

Executive Summary

The present document aims at reporting the interim evaluation conducted by WP5 as part of its activity 'Project quality and assessment', in order to assess the degree of progress halfway through the project (i.e. until the end of June 2017) by means of two different, complementary approaches:

- 'Objective' assessