

Report on cumulative expenditure incurred

Deliverable D7.8



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Abstract (for dissemination, 100 words)	This deliverable D7.8 presents the figures of the costs declared in period 1 and period 2- to provide a clear comparison and analysis of costs declared in both periods- and the overall cumulative expenditure incurred in both periods
Keywords	Expenditure, deviation, increased costs, cumulative

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Executive Summary

The aim of this deliverable is to provide a clear overview (with additional explanations) of the costs that have been declared by the beneficiaries of the RECONNECT project. The first part of this deliverable focuses on the costs that were declared by beneficiaries in period 1 only, and the second part of this deliverable focuses on the costs declared in period 2. The aim of these two parts is to present the costs declared in both periods in a more separated and exclusive overview to compare the costs declared in both periods. The last part of the deliverable then proceeds to provide the cumulative expenditure of the beneficiaries at this point in time of the project.

As the declared costs of both periods, in a more separated – and cumulative presentation, are presented, it can be examined that expenditures of some beneficiaries deviate from the original estimates. These beneficiaries were already approached during an interim analysis of the costs declared in both periods, and were asked to provide explanations for their deviations. The Management Team took note of the explanations provided, and will closely monitor any further costs declared in the upcoming interim and periodic analyses.

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Abbreviations

PMs	Person Months
P1	Period 1
P2	Period 2

1 Introduction

At the time of submission of D7.8, the RECONNECT project has reached its 38th month – out of 72 months, which represents the total duration of the project. As the end of period 2 also stipulates that 50% of the total project duration has been completed, D7.8 is written to reflect upon both periods and to present the cumulative figures up until month 38.

At month 38, the project has had six General Assemblies, 9 Executive Board meetings, and two extraordinary meetings. Out of the six General Assemblies, two had to be organized online due to an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The last extraordinary meeting was also organized online. The meetings were organized via the OpenCourseWare RECONNECT platform, which enabled all beneficiaries to join the meetings from their homes. The possibility of organizing online meetings enabled to maintain dynamics of the project and no meeting had to be cancelled. However, since the project focuses on NBS demonstration, monitoring, evaluation (i.e., the work of Demonstrators) and upscaling (i.e., the work of Collaborators) it is very much dependent on face-to-face workshops and field visits which was affected with the global pandemic situation. All General Assemblies were supposed to be organized in Demonstrator locations so that the beneficiaries could visit these sites and gain practical experience. In addition, twinning activities are currently forced to be organized online as well due to travel restrictions. With current prospects of relaxation of COVID-related measures throughout Europe the RECONNECT team hopes to be able to organize the seventh General Assembly in a hybrid format (i.e., partly face-to-face and partly online) at the end of April or beginning of May 2022.

Over the course of the project up until month 38, some other changes and developments have occurred and these are: three beneficiaries have left the project (IWA, SEI and STRANE), and two new beneficiaries joined the project (IUCN, UPM). The project has also received a 12-month extension which resulted in the total duration of 72 months. This extension was requested as part of the second amendment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly hampered most of on-site activities. The extension came into place as of 1 March 2020 – after the first reporting period.

This report starts off with a brief description of costs declared by the beneficiaries in period 1, then it presents the costs declared by beneficiaries in period 2, and, lastly, it presents the cumulative costs declared in both periods- up until month 38 of the project. The costs declared are depicted in figures (bar graphs) to support analysis and comparison of costs declared over the course of the project to date.

2 First reporting period

Figure 1 presents the actual costs declared per partner in period 1, from the start of the RECONNECT project on 1 September 2018 until 29 February 2020 (i.e., month 18). At the end of period 1, in month 18, RECONNECT consisted of 35 beneficiaries. Out of the 35 beneficiaries, one beneficiary (NCKU) did not declare any costs due to the fact that they are not funded by the RECONNECT project, which is also reflected in figure 1. After the first period, one beneficiary left the project – IWA, due to the restructuring of organisation’s activities, reduction in staff members and relocation of offices. The two new beneficiaries joined the project – UPM and IUCN, and IUCN took over most of the responsibilities of IWA.

