Wilting, EUROSENSE) • Approach to indicators for NbS monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Water indicators (Slobodan Djordjevic, University of Exeter) ➢ Nature indicators (Marzenna Rasmussen, AMPHI) ➢ People indicators (Martina Viti, Ramboll) • RECONNECT ICT Service Platform for NbS monitoring (Marcel Alderlieste, HydroLogic) • Q&A
<p>Main target audience: public and private companies, practitioners, researchers, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS</p>

Objectives and learning outcomes: The third RECONNECT webinar deals with tools and indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of NbS for hydro-meteo risk reduction and assess their co-benefits. The participants get knowledge on the parameters to be monitored and the most suitable technologies to do that. Practical examples on how indicators are monitored and processed through the RECONNECT ICT Service Platform, to assess and evaluate the performance of NbS, are provided

3 Procedures and guidelines for webinars organization

The main purpose of each RECONNECT webinar was to educate and create awareness on the RECONNECT experience and outcomes during a live streamed event and after publishing the resulting video content and the presentations showed during the event in a dedicated section of the project website.

The webinars were organized between April and May 2023 on a periodic basis (around one a month). Each webinar was designed to transfer to its audience experience and reflections from RECONNECT and was structured around a topic already listed in the RECONNECT training curriculum (D6.4) and refined in successive phases, namely:

- **NbS general context**
- **NbS planning and building**
- **NbS monitoring and evaluation**

3.1 Preparation of training materials

The organization of the webinars started in due time, in order to properly accomplish all the tasks necessary to delivery a good quality output and enrol a significant number of participants.

For each webinar a working group composed by RECONNECT partners expert in the specific domain was established. Each working group had the following actors:

- A leader, in charge for validating the contents and monitor the contributions of the speakers.
- A chairman, in charge for the animation of the webinar, make the time schedule respected (established at around 90 minutes for each webinar) and the organization of the Q&A session.
- The speakers, or trainers, in charge to prepare training material and deliver the presentations.

Each working group received guidance from the task leader with the specific purpose to standardize the contributions and the material produced for the three webinars, and to favour the engagement of the participants. Some instructions to the working groups were, for example:

- to use the ppt template designed for the webinars (figure j) ;
- to avoid not too technical concepts and terms, so to make the presentation understandable by a wide target audience and not necessarily specialized in the field;
- to use a standard terminology and to avoid the use of project jargon (WP, short names...) to facilitate the understanding by participants external to the project and create a training product that can be replicated in other contexts and occasions.
- to make use of visual and graphical material to favour the rapid acquisition of knowledge and concepts by the participants;
- to balance the quantity of material to be presented with the time available to each intervention and focus on the quality.
- to stimulate the discussion and questions by the participants via chat, to engage them in an interactive way;
- to disseminate the webinars through their own dissemination channels and networks;

- to commit at make the training material available for publication on the web site under an open license.



Figure 5: the template used to produce training material for webinar 1

3.2 Advertising through partners and RECONNECT dissemination channels

Dissemination materials was produced to promote the event and inform and attract stakeholders to the webinars. For each webinar a dedicated digital leaflet was designed including:

- Name and title of the event
- Date and time
- Description and learning outcomes
- Target audience
- Duration and link for registration
- Programme
- RECONNECT contacts

The leaflets were circulated approximately one month prior to the webinar, utilizing the following dissemination channels:

- RECONNECT web site
- RECONNECT Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
- Twitter private group of EU Task Force 4 of NbS Communicators
- RECONNECT Newsletter
- Social media of other NbS projects
- Partners' dissemination channels
- People registered to the previous webinar(s)



first RECONNECT webinar

introduction and opportunities for NbS: reflections from RECONNECT

📅 **8th May 2023, 14:00 to 15:30 CEST**

RECONNECT Project aims to rapidly enhance the European reference framework on Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for hydro-meteorological risk reduction by demonstrating, referencing, upscaling and exploiting large-scale NbS in rural areas.

The **first RECONNECT webinar** introduces the context where NbS are co-created, implemented and upscaled with the aim to reduce hydro-meteorological risks. Participants in this webinar are expected to get knowledge on the EU and international policy framework supporting NbS, and on innovation and technologies for their implementation. Moreover, attendees will be taught on NbS co-creation and upscaling and finally will receive an overview of NbS replication potential and examples of business models.

Target audience: government agencies, decision makers, practitioners, researchers, investors, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS.

Duration: 1,5 hours.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/oRS1Lpsvyi4pDPmY8>

Programme

 NbS introduction and policy framework
Zoran Vojinovic, *IHE Delft, RECONNECT coordinator*



 Innovative aspects and technologies for implementation of NbS
Natasja Manojlovic, *Hamburg University of Technology*


 NbS co-creation and upscaling
Diana Dushkova, *Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research*


 NbS replication potential and business models
Alvaro Fonseca, *Ramboll*

 Q&A

 www.reconnect.eu/webinars

 @H2020Reconnect  Reconnect Project

 The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 778866.



second RECONNECT webinar

sourcing the evidence base from RECONNECT NbS demonstration cases

📅 **6th June 2023, 10:30 to 12:00 CEST**

RECONNECT Project aims to rapidly enhance the European reference framework on Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for hydro-meteorological risk reduction by demonstrating, referencing, upscaling and exploiting large-scale NbS in rural areas.


The **second RECONNECT webinar** provides the attendees with knowledge and experiences from a NbS implementation process. Selected RECONNECT demonstrators across Europe and representing different rural environments are showcased with the purpose to support the participants in understanding effectiveness, barriers and opportunities of a NbS approach.

Target audience: public and private companies, practitioners, researchers, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS.


Duration: 1,5 hours.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/vz17spk8oFHN6DUD8>


Programme

 Introduction to the second RECONNECT webinar
Zoran Vojinovic, *IHE Delft*

 Making room for the sea. A NbS to improve protection of people, nature and landscape: the Seden Strand case (DK)
Lars Kildahl Sønderby, *Odense Municipality*

 Prevention against erosion and shallow landslides in a high-value landscape: the NbS in the Portofino Park (IT)
Guido Paliaga, *GISIG*


 River restoration as NBS: the Thur case (CH)
Mario Schirmer, *Eawag*

 Coping with floods and droughts through a NbS approach: the case of the Elbe estuary (DE)
Christian Ebel, *BUKEA*

 Q&A

 www.reconnect.eu/webinars

 @H2020Reconnect  Reconnect Project

 The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 778866.

third RECONNECT webinar

RECONNECT experiences in co-monitoring and co-evaluation of NbS

4th July 2023, 14:30 to 16:00 CEST

RECONNECT Project aims to rapidly enhance the European reference framework on Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for hydro-meteorological risk reduction by demonstrating, referencing, upscaling and exploiting large-scale NbS in rural areas.

The **third RECONNECT webinar** deals with tools and indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of NbS for hydro-meteo risk reduction and assess their co-benefits. The participants get knowledge on the parameters to be monitored and the most suitable technologies to do that. Practical examples on how indicators are monitored and processed through the RECONNECT ICT Service Platform, to assess and evaluate the performance of NbS, are provided.

Target audience: public and private companies, practitioners, researchers, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS.

Duration: 1,5 hours.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/hs1kZHY3LFxB5EkF7>

Programme

- Welcome and introduction to the third RECONNECT webinar
Jess Penny, *University of Exeter*
- Remote sensing in NbS monitoring and evaluation
Rolf Witting, *EUROSENSE*
- Approach to indicators for NbS monitoring:
 - Water indicators
Slobodan Djordjevic, *University of Exeter*
 - Nature indicators
Marzena Rasmussen, *AMPHI*
 - People indicators
Martina Viti, *Ramboll*
- RECONNECT ICT Service Platform for NbS monitoring
Marcel Alderlieste, *HydroLogic*
- Q&A

www.reconnect.eu/webinars
 @H2020Reconnect | Reconnect Project

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 776866.

Figure 6: Leaflets designed to advertise webinars 1,2 and 3 through RECONNECT dissemination channels

3.3 Enrolment of participants

The registration of participants was managed via web-based forms. The information collected through the form was the name and email of the participant, the country, and the economic sector to which the participant belongs. To be able to fulfil and effectively send the request for participation, the participant was also asked to agree on the general RECONNECT privacy policy based on the European General Data Protection Regulation.

The invitation to the webinars and access to the registration form were sent by exploiting the full potential of RECONNECT dissemination channels such as social media and also the mailing list of RECONNECT Community and participants in National Workshops. All project partners were asked to contribute by engaging their own stakeholders and disseminating the training events through their contacts and networks.

Support to disseminate the webinars was also asked to NbS networks such as OPPLA and NetworkNature and the Task Force 4 of NbS Communicators (composed by EU funded projects on NbS).

Special issues of the RECONNECT Newsletter were sent out to all the subscribers, one for each webinar.

The registered participants received the link to the webinar in due time. Additionally, clear instructions and guidelines for attending the webinar were also sent in order to help attendees stay engaged and follow the webinar until the end.

After the live event, all registered individuals were promptly notified about the availability of webinar registrations and training materials through a dedicated section on the RECONNECT website. This initiative proved highly effective, surpassing our expectations

with a significant number of accesses to the training materials and registrations for webinars via the website. This success can be attributed to the fact that providing registered individuals with the opportunity to access the webinars even if they were unable to attend live greatly enhanced the impact of the event.

The big number of webinars' registered individuals and effective participants significantly contributed to increase the RECONNECT Community of stakeholders.



The image shows a Google Form for a webinar. At the top, there is a banner with the RECONNECT logo (a stylized person with arms raised) and the text "RECONNECT Webinar series on Nature-Based Solutions for reducing hydro-meteorological risks." To the right of the banner is an aerial view of a residential neighborhood with houses and trees. Below the banner, the main title of the webinar is "Introduction and opportunities for NbS: Reflections from RECONNECT". The date and time are listed as "Webinar date: 8th May 2023, 14:00 to 15:30 CEST" and the duration is "Duration: 1,5 hours." A "Summary:" section follows, describing the webinar's content: "This webinar will introduce the context where NbS are cocreated, implemented and upscaled with the aim to reduce hydrometeorological risks. Participants are expected to get knowledge on the EU and international policy framework supporting NbS, and on innovation and technologies for their implementation. Moreover, attendees will be taught on NbS co-creation and upscaling and finally will receive an overview of NbS replication potential based on standards and examples of business models." A "Target audience:" section lists "overnment agencies, decision makers, practitioners, researchers, investors, whoever wants to improve knowledge on NbS."

Figure 7: example of Google form used for the enrolment of participants in the webinars

3.4 On-line platform

The platform used by the task leader to organize the webinars was Webex. The functionalities of this platform fit to purpose, in particular for the possibility to:

- Host up to 200 participants
- Register the webinar video
- Recovery a list of participants (including duration of their participation)
- Recovery the chat
- Make some statistical analysis and word clouds.

3.5 On-line proceedings

A session of the RECONNECT web site (www.reconnect.eu/webinars) was dedicated to training and in particular to the webinars.

For each webinar, the registration of the event (accessible via the YouTube channel of RECONNECT) and the material presented (in pdf) were made available.

This with the aim to create an easily accessible repository of the training material developed in RECONNECT and to give the possibility to all the project stakeholders to learn about specific topics and subjects covered by the project.

The Training of RECONNECT will be further enriched towards the project end with a MOOC, specifically designed for an academic audience but disseminated also to decision makers and highest profiles of public administrations.

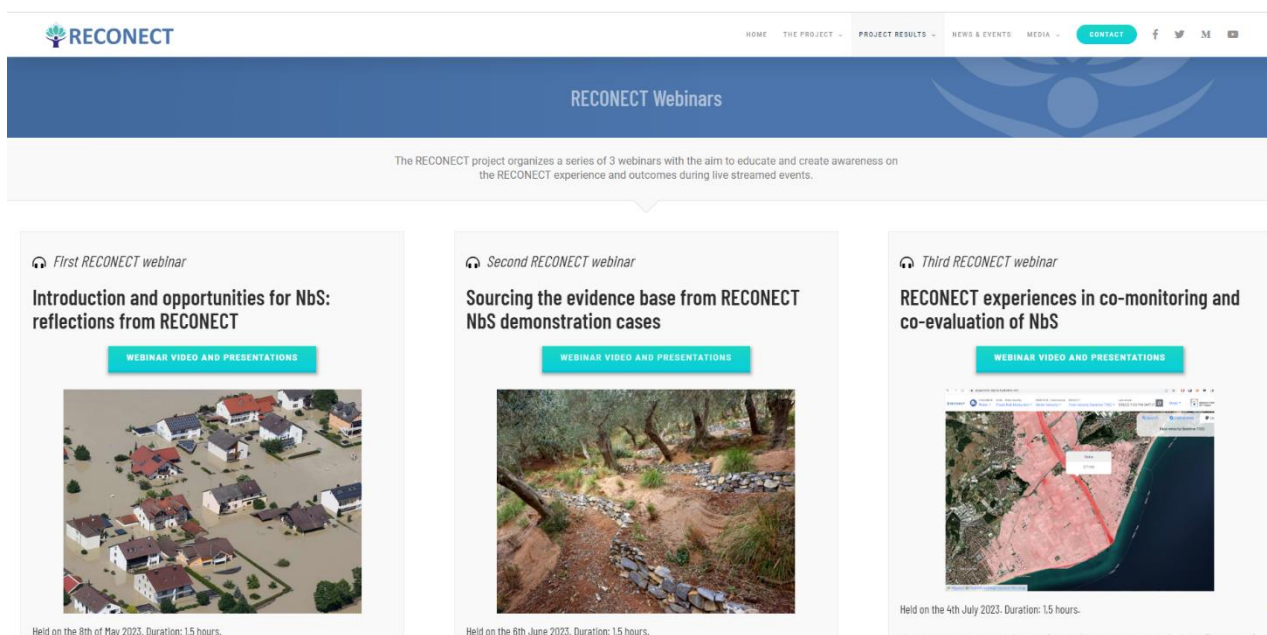


Figure 8: the on-line proceedings and registrations of RECONNECT webinars available in the web site (www.reconnect.eu/webinars)

4 Statistics and analysis from the webinars

4.1 Attendance to the webinars

The following table summarizes the attendance to all the webinars.

Webinar	Date	Registered	Participants
Webinar #1	8th May 2022	464	104
Webinar #2	6th June 2022	274	96
Webinar #3	4th July 2022	183	78

The difference between registered individuals and effective participants in a webinar is that the former refers to the number of people who have signed up for the webinar, while the latter refers to the number of people who have actually attended and participated in the webinar.

The average difference between registered individuals and effective participants can vary depending on several factors, such as the topic of the webinar, the time and date of the webinar, the quality of the content, and the marketing efforts used to promote the webinar. In general, it is common to see a difference of around 30-40% between registered individuals and effective participants.

The reasons for this difference can be many. Some people may register for a webinar but later decide not to attend due to scheduling conflicts or other reasons. Others may sign up out of curiosity or interest but may not find the content relevant or engaging enough to stay for the entire duration of the webinar. Additionally, technical issues such as poor internet connectivity or audio problems can also contribute to a lower number of effective participants. In the case of the RECONNECT webinars, fortunately, we didn't have any technical issues to complain about, and the sessions took place without interruptions.

Regarding whether attendees follow the webinar until the end, it also depends on various factors. Some attendees may stay for the entire duration of the webinar, while others may leave early due to scheduling conflicts or other reasons. Most of the participants stayed the whole session thanks to the high-quality content presented.

Considering the geographical origin and economic sector of the registered individuals, we can make the following observations:

Overall, Denmark, Italy, and the Netherlands had the highest number of registrations for the three webinars, and the majority of attendees were affiliated with education and research institutions.

For the first webinar, a big number of registered people was reached thanks to the dissemination efforts of our partners, especially those with a worldwide audience, such as Ramboll. The audience was from all over the world, but with a noticeable prominence of European countries. Below, we present the percentage of registrations from the top five countries with the highest participation, listed in descending order:

1. Italy: 10.99%
2. Denmark: 7.11%
3. Netherlands: 6.25%
4. India: 5.60%
5. Serbia: 4.74%

Regarding the sector, the following graph illustrates the responses:

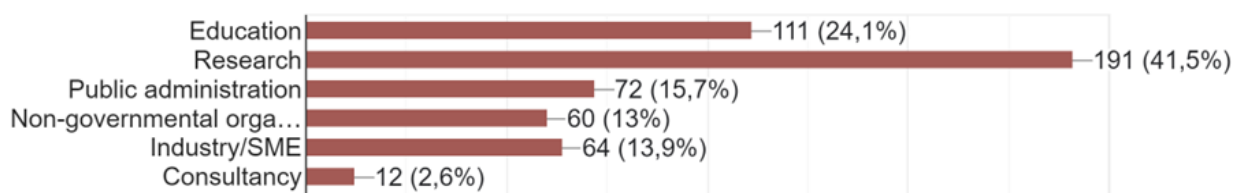


Figure 9: Sectors of participants in Webinar 1

For the second webinar, the biggest number of registrations came from the following countries:

1. Denmark: 17.52%
2. Netherlands: 7.30%
3. Italy: 6.93%
4. Spain: 5.84%
5. Germany: 5.47%

In the economic sector, once again, the majority of participants were from research institutions.

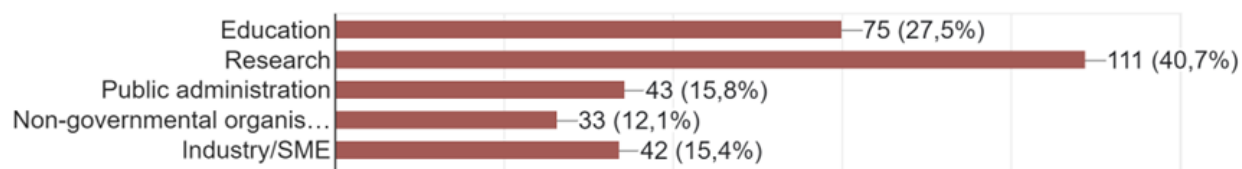


Figure 10: Sectors of participants in Webinar 2

For the third and final webinar, most registrations came from the following countries:

1. Denmark: 14.21%
2. Netherlands: 10.38%
3. Italy: 9.84%
4. Serbia: 7.10%
5. Spain: 5.46%

The number of attendees from the research field was even greater this time compared to the previous two occasions.

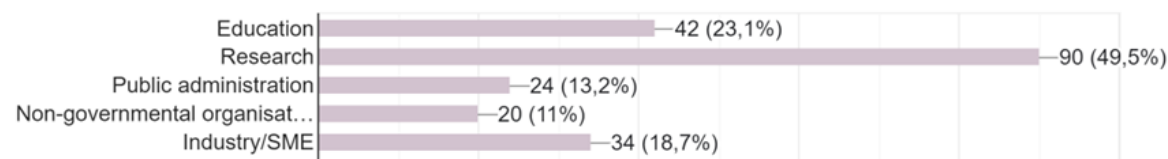


Figure 11: Sectors of participants in Webinar 3

4.2 Views and engagement

The RECONNECT webinars, aimed to provide insights and reflections on various aspects of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are accessible from the dedicated page in the project website <http://www.reconnect.eu/webinars/> as embedded videos uploaded in the project's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@reconnectproject7495>

The first webinar titled "Introduction and opportunities for NbS: reflections from RECONNECT" received significant attention, with a total of 420 views on YouTube. It emerged as the most popular webinar among the three.

The second webinar, titled "Sourcing the evidence base from RECONNECT NbS demonstration cases," received 102 views on YouTube.

The third webinar, titled "RECONNECT experiences in co-monitoring and co-evaluation of NbS," received 64 views on YouTube.

Overall, the webinars received a positive response with the first webinar garnering the highest number of views. As of today, they continue to accumulate views on YouTube thanks to the quality of the presentations and the attractiveness of the topic.

On the dedicated page of the project website, along with the webinar videos, the presentations delivered during the live events are available for **free download as PDF files**. This feature has been well-received by the audience, as evidenced by the significant number of downloads accumulated on our website. The **download statistics for each webinar's presentations** are as follows:

- Webinar 1: 601 downloads
- Webinar 2: 184 downloads
- Webinar 3: 152 downloads

These numbers reflect the audience's appreciation for the valuable content and the opportunity to access and reference the presentations at their convenience.

Regarding the impact of the dissemination and communication campaigns for the announcement of the webinars, the following statistics highlight their significance.

Twitter Engagement:

The first webinar's Twitter post received a total of 332 + 654 visualizations in two posts.

The second webinar's Twitter post accumulated 179 + 232 visualizations in two posts.

The third webinar's Twitter post garnered 903 visualizations.

Newsletter Dissemination:

For the first webinar, the campaign was sent to 545 subscribers. It resulted in 768 opens of the email and 233 clicks to the registration form.

The second webinar campaign reached 540 subscribers, with a total of 759 opens.

The campaign for the third webinar was sent to 552 subscribers and received 838 email opens.

It is worth noting that these email campaigns played a crucial role as the primary source of traffic to the registration form for the webinars. Additionally, they generated substantial interest in the project website.

