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Deliverable D4.1: Project Management Handbook

Deliverable D4.1

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Abstract

This Project Management Handbook is intended to support partners in the effective and efficient administration, procedural and financial management of the project. It focuses on project implementation procedures, structures and coordination and sets out key responsibilities for EU engagement and interaction. It is intended to support the achievement of project objectives, the effective management of partner progress and the timely delivery of project results.

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Versioning and contribution history

Version	Date	Authors	Notes
0.1	07/11/2023	Andrea Biancini (EITD)	Draft version.
0.2	30/11/2023	Andrea Biancini (EITD)	Accepted small revisions from partners. Added the following sections: decision making process, contact list and preparation and organization of meetings.
0.3	20/02/2024	Andrea Biancini (EITD)	Updated section regarding internal reports to align with interim report to the founding institution.
0.4	11/04/2025	Romane Léauté (EITD)	Restructured deliverable according to PO comments during review meeting.

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1 Introduction

This Project Management Handbook is intended to support partners in the effective and efficient administration, procedural and financial management of the project. It focuses on project implementation procedures, structures and coordination and sets out key responsibilities for EU engagement and interaction. It is intended to support the achievement of project objectives, the effective management of partner progress and the timely delivery of project results.

This Project Management Handbook sets out:

- the procedures and standards to be used in the SPECTRO project;
- the key roles and responsibilities;
- how the project will be carried out, measured, monitored, accounted for and safeguarded during the project.

1.1 SPECTRO

SPecialised Education programmes in CybersecuriTy and Robotics (SPECTRO) will focus on the design and delivery of two double-degree master's programmes (ISCED Level 7, 120 ECTS) in two key digital technology areas for the future of Europe:

- 1) Cybersecurity, and
- 2) Robotics.

The two specialised master's programmes, which will also include a minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, will be designed and delivered by a consortium consisting of 12 higher education institutions (7 of which involved in Cybersecurity and 8 in Robotics) from 7 different countries, 2 innovative SMEs, 1 leading research centre in Information Systems and EIT Digital, a pan-European organisation with in-depth knowledge and experience in the digital skills domain. The master's programmes developed by SPECTRO partners will address the labour market needs, foster strong interactions and mobility between academia and business, strengthen knowledge triangle integration, promote entrepreneurship, and considerably boost the growth of the existing EIT Digital ecosystem, one of the largest digital ecosystems in Europe. In addition to the two master's programme, SPECTRO partners will also develop and deploy a series of self-standing learning modules on topics related to Cybersecurity and Robotics. These modules will lead to four different certifications, which will be released by participating higher education institutions and EIT Digital. Dedicated marketing, promotion, communication, and dissemination activities will be

carried out by SPECTRO partners to maximise the outreach of project activities and to attract the desired target audience to the master's programmes and self-standing modules. SPECTRO will expand the specialised education offer in Europe and will contribute to reducing the current shortage of digital specialists in Europe, by providing training to more than 1000 European citizens in Cybersecurity and Robotics.

1.2 Work Package 4

The objectives of Work Package 4 are:

- To ensure the overall management of the project and effectively monitor the project, in administrative, technical, and financial terms.
- To guarantee high-quality content and management with the aim of securing effective progress.
- To coordinate the enrolment process of participants to SPECTRO education programmes.
- To ensure the establishment of effective and sustainable partnerships within the consortium.

It is concerned with undertaking the technical and scientific coordination of the SPECTRO project as well as the administrative and financial management. This work package will ensure that appropriate quality control and reporting mechanism are applied across the project.

1.3 Deliverable 4.1

1.3.1 Purpose

The SPECTRO Project Handbook has been prepared with two purposes:

1. to provide the framework within which the project will be managed by the coordinator;
2. to guide project participants through all aspects of the project's management and coordination activities and provide a clear set of rules and expectations to be followed in conducting the project.

1.3.2 Objectives

- To define the procedures and standards to be used in the SPECTRO project.
- To define key roles and responsibilities.
- To demonstrate how the project will be carried out, measured, monitored, accounted for and safeguarded during the project.

2 Management of SPECTRO project

2.1 Management structure

SPECTRO implementation work plan requires effective project management to deliver high quality results. The project management approach chosen guarantees transparency and commitment to all partners and facilitates successful project execution. Consortium bodies and key actors in the management structure are depicted in Figure 1.

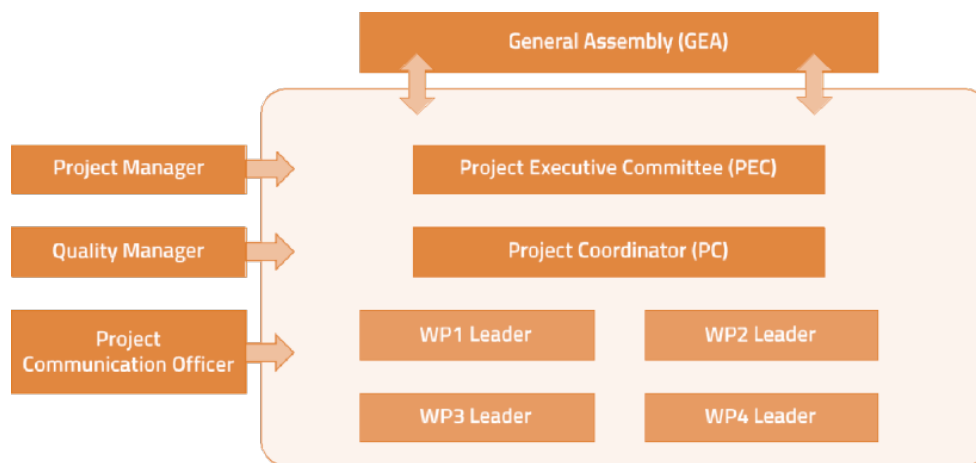


Figure 1: SPECTRO Project Management Structure.

Table 1 provides a short description of the key roles in the consortium. Duties, responsibilities, and rights will be codified and agreed in the project Consortium Agreement.

Key roles	Acronym	Definition
General Assembly	GEA	Composed of consortium members; responsible for the project, including any significant changes.
Project Executive Committee	PEC	Composed of PC and WP Leaders, responsible for technical and operational management, quality, risk mitigation and progress tracking.

Key roles	Acronym	Definition
Project Coordinator	PC	Responsible for overall coordination, content management and liaisons with EC..
Project Manager	PM	Supporting the PC, responsible for administrative and financial progress reporting.
Quality Manager	QM	Responsible for Quality Plan creation and implementation and risk management.
Work Package Leader	WPL	Responsible for planning and progress in a WP and contributing to the PEC.
Task Leader	TL	Responsible for the planning and deployment of the specific actions defined under the task.
Project Communication Officer	PCO	Responsible for external communication activities.

Table 1: Key roles in the management of SPECTRO project.

2.1.1 General Assembly (GEA)

The GEA consists of management level representatives of all consortium partners, each having one vote. This is to ensure ownership of the results and to prove the commitment on all sides. It is chaired by the Project Coordinator. The GEA is the highest decision-making body in the project. It will assume overall responsibility for project conformance to the contract. The GEA deals with contractual issues escalated to it, or issues requiring GEA confirmation and/or voting according to the consortium agreement. The GEA ensures that the partners give continued support and adequate resources to the project; promotes the results of the project and acts as the final level of escalation, should serious conflicts arise during the project. In particular, the GEA is responsible for:

- Major changes to the consortium, work plan or budgets, especially if requiring EC approval.
- Review, quality check and approval of project deliverables and, more in general, of any public output
- Guaranteeing confidentiality of internal project results/outputs designated as restricted to the consortium.

- Establishing a controlling and reporting system for resource consumption and progress against schedule.
- GEA delegates, as representatives of contractors, are responsible for: 1) Submission of correct financial and administrative data to the Project Coordinator, 2) Commitment of their own organisations, including financial matters and management of their internal resources.

The role, decision responsibilities and powers of the GEA are specified in the Consortium Agreement.

2.1.2 Project Coordinator (PC)

The PC will cooperate and exchange information with the project management (PM) to guarantee the correct delivery and reporting of the project.

The PC is responsible for the management and coordination of the entire project. The PC also chairs and ensures proper operation of the key consortium bodies GEA and PEC. The PC reports to the GEA. Responsibilities include:

- Execution of all project obligations vis-à-vis the Agency, including submission of project deliverables.
- Acting as the intermediary between the partners and the EC / Project Officer (PO).
- Calling PEC / GEA meetings, informing and chairing PEC and GEA.
- Resolution of financial and contractual issues.
- Overseeing the implementation of administrative processes.

As the official interface between the consortium and the EC, the PC monitors project activities, maintains an up- to-date view of progress and will, where appropriate, suggest changes to the original work plan to ensure achievement of project objectives. The PC will be supported by the PM in ensuring all administrative objectives and obligations are met. In order to meet the scientific and technical goals, the PC is supported by WP Leaders in the context of the PEC.

2.1.3 Project Manager (PM)

The PM will work closely together with the PC function and ensures that the Project Coordinator receives all necessary support in coordination matters and in particular regarding annual cost statements, payments, budget allocations and audit certificates from each partner at the time of financial reporting. In addition, the PM is responsible for the following activities:

- Dealing with all administrative issues arising in the project including data collection from partners
- Preparing meetings with the project consortium, ensuring minutes are taken and approved.

- Supporting the communication with the EC in general, and with respect to the preparation of review meetings, and the submission and approval of deliverables.
- Financial Control: monitoring Financial Statements, feedback to the partners and the PC.
- External relations: receive external requests and questions on project, provide interested parties with information issued by the project, follow-up on cooperation with other projects, track events connected with relevant stakeholders and international forums.

2.1.4 Project Executive Committee (PEC)

The PEC is the project's driving force for project activities. It is chaired by the PC, reports to the GEA and is composed of WPL, WP Team members, QM, IM and the Quality Experts will be invited, in case their expertise is required. The PEC oversees project progress and in particular:

- Implementation of all action plans.
- Coordination of work package dependencies.
- Maintaining communication and ensuring reporting.
- Providing guidance on Intellectual Property issues.
- Supporting implementation of the quality assurance system.
- Ensuring guidance on ethical and (legal) data protection issues is followed.
- Creation of efficient team structures.
- Establishing flexible effective communication and an appropriate meeting schedule.

2.1.5 Quality Manager (QM)

The QM is responsible for the definition of the Quality Assurance Plan and its implementation by all partners. The QM will manage and coordinate the procedures to assess the quality of project deliverables and learning content for the short-term training programmes, appointing peer reviewers from the partners' staff to support the process.

2.1.6 Work Package Leaders (WPL)

Work Package Leaders are responsible for managing their WP as a self-contained entity, as well as managing interfaces to other WPs through the PEC. WPL coordinate, monitor, and assess the progress of the WP to ensure that output performance, budget, and timelines are met. Their responsibilities include:

- Production of project deliverables according to defined quality processes.
- Identifying risks to report to the Project Manager and complying with risk mitigation plans.
- Reporting quality issues and status to the Quality Manager.
- Achievement of the technical objectives of the project in their domain.
- Ensuring conformance of WP results with requirements of succeeding work packages

2.1.7 Task Leaders (TL)

Task leaders are responsible for managing their tasks as a self-contained entity, and in relation to other tasks part of the Work Package and of the project. Their responsibility include:

- Plan and deploy the activities related to the task in accordance with the project timeline.
- Contribute to the deliverables connected to their tasks.
- Identify and flag to the WPL any task related risks while proposing mitigation actions.

2.1.8 Project Communication Officer (PCO)

PCO will manage and coordinate all dissemination and outreach activities within SPECTRO project. The PCO will act as the single point of contact for partners for communication-related topics and will lead the communication and update meetings with partners to align on dissemination activities.

2.1.9 Project roles

In the context of the SPECTRO project, the assignment of roles and responsibilities across the different Work Packages (WPs) has been carefully aligned with the prior expertise and involvement of the participating institutions in relevant educational activities under the EIT Digital framework. The project budget has been built around this structure, with all costs, including personnel, aligned with the expected level of effort for each role.

Work Package 1 (WP1), dedicated to the education programme in Cybersecurity, has been entrusted to Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE). This decision builds on ELTE's longstanding role as the programme lead for Cybersecurity within the EIT Digital Master School, a function it has successfully fulfilled since before the launch of the SPECTRO project. This continuity ensures consistency in academic leadership and leverages ELTE's deep expertise in the field.

Similarly, Work Package 2 (WP2), which covers the education programme in Autonomous Systems and Intelligent Robots, has been assigned to the University of Trento (UNITN). Like ELTE, UNITN has been a key programme leader within the EIT Digital Master School, specifically for programmes on Autonomous Systems. Their appointment as WP2 leader reflects the project's strategy to capitalise on pre-existing academic leadership and technical excellence.

In line with the project's collaborative spirit and to ensure balanced workload distribution, the two tasks focusing on the creation of self-standing online learning modules—Task 1.2 on Cybersecurity and Task 2.2 on Robotics—have been assigned to institutions other than the WP leads but with strong domain relevance. The University of Turku (UTU) has taken responsibility for Task 1.2 due to its active involvement in the Cybersecurity education activities within the consortium, while the University of Bologna (UNIBO), with recognised strengths in Robotics and Autonomous Systems, leads Task 2.2. This deliberate allocation of responsibilities ensures that the project draws on the strengths of different partners while enabling a broader engagement of institutions and a more equitable distribution of development efforts.

Work Packages 3 and 4, which focus on dissemination and communication (WP3) and project administration and implementation (WP4), respectively, are led by EIT Digital (EITD). EITD, as the project coordinator, is uniquely positioned to manage these transversal activities, having already overseen similar communication and administrative processes within the EIT Digital Master School ecosystem. Importantly, the core of the work in WP3 and WP4 does not involve creating new methodologies or deliverables from scratch. Rather, it centres on adapting established processes to the specific needs of the SPECTRO project, including student admissions, scholarship distribution, project meetings, deliverables coordination, and partner alignment. The most substantial effort in these WPs thus lies in executing and synchronising these complex processes efficiently across a diverse consortium.

Finally, to ensure objective oversight, the quality assurance function of the project has been explicitly entrusted to a partner external to EIT Digital. This measure safeguards the independence of the quality control mechanisms and avoids any potential conflict of interest between those implementing the project's core processes and those responsible for verifying their quality.

2.1.10 Project contacts list

In order to streamline communication and foster collaboration, SPECTRO established a comprehensive contact list, which serves as a centralized repository of essential contact information for all individuals involved.

General enquiries: all general enquiries about the SPECTRO project should be directed to spectro@eitdigital.eu

Organisation	Contact name	Contact email
EIT Digital	Project coordination team	msl.euprojects@eitdigital.eu
Aalto University	Quan Zhou	quan.zhou@aalto.fi
Budapest University of Technology and Economics	Balint Kiss	kiss.balint@vik.bme.hu
Eötvös Loránd University	Viktoria Villany	vvillanyi@inf.elte.hu
Eurecom	Raphaël Troncy	raphael.troncy@eurecom.fr
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Mihhail Matskin	misha@kth.se
Babeş-Bolyai University	Darius-Vasile Bufnea	darius.bufnea@ubbcluj.ro

Organisation	Contact name	Contact email
University Côte d'Azur	Françoise Baude	francoise.baude@univ-cotedazur.fr
University of Bologna	Giuseppe Notarstefano	giuseppe.notarstefano@unibo.it
University of Trento	Davide Brunelli	davide.brunelli@unitn.it
University of Rennes	Alvaro Stranger	alvaro.pina-stranger@univ-rennes.fr
University of Twente	Florian Hahn	f.w.hahn@utwente.nl
University of Turku	Seppo Virtanen	seppo.virtanen@utu.fi
Gim Robotics	Mika Vainio	mika.vainio@gimrobotics.fi
Evolutionary Archetypes Consulting SL	Nektar Baziotis	nektar@ea.consulting

Table 2: SPECTRO partners contact list

2.2 Preparation and organization of meetings

Meeting preparation and organization is described in the Grant Agreement agreed by all participants of the project. Here an extract of the relevant information regarding meeting described in the GA.