Figure 1 shows the amount declared by the RECONNECT beneficiaries in period 1 out of total budgeted amount. The 30% line indicates the amount that was estimated to be spent and declared by the beneficiaries in period 1. As shown in figure 1, some beneficiaries either overspent or underspent while taking the 30% line into account. It is important to note that the duration of the project in the first period was still set at 60 months (18 months is represented by the 30% line). After the first reporting period, the project received an extension of 12 months- resulting in a total project duration of 72 months.

Beneficiaries that (slightly) overspent were TAUW, ACA, HR, INTERACT, CNR while beneficiaries that underspent were IWA, DTU, FHH, HYDS, UNEXE, Warsz, ARHUS, PORTOFINO, ODENSE, UFZ, EAWAG.

As these figures and costs spent were calculated over the first period, it was expected that beneficiaries that showed to have underspent would increase their activities and expenditure as the project further progresses. This is further shown in the figures depicting the cumulative expenditure of period 1 and period 2.

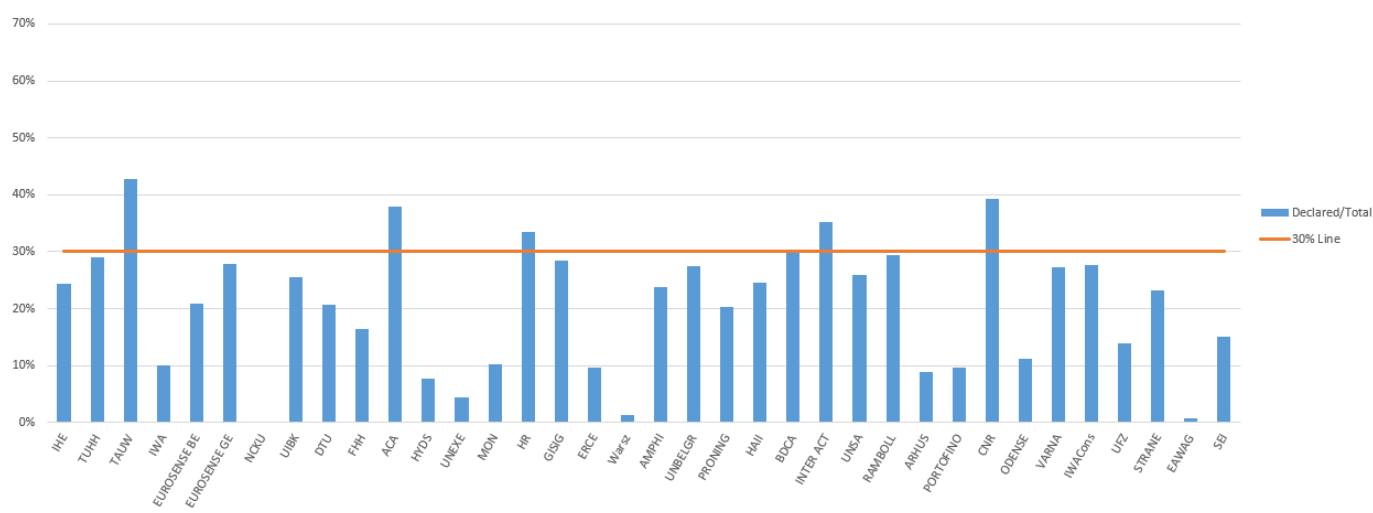


Figure 1 Amount declared in period 1 out of Total budgeted

Figure 2 presents the personnel costs declared vs budgeted and the Person Months (PMs) declared vs budgeted in period 1. Figure 2 shows some deviations when considering the initially budgeted personnel costs and PMs. The 30% line represents the expected point of spending at the moment of the project (i.e., month 18). It is shown that TAUW declared more PMs and personnel costs when considering the 30% line. This can be justified with the fact that most of the WP2 activities took place in the first period.

CNR is an example of another beneficiary that is shown to have overspent PMs and personnel costs when considering the 30% line, as shown in figure 2. This can be also justified by the fact that, during the first period, CNR was significantly involved in one of the Demonstrator sites, namely Portofino Park (Demonstrator A), and a significant number of PMs and personnel costs were spent in this period.

Figure 2 also shows that beneficiaries Warsz, Monash and EAWAG did not declare any personnel costs nor PMs. For Warsz, these costs were covered by another project, which is closely linked to one of the Collaborator sites, the Pilica River project. EAWAG and Monash also reported that their personnel costs and PMs were covered by sources other than the RECONNECT project.

These explanations were also provided in the technical periodic report of period 1.

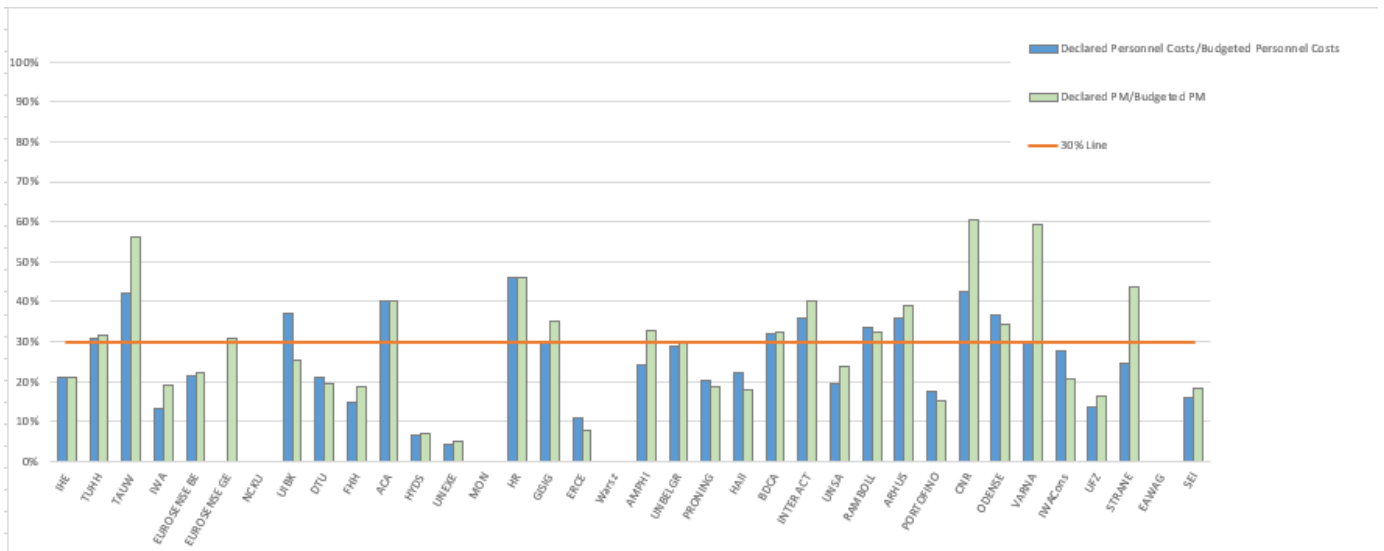


Figure 2 Personnel costs declared in period 1 out of budgeted and PM declared in period 1 out of budgeted

3 Second reporting period

Figure 3 presents the costs declared by beneficiaries for period 2 only (month 18 to 38). Period 2 lasted 20 months. As the RECONNECT project received an extension after period 1, this resulted in a total project duration of 72 months, instead of the initial 60 months. It is therefore important to note that the 28% line, as shown in figure 3, representing the expected expenditure of the beneficiaries in period 2, comes from the calculation based on the new project duration: 20 months divided by 72 months.

When comparing the costs declared for period 1 with the costs declared of period 2, as shown in figures 1 and 3, some observations can be noted.

In period 2, TUHH, UIBK, HYDS, ARHUS, ODENSE, reported expenditure above the 28% line, while the amount spent by these same partners in period 1 was below the 30% line. This can be explained with an increase of activities of these beneficiaries in period 2. It should be noted that contributions from beneficiaries to the project are not linear according to the project timeline, meaning that it is reasonable for them to spend less in the first reporting period, but declare more costs in the second reporting period. For beneficiary ODENSE, this variation is with the fact that they are working on the construction of the NBS at Seden Strand, which was foreseen in their planning, and hence they reported increased costs in period 2 as shown in figure 3.

IWA, NCKU, Warsz and UPM did not declare any amount by the end of period 2, as shown in figure 3. As previously explained, NCKU is not funded by the RECONNECT project. At the time of the second reporting period, IWA had already left the project, which is reason that no amount is shown. Warsz did not declare any amount in period 2 and stated that all activities undertaken in period 2 were co-funded. Most of the budget of Warsz was planned to be spent in the second half of the project including their travels, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, travelling was not an option. As presented in figure 3, EAWAG spent a very small amount in period 2. EAWAG stated that they only spent very few costs on travelling for their project leaders, as not much travelling could be organized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UPM did not declare any amount in period 2 and stated that they were funding these activities from another project. As their activities in the project increase they will start with RECONNECT expenditures.

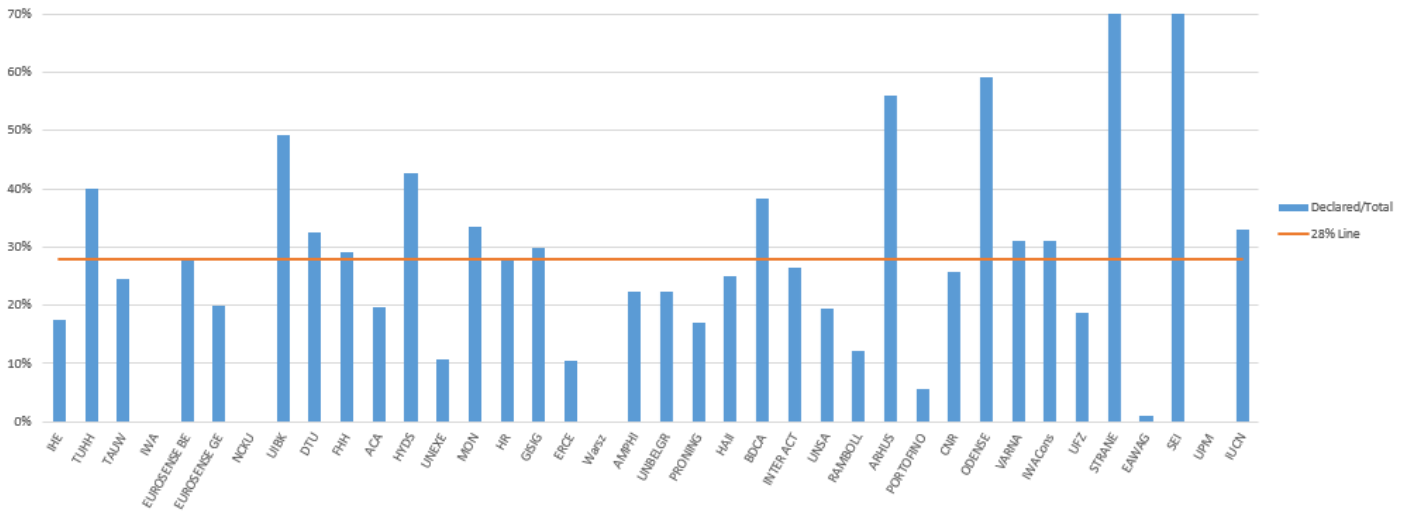


Figure 3 Amount declared in period 2 out of Total budgeted

An extraordinary meeting was planned in April 2021 for the termination of beneficiaries SEI and STRANE. Their termination reports were submitted on 24 November 2021, and at the time of the production of this deliverable these were not yet approved. As they were officially still beneficiaries in the project in period 2 from 1 March 2020 until 29 September 2021, their costs declared were also included in figure 3, but these costs declared were reported as part of their termination reports and do not provide a full credible representation for this report as the costs declared by both SEI and STRANE were not in agreement with the RECONNECT Executive Board and hence not internally approved.

As shown in figure 4, Warsz, EAWAG and UPM did not declare any personnel costs and Person Months. No declared personnel costs and PMs are shown for IWA and NCKU, as IWA had already left the project once period 2 started, and NCKU is not officially funded by the project.