5 Outcomes and follow-up

RECONNECT webinars, and in general the development of training initiatives connected to the available results, contributed to the achievement of the general project outcomes and impact set for different categories of target audience.

Generally speaking, the main outcomes achieved through the RECONNECT training are:

- NbS awareness raising, in particular among institutional stakeholders such as decision makers and government agencies;
- train the target audience in order to support the uptake and the exploitation of RECONNECT outputs;
- give the target audience the knowledge and the opportunity to train others on NbS implementation, with the aim to amplify and replicate the application of RECONNECT outputs.

More specifically, other outputs to which RECONNECT training contributed are:

- to support the participating entities and professionals with training and information material to reach out partner cities and regional authorities;
- to ensure the long-term financing of NbS by connecting potential financiers with local and regional authorities;
- to recognize good practices and standards developed within the project;
- to trigger positive attitudes and approaches towards NbS.

According to the RECONNECT Theory of Change and the pathway to impacts developed under the WP6 (Communication and Dissemination), training is included in the process driving changes and transformation and supporting:

- the implementation of project activities and interventions;
- the upscaling of NbS
- the market demand;
- the advocacy of NbS for risk reduction;

The three webinars gave room also to a discussion session, where the participants had the opportunity to ask for clarifications and to deep specific topic with the chairman and the speaker, giving hence hints for possible RECONNECT follow-ups.

Macro-topics that were raised during the discussion were:

- **Contribution of RECONNECT in respect to NbS innovation:** it relates to the network of demonstrators and collaborators, working together to develop standards and guidelines. RECONNECT developed single products, but the real innovation is holistic and comprehensive approach not only focused on nature but also on social and technological aspects.
- **Accounting for local and regional differences within EU,** that can influence the implementation and the standardization of NbS on the social and environmental point of view. It is important to identify demand and strengths in implementing NbS and what is driving the demand. Needed to mainstream NbS both in terms of scaling (up, down, deep) and replication. Replication means proposing the solution in areas having similarities, scaling is to adapt the solution to different contexts and make it able to keep different dimensions and shapes.
- **Cost-effectiveness of the NbS solutions:** in RECONNECT it is calculated in particular in terms of risk reduction potential. Needed to close the gap between monitoring and evaluation and better think on what we can do with data from monitoring and how they can be transferred into information useful to assess the

NbS performance. In some cases (e.g. for biodiversity monitoring) the time frame of the project was too short to make an assessment since the process needs more time to be evaluated.

- **Dealing with land owners:** often the need for NbS falls in private areas, and it might be a problem to deal with land owners and convince them for interventions in their areas. Good communication and a robust knowledge base on NbS effectiveness and on how to engage stakeholders in the NbS co-creation process is fundamental to address this barrier.

6 Conclusions

The activities for the organisation of RECONNECT training and webinars were very fruitful. They allowed to increase the visibility of the project and the RECONNECT community thanks to the success of the initiative and the positive response by the targeted stakeholders.

The cooperation among the partners involved in the activity was very close and finalised to transferring results and experience from the project and its demonstrators and collaborators in view of exploiting their potential and scaling them, as well as of building capacity and knowledge around the complex topic of NbS for the adaptation to climate change and risk reduction.

As already mentioned in Deliverable 6.4, there is still a lack of knowledge and skills around NbS, in particular in decision makers and land planners. As well, their effectiveness and performance need to be demonstrated through sound scientific data and both in terms of risk reduction and improvement of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

What the webinars aimed to, was to transfer the experience and information from field activities to train participants on how to effectively design a NbS and to monitor their implementation process (from design to decommissioning).

The introduction to the NbS EU policy framework, the innovation potential as well as the available funding opportunities and business models was aimed at providing participants the knowledge to understand that NbS is becoming a trend at EU level in dealing with climate change, and that new businesses will be developed around this topic such as monitoring, constructions, tourism and social benefit.

As already mentioned, the RECONNECT training offer will be completed with a MOOC, available for free from spring 2024 and addressed to a more specialized and academic audience. The MOOC will be delivered in 6 modules (one per week) of 4 to 6 hours each, covering all the aspects of a NbS implementation. Self-assessment tests and interactive lessons will characterise this product.

As a final conclusion, the webinars and the MOOC will provide RECONNECT partners and stakeholders with a robust base of knowledge and comprehensive set of information to support the mainstreaming of project products towards end users and the uptake of such solutions and technology.