2.2.1 Convening meetings

As described in the project Grant Agreement, the following meeting will be called regularly.

	Ordinary meeting	Extraordinary meeting
General Assembly (GEA)	Four meetings: 1 st - within first three month of year 1, 2 nd - within second half of year 2, 3 rd - within second half of year 3, 4 th - within second half of year 4.	At any time upon request of the Project Executive Committee or 1/3 of the Members of the General Assembly

Project Executive Committee (PEC)	Monthly teleconferences. Face-to-face meeting organize every 6 months: in March and September of each project year.	At any time upon request of any Member of the General Assembly
General Assembly and Project Executive Committee	GEA and PEC will meet jointly at the beginning of the project for detailed strategy and planning.	
Work Package (WP)	Monthly for each WP.	At any time upon request of any Member of the WP or Project Coordinator

Table 3: List of recurrent meetings

2.2.2 Notice of a meeting

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall give written notice of a meeting to each Member of that Consortium Body as soon as possible and no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

	Ordinary meeting	Extraordinary meeting
General Assembly	30 calendar days	14 calendar days
Project Executive Committee	7 calendar days	4 calendar days
WP	7 calendar days	4 calendar days

Table 4: Schema of notice period for meetings.

2.2.3 Sending the agenda

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall prepare and send each Member of that Consortium Body an agenda no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

General Assembly	10 calendar days, 7 calendar days for an extraordinary meeting
Project Executive Committee	3 calendar days
WP	3 calendar days

Table 5: Agenda anticipation for project meetings.

2.2.4 Minutes of meetings

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall produce minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. He/she shall send the draft minutes to all Members within 5 calendar days of the meeting. The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 3 calendar days from receipt, no Member has sent an objection by written notice to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft of the minutes by written notice. The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the Parties and to the Coordinator, who shall retain copies of them.

2.3 Decision Making Process

The decision-making process, and the agreement on how to solve potential conflicts, is described in the Grant Agreement agreed by all participants of the project. Here an extract of the relevant information regarding the decision-making process.

2.3.1 Decision process

Decisions will be taken by the responsible team members, and organisation bodies based on the Description of Action (DoA) to be performed, as stated in the Grant Agreement, the Consortium Agreement, the DoA and the individual Work Package plans. In case there is a dispute between two or more team members, an agreement will be sought by informal communication. If no agreement is reached, the conflict resolution procedure will be resorted to.

2.3.2 Conflict resolution

Agreement on any issue with divergent views usually is to be reached through informal contact. This is to be followed by confirmation via email or in agreed written minutes for substantial issues. In some cases, the agreement may take the form of a short statement or report signed by those responsible. Technical issues/conflicts within given contractual commitments that do not involve a change of contract, a change of budget and/ or a change of resources/ overall focus will be discussed/ solved at the WP level first. Where a potential conflict is identified, the appropriate WPL will attempt to mediate between the parties. The PC must be informed if the solution affects the work plan and expected results or if no resolution is reached. In the latter case, the PC will make every effort to mediate, if necessary, involving other members of the PEC. Should the PEC not solve the conflict, the issue is referred to the GEA. The GEA will attempt to reach a unanimous decision in all cases. Should a consensus not be achieved, decisions will be reached by a simple majority vote, each delegate having one vote. Should a conflict not be resolved by this mechanism, the project coordinator will make a final decision on the matter after coordination

with the EC PO. GEA delegates will ensure that decisions taken at the GEA are carried out by the participant they represent.

2.4 Project Workplan & Implementation

SPECTRO is broken into 4 WPs where each WP contains a set of associated and related tasks. The overall WP plan has been agreed by all parties and implements a commonly agreed work plan, deliverables, and milestones. The interlinkages and relationships between WP's are illustrated below.

The WPs have the following responsibilities and interfaces:

- **WP1:** Will deliver education programme in Cybersecurity consisting of a double degree master program and a number of self-standing learning modules. The education programme will meet the needs of the labour markets and will increase the number of citizens in Europe able to design, develop, and deploy digital solutions in the economy and across sectors.
- **WP2:** Will deliver education programme in Robotics consisting of a double degree master program and a number of self-standing learning modules. The education programme will meet the needs of the labour markets and will increase the number of citizens in Europe able to design, develop, and deploy digital solutions in the economy and across sectors.
- **WP3:** Will take responsibility for dissemination and communication activities. The WP will aim at ensuring the project results and outputs reach the relevant target audiences as widely as possible.
- **WP4:** Will undertake the technical and scientific coordination as well as the administrative and financial management. This WP will also ensure that quality control and reporting mechanism as being applied as required.

2.4.1 Work Plan

A full description of work plan, including Work Package tasks, deliverables and associated milestones is contain in the Grant Agreement Annex 1. This will be used as the main reference point for the project.

2.4.2 Project Deliverables

All project deliverables are associated with a specific work package task. It will be the responsibility of the task lead to co-ordinate the drafting of the deliverable and ensure the inputs of other partners where necessary. Table 6 provides an overview of all the deliverables, the lead partner and the deadlines for internal review and submission to the Commission.

N°	Name	WP n°	Lead beneficiary	Type	Dissemination level	Due date
D1.1	Master's programme in Cybersecurity: Curriculum Design	WP1	ELTE	R	PU	M12
D1.2	Report on education Cybersecurity programmes results after the first year of delivery of programmes	WP1	UR1	R	PU	M24
D1.3	Report on education Cybersecurity programmes results after the second year of delivery of programmes	WP1	UTU	R	PU	M36
D1.4	Report on education Cybersecurity programmes results after the third year of delivery of programmes	WP1	ELTE	R	PU	M48
D2.1	Master's programme in Autonomous Systems and Intelligent Robots: Curriculum Design	WP2	UNITN	R	PU	M12
D2.2	Report on Robotics education programmes results after the first year of delivery of programmes	WP2	UNBO	R	PU	M24
D2.3	Report on Robotics education programmes results after the second year of delivery of programmes	WP2	AALTO	R	PU	M36
D2.4	Report on Robotics education programmes results after the third year of delivery of programmes	WP2	UNITN	R	PU	M48

N°	Name	WP n°	Lead beneficiary	Type	Dissemination level	Due date
D3.1	Marketing and Dissemination Plan	WP3	EITD	R	PU	M6
D3.2	First year report on the marketing and dissemination activities	WP3	EITD	R	PU	M12
D3.3	Second year report on the marketing and dissemination activities	WP3	EITD	R	PU	M24
D3.4	Third year report on the marketing and dissemination activities	WP3	EITD	R	PU	M36
D3.5	Fourth year report on the marketing and dissemination activities	WP3	EITD	R	PU	M48
D4.1	Project Management Handbook	P4	EITD	R	PU	M6
D4.2	Data Management Plan	P4	EITD	R	PU	M6
D4.3	Quality Assurance Methodology	P4	UNITN	R	PU	M12
D4.4	Enrolment and scholarship allocation First year report	P4	EITD	R	CO	M12
D4.5	Enrolment and scholarship allocation Second year report	P4	EITD	R	CO	M24
D4.6	Enrolment Third year report	P4	EITD	R	CO	M36
D4.7	Enrolment—Fourth year report	P4	EITD	R	CO	M48
D4.8	Intermediate report on community, partnership, and mobility management	P4	EITD	R	CO	M24

N°	Name	WP n°	Lead beneficiary	Type	Dissemination level	Due date
D4.9	Final report on community, partnership, and mobility management	P4	EITD	R	CO	M48
D4.10	Quality Assurance Methodology Application	P4	UNITN	R	PU	M48

Table 6: List of deliverables

2.4.3 Project Milestones

N°	Name	WP n°	Lead beneficiary	Due Date
MS1	Tentative curriculum of the master's programme defined.	WP1	ELTE	M3
MS2	Labour market needs analysis completed, and curriculum of the Cybersecurity master's programme finalised.	WP1	ELTE	M12
MS3	Cybersecurity learning modules, and related certification schemes completed.	WP1	UT	M16
MS4	First two-year cycle of the master's programme in Cybersecurity delivered.	WP1	EITD	M36
MS5	Second two-year cycle of the master's programme in Cybersecurity delivered.	WP1	EITD	M48
MS6	Tentative curriculum of the master's programme in Robotics defined.	WP2	UNITN	M3
MS7	Labour market needs analysis completed, curriculum of the master's programme in Robotics finalized.	WP2	UNITN	M12
MS8	Robotics learning modules and related certification schemes completed.	WP2	UNBO	M16
MS9	First two-year cycle of the master's programme in Robotics delivered.	WP2	EITD	M36

N°	Name	WP n°	Lead beneficiary	Due Date
MS10	Second two-year cycle of the master's programme in Robotics delivered.	WP2	EITD	M48
MS11	Development of a Marketing and Dissemination Plan.	WP3	EITD	M4
MS12	Completion of the planned Marketing, Communication and Dissemination activities.	WP3	EITD	M47
MS13	Completion of Project Management Handbook.	WP4	EITD	M4
MS14	Definition of a Data Management Plan.	WP4	EITD	M4
MS15	Definition of a Quality Assurance Principles.	WP4	UNITN	M6
MS16	Completion of the enrolment process of students for the first full cycle of master's programmes.	WP4	EITD	M10
MS17	Completion of the enrolment process of students for the second full cycle of master's programmes.	WP4	EITD	M22
MS18	Definition of an internship programme for master students.	WP4	EITD	M16

Table 7: List of milestones

3 Project reporting

3.1 Formal reporting to EC

Formal reporting to the EC is due after 18 and 36 months since project start and again at the end of the project (after four years). Reporting is carried out using the online platform provided by the EC which specify the required contents: in essence, a periodic technical report and a periodic financial report. These reports are required within 60 days of the end of the period.

Work Package leads are expected to contribute to the technical report, with input from all partners as needed. All funded partners must provide an individual financial statement detailing their eligible costs for the period.

The interim reporting to the EC will happen in the following periods:

- From month 1 to month 18 (September 2023 - February 2025)
- From month 19 to month 36 (March 2025 - August 2026)
- From month 37 to month 48 (September 2026 - August 2027)

As described in the Grant Agreement of the project these periods will be reported within 60 days after the period termination date.

3.2 Internal reporting

In parallel with the formal reporting to the EC, all partners will share interim information regarding efforts, expenses, and achievements in an internal report. The internal reporting process be aligned with the formal reporting to the EC and will permit the Coordinator, and all the partner, to:

1. Collect from all partners information regarding work performed on the project, results and impacts achieved.
2. Collect from all partners their financial statements forecast for the reporting period.
3. Compare project achievements with resource consumptions and confront them with the project plan.
4. Share main findings regarding project execution with all partners.

This internal reporting process will then ease the process of formal reporting by all partners and the production of a consolidated report for the project to be formally submitted to the EC during the interim reporting phases. It will also permit the project Consortium to provide the best representation of the efforts and achievement on the project.

The internal reporting will work on the same information to be collect and shared for the formal reporting to the EC, including:

- Brief written reports of the activities of the partner per work package.
- Updates on work on deliverables, risks, problems and planned activities.
- A summary of meetings attended.
- Expenses and financial activities.

A template that can support the reporting of these information is provided in Appendix A of this project handbook. The document can also be found on the WP4 workspace of the SPECTRO Team Drive. When requested, it is important that all participants use this template for the reporting to ease data reconciliation and correct reporting to the EC.

Moreover, core partners which lead work packages are asked to provide updates per task and an overview of the status of the deliverables and milestones. This will enable the PC to track effort and spend against plan and to detect any deviations early. The reporting of the activities in the different WP will be done during the monthly PEC meetings and will be registered in the minutes for such meetings.

The project's milestones (listed in Table 7) mark the completion of the significant activities of the project and are defined in the Grant Agreement. It is therefore important to report them in a timely fashion. Since each milestone is associated with one or more work packages, it is the responsibility of the Work Package leads to report to the PC on the achievement of the milestone when it becomes due (and not waiting for the periodic report to the EC). The PC will work with the PEC to ensure the reporting of milestones.

Regarding reporting for expenses and financial activities, this can include:

- The staff effort (person-months) expended in the preceding three months.
- A summary of all personal costs.
- A summary of non-staff costs such as travel, workshop costs etc.

A template for the reporting of these information is provided in Appendix B of this project handbook. The document can also be found on the WP4 workspace of the SPECTRO Team Drive. It is important that all participants use this template for the reporting to ease data reconciliation and correct reporting to the EC. The document also can be found on the WP4 workspace on the SPECTRO Team Drive. Project partners are free to use their own forms but have to keep in mind to include all the requirements that are stated in the instructions section of the template.

4 Working methods

With a high number of partners involved in the SPECTRO project, working methods to facilitate communication and project documentation managed and made available to all partners appropriately are of central importance. The communication tools and working methods introduced in the following sections together will contribute to a working environment in which project members can collaborate and work in a most efficient way.

4.1 Internal communication

Communication within the project will happen through different channels. Whilst face-to-face meetings will be held at a regular basis yet with a rather low frequency, there are a number of virtual communication channels through which project members including advisory bodies and WP teams can communicate on daily basis.

4.1.1 Communication platform

The platform used to support internal project communication is Microsoft Teams. In the Teams instance of EITD a specific space has been created for the SPECTRO project. This space enables

users to have private conversations via real-time messaging, start, follow or contribute to discussions on the discussion platform, share documents and link documents saved in Sharepoint. Next to the project-wide environment there are also team environments for each work package. If needed, project members can set up additional channels, for instance if the completion of deliverables or milestones requires collaboration between WPs. All project members have access to all teams and documents unless specifically restricted.

Members new to the project should contact the PM to get an invitation to join the SPECTRO Teams. In order to join WP teams, project members are asked to contact the WP leaders of the respective WP.

4.1.2 Video conferences

Microsoft Teams is used as conferencing softwares for online meetings. Video conferences of managing bodies (such as the GEA, the PEC or WPL meetings) are held on Microsoft Teams.

4.1.3 Face-to-face meetings

Plenary meetings of the whole project will take place three times throughout the project's lifetime: at the beginning (kick-off meeting) and annually up to the end of the project. Every six months the members of the PEC will meet face-to-face to discuss advancements on the project and potential risks or issues. Smaller face-to-face meetings will be arranged back to back with major events.

Additional face-to-face meetings will be undertaken on a work package or cross work package basis, or for other purposes as needed.

4.2 Document sharing and storage

The PC arranged for the project's own Microsoft Teams workspace. Documents can be stored, shared and collaboratively worked on in the Teams Drive. All documents created and uploaded there will have SPECTRO as the document owner which ensures that all documents created for SPECTRO will be owned by the project. Project members including the advisory bodies get access to the project Team via Microsoft-associated personal or institutional email addresses.

4.3 Presentations

All presentations prepared for and given at internal meetings, such as face-to-face meetings and side meetings at conferences, will be stored in the SPECTRO Team Drive. Specificities about the presentation and formal content of external presentations will be covered in D3.1 "Marketing and Dissemination Plan".

5 Quality Control

With regards to quality assurance and monitoring, the Quality Manager (QM) will be responsible for establishment and guiding implementation of quality assurance procedures. Quality processes include the timely completion and review of all technical achievements (deliverables, milestones) compared to the original time plan, as described in the Grant Agreement contract, and learning content for the education programmes.

The QM will ensure that the periodic activity, deliverable, management, and final project reports are completed and of high quality in accordance with the work plan. Additionally, the QM will keep the PEC informed on the status of all active quality processes and raise any issues requiring remedial action. As required, the QM takes part in PEC meetings as required and reports directly to the GEA.

Additionally, the QM will ensure that the learning content used by the training providers is of high quality. The QM will keep the relevant WP Leaders and Task Leaders updated on the development status of the short-term training programmes from each training providers and raise any issues requiring urgent action.

The definition of an effective quality monitoring system and mechanism will allow to monitor the phases of the project, to understand if the project is proceeding as planned and to anticipate problems instead of solving them afterwards. The quality control mechanism will overlook the project deliverables production and learning content production, relying on the expertise of the QM.

The procedure that will be followed for the preparation of deliverables and production of the learning content will be agreed at the very beginning of the project. Before submission or publication, each project deliverable and learning content will be reviewed by the QM. When appropriate, the document/material will also undergo an English check by a native speaker. For more details on the Quality Assurance Methodology, please refer to D4.3 Report on the Quality Assurance Methodology to be put in place in the project and on its application in the curriculum development process.

The Quality Assurance Manager of the SPECTRO project is Bruno Crispo – Bruno.crispo@unitn.it
The Data Protection Officer of the project can be contacted at privacy@eitdigital.eu.

5.1 Deliverables

To ensure the quality of all project deliverables to following conventions. In the event that the quality of a deliverable does not meet the expected standards or if a partner misses a project deadline, a structured quality assurance and risk mitigation process is triggered under the coordination of the Quality Manager (QM). All deliverables are subject to peer review prior to

submission, ensuring objectivity and early detection of issues. If a deliverable is deemed substandard, it is returned to the responsible Task Leader with detailed feedback and a strict timeline for revision. In the case of missed deadlines, the Work Package Leader immediately notifies the Project Manager and Quality Manager, who convene with the responsible partner to assess root causes and agree on corrective actions, including reallocation of tasks if necessary.

5.1.1 Template

SPECTRO project deliverables will all use the deliverable template in MS Word available in the project Teams Drive.

5.1.2 Fine Naming Convention

Deliverables will use a file name convention as follows:

- The deliverable number;
- The name of the deliverable (with underscores instead of spaces);
- The name of the project, after a dot;
- The version number, after a dot;

For example, this deliverable would be:

D4.1_Project_Management_Handobook.SPECTRO.v0.1.docx

5.1.3 Internal review

All deliverables will be subject to an internal review.

Reviewers will be appointed from within the consortium for each deliverable. It will be their responsibility to review the deliverable in accordance with the review criteria.

It will be the responsibility of the task leader to ensure the deliverable is submitted to the co-ordinator at least 2 weeks before the deliverable is due for submission to ensure this process. Reviewers will provide feedback one week after this date. Task leads will have one week to finalise the report and provide to the co-ordinator 1 day before the submission deadline.

5.1.4 Version Control

All deliverables will contain a version control table outlining changes made to the document as shown in Table 8.

Version	Date	Authors	Notes
0.1	19/10/2023	Name Surname (PRTNR)	Draft version.

Table 8: Versioning and contribution history table

6 Scholarships (FSTP funding)

6.1.1 Financial support to EU students

SPECTRO provides eligible students the financial support to take part to the education programmes and offers scholarship programmes to promote diversity in terms of gender, age, social and economic background. SPECTRO's scholarships allow the greatest number to have access to high-quality education in digital areas and increase diversity among students and future digital experts. The students awarded a scholarship will be financially supported during their two years of studies in one of the double-degree in Masters' programmes offered by SPECTRO.

The number of scholarships awarded to students will be limited by the project's available budget. For the entire duration of the project, a maximum of €1,850,000 is allocated for financial support to third parties. Within this budget, the consortium will strive to provide financial support to at least 150 EU students, as indicated in KPI14.

All details about the Cascade funding call are available on the Funding and Tender portal of the European Commission: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/myarea/projects/cascade-funding-details/details/10469/43152860/101123118>

6.1.2 Types of scholarships available

Three types of scholarships are available:

- scholarship of excellence, including a full tuition fee waivers and a monthly allowance,
- full tuition fee waivers,
- half tuition fee waivers.

The monthly allowance will be weighted based on the country correction coefficient (CCCs) of the country where a student is studying. Thus, the monthly allowance provided to a student it can vary between the first and second year of studies.

6.1.3 How to apply

To apply to a SPECTRO scholarship, candidates must enrol into one of SPECTRO two master's programmes.

Enrolment is done via a single application portal. When enrolling to one of the two master's programmes, applicants are given the opportunity to select 3 options as Entry University and 3 options as Exit University with order of priority. It gives students a wider choice: applicants who would not be accepted to their preferred education institution might still be accepted by another education institution. At the same time, as the capacity of each education institution is limited, the multiple-option offer ensures that a high number of applications is processed.

To apply to the two SPECTRO Master's programme, candidates are required to upload into the application portal the following documentation:

- **Degree Certificate/Diploma** in its original language and translated into English (If your university does not provide this service, the translation has to be done by an authorised translator and his/her credentials, signature and stamps must be visible in the translated document). In case of ongoing studies, a statement certifying that you are in the final year of your studies. The statement must be written by the degree administration office (or equivalent department) confirming that you are enrolled on the final year of your education and giving your expected completion date.
- **Official and stamped transcript of records in original language and translated into English.** All courses taken must be included. Please scan the front and back of every document- all stamps and signatures must be fully visible.
- **Proof of English proficiency.** The requirement of English proficiency will vary depending on the higher education institution/country selected by the applicant. Please refer to EITD Master School website 'Admissions' tab for more information.
- **Curriculum Vitae** including details on your academic and professional career.
- **A letter of motivation** (maximum 3 pages) to prove the innovative potential of the applicant and their need for financial support. In this letter applicants will be required to discuss and/or propose an entrepreneurial idea and to explain their financial situation and need for financial support.
- **Supporting documents regarding the applicant's financial situation** (e.g. credit report).
- **An official ID**, such as passport or National ID.
- The allocation of scholarships will be done at the end of the selection process and before sending the letter of acceptance.

6.1.4 Eligibility requirements

SPECTRO scholarships are available to nationals of one of the eligible countries:

- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))

- Listed EEA countries and countries associated to the Digital Europe Programme (associated countries) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature

Only students enrolled and accepted in one of SPECTRO Masters' programme are eligible to financial support. When receiving their letter of acceptance and study offer, students will be notified of their scholarship allocation.

6.1.5 Selection criteria

The scholarships will award applicants based on merit. To quantify merit, a merit score (on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the maximum) will be given to each applicant accepted to one of the master's programmes. Three elements will be considered in assigning a merit score:

- previous academic and professional experience of an applicant,
- curriculum vitae, and
- letter of motivation, which also includes the motivation for an applicant to receive financial support.

The initial merit score value will be an average of the two merit scores assigned by the two Local Programme Coordinators accepting an applicant (the Local Coordinator at the Entry University and the Local Coordinator at the Exit University). The merit scores assigned by Local Programme Coordinators will be reviewed by Programme Leaders to ensure uniformity between the scores given by Local Programme Coordinators from different universities and different countries. A final meeting including the Programme Leaders, all Local Programme Coordinators and the Quality Assurance Manager of the SPECTRO project will be set at the end of each Recruitment Period to agree and deliberate on the final merit score of each applicant.

6.1.6 Promotion of diversity

The SPECTRO scholarship programme will thrive to promote diversity and inclusion through its scholarship opportunities:

- Priority will be given to female applicants from any EU country or EU-associated country. The scholarship programme for women will aim increase female participation in master's programmes in Cybersecurity and Robotics.
- Priority will be given to applicants from RIS countries - included in the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS). The scholarship programme for participants from RIS countries is aimed to support the participation of students from countries with moderate or modest

innovation score and with lower gross domestic product. Countries eligible to take part to the RIS include 1) EU members states, 2) Horizon Europe associated countries, and 3) outermost regions such as Guadeloupe, and Réunion (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain).

6.1.7 Payment arrangements

The scholarship is reflected as a discount in the tuition fee. The candidates are informed of the net amount of the tuition fee, after deducting the applicable amount of the scholarship.

- half tuition fee waivers: the nominal value of the granted scholarship is of 2,500EUR per year
- full tuition fee waivers: the nominal value of the granted scholarship is of 5,000EUR per year
- scholarship of excellence, including a full tuition fee waivers and a monthly allowance: the nominal value of the granted scholarship is of 5,000EUR plus a monthly allowance of 900 EUR weighted based on the country correction coefficient (CCCs) of the country where a student is studying.

The students awarded a scholarship will be financially supported **during their two years of studies**.

6.1.8 Number of scholarships available

Scholarships are allocated on a rolling basis. The exact distribution of scholarships of each type in each scholarship programme will be decided by the SPECTRO consortium before the closing of each recruitment campaign and will be based on criteria defined in the project and aimed at sustaining enrolments to both master programs and at reaching all project KPIs.

The exact number of scholarships available will be updated for each cycle on the Funding and

Tender portal of the European Commission: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/myarea/projects/cascade-funding-details/details/10469/43152860/101123118>

Appendix A – Template for progress report

SPECTRO Quarterly Progress Report

[PARTNER NAME]- M# to M#

TECHNICAL PROGRESS	
How are you progressing with your work? (Please provide a short overall impression of the progress of your work – max 5 lines).	
Please outline the contribution you made to work package(s) (WP) in the last month (max 3 items).	
WP1	
WP2	
WP3	
WP4	
Please outline the contribution you foresee making over the next month (max 3 items).	
WP1	
WP2	
WP3	
WP4	
Are you encountering or do you anticipate problems achieving formal results/deliverables?	
WP1	
WP2	
WP3	
WP4	
Are you encountering or do you anticipate problems fulfilling your informal commitments? (For example, providing informal input for other work packages)	
Are you encountering or do you anticipate problems meeting your deadline (are you running into time problems?)	
Are you encountering or do you anticipate any budgetary problems (person month allocation and financial budget)?	
Meeting participation and event attendance (please describe all meetings or events participated by some partner's member for the interest of the project):	

Appendix B – Template for reporting expenses

The collection of data regarding PM allocation and expenses will happen quarterly with a declaration from all participant partners. The collection of this data will happen via an exchange of an Excel from all project participants with the PM, after his request. The excel template can be found on the SPECTRO Project Team Drive on Microsoft Teams.

The information collected will be the following:

SPECTRO Quarterly Expenses Report

[PARTNER NAME]- M# to M#

INTERNAL MANPOWER				
Employee Name	Activity / Task	PMs	Monthly rate	Activity / Task Description
<i>Name Surname</i>	<i>WP# - T#.#</i>	<i># PM</i>	€ <i>###,##0.00</i>	<i>Task description.</i>

OTHER COSTS (including Travel and Subsistence)			
Activity / Task	Cost Type	Amount	Cost Description
<i>WP# - T#.#</i>	<i>Travel and Subsistence / Other goods, works and services</i>	€ <i>###,##0.00</i>	<i>Description of the cost.</i> - For travel and subsistence: name of person travelling, date and destination and purpose of travel. - For Other goods, works and services: description of the good, work or service, cost/value and date of invoice.

References

[DIGITAL]	https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme
[SPECTRO]	http://eitdigital.eu/spectro/

Glossary

Community	A group of users, organised with a common purpose, and jointly granted access to resources. It may act as the interface between individual users and the resources. (see also [WISE-SCI])
EC	European Commission
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
GA	Grant Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
R&S	Research and scholarship