Figure 4 also shows that UIBK declared quite a significant amount of personnel costs and PMs in period 2, HYDS declared a higher number of PMs, MONASH declared a very high number of PMs, ARHUS declared a significant amount of personnel costs and PMs in period 2.

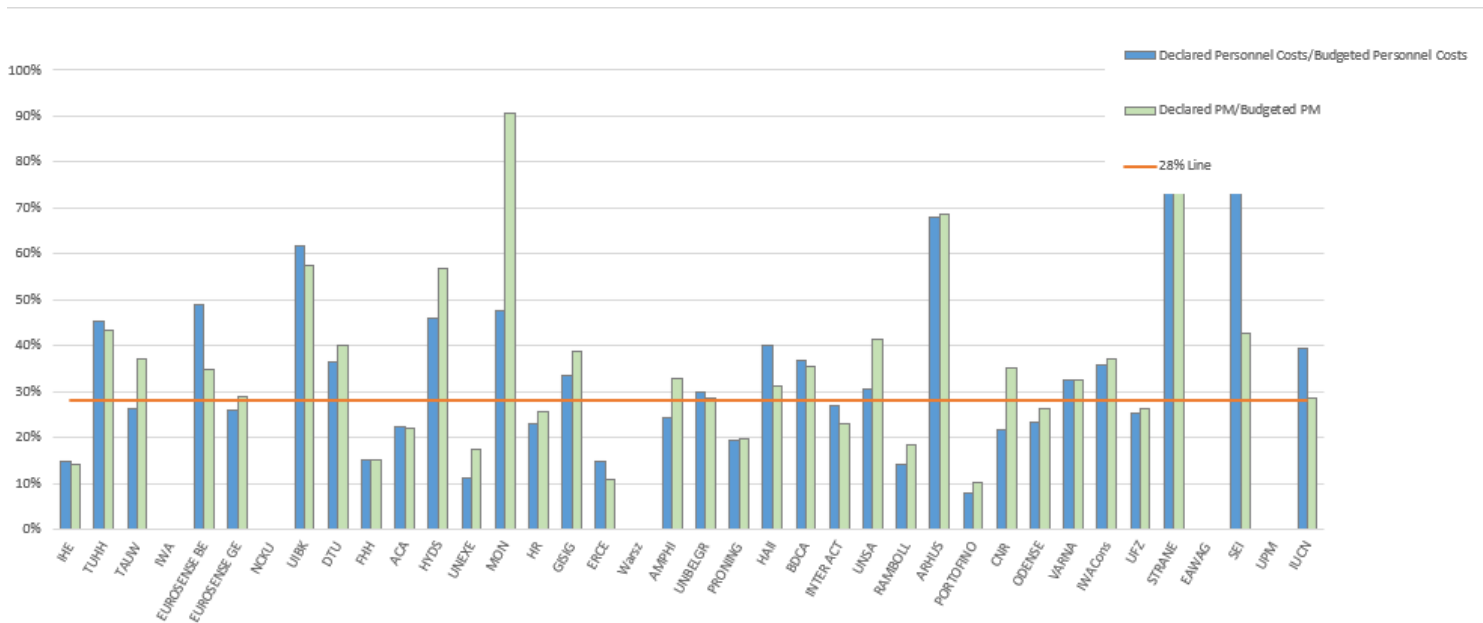


Figure 4 Personnel costs declared in period 2 out of budgeted and PM declared in period 2 out of budgeted

4 Cumulative expenditure

Figure 5 depicts the cumulative total amount of costs declared in both period 1 and period 2. The 53% line marks the amount that reflects this point in time in the project and terminated beneficiaries IWA, SEI and STRANE have been excluded from this figure.

As shown in figure 5, TUHH, TAUW, UIBK, BDCA, ARHUS, CNR and ODENSE have spent around 70% of their resources and there are several reasons that can justify this expenditure.

TAUW stated that, in period 1 and 2, they worked on 7 out of 8 deliverables – of which most of them have almost been completed. TAUW also leads 4 deliverables, and stated to have taken over most of the contributions in D2.7 from BDCA as it was agreed that TAUW could provide more inputs for D2.7. It is expected that BDCA will be taking a larger role in producing D2.8.

CNR stated that in the period from March 2020-April 2021, a more substantial work has been undertaken in relation to the upscaling strategy and other activities undertaken as part of the originally submitted D5.5 which needed major rework. They stated that quite some work has been spent on the draft versions of deliverables related to the upscaling strategy, the development of a different upscaling strategy approach, and elaboration of a new upscaling tool.

Reasons for the increased expenditure of ODENSE have already been discussed earlier in chapter 3.

Figure 5 also shows that UNEXE, Warsz, PORTOFINO, EAWAG and UPM have spent below 20% at this point in time of the project.

Explanations concerning Warsz’s expenditure have already been provided in chapters 2 and 3.

PORTOFINO stated that a more significant preparational work has been undertaken in view of two construction sites in basins San Fruttuoso and Paraggi within the Portofino Natural Park. The commencement of these two projects is scheduled for 25th October 2021 (San Fruttuoso) and 3rd November 2021 (Paraggi).

The reasons for the lower expenditure of EAWAG at this point have been provided in chapters 2 and 3.

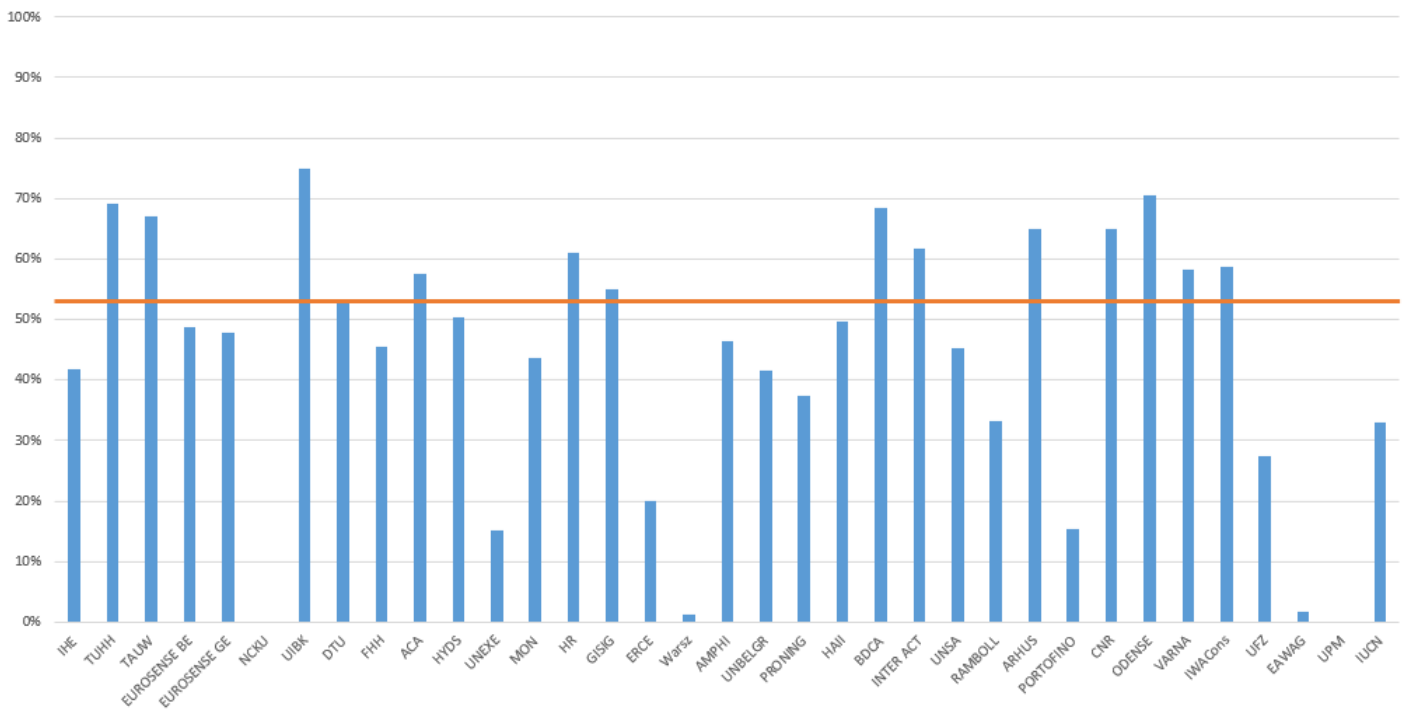


Figure 5 Cumulative amount declared P1+P2 out of Total Budgeted

Figure 6 illustrates the cumulative personnel costs and PMs that have been declared at this point in time of the project by the RECONNECT beneficiaries. The beneficiaries that left the project, IWA, SEI and STRANE have been excluded from this figure. The 53% line marks reflects the present point in time in the project.

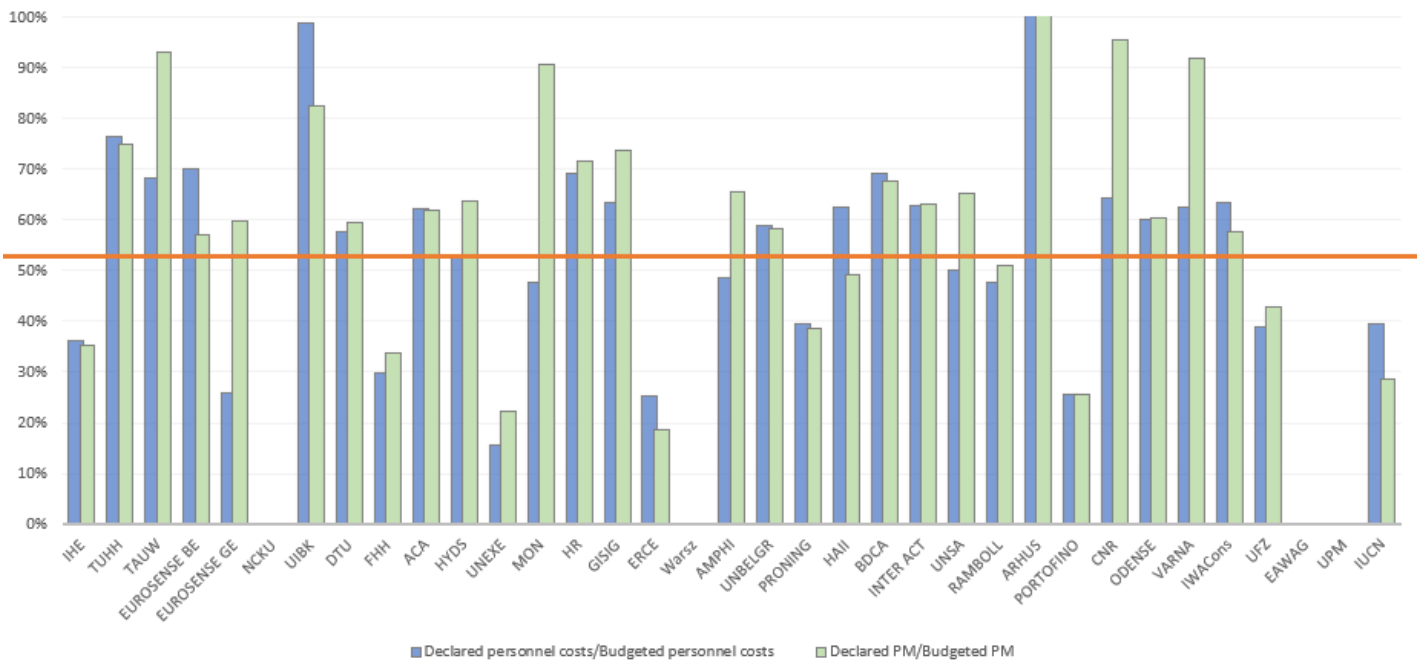


Figure 6 Cumulative Personnel Costs Declared out of Budgeted and PM Declared out of Budgeted P1+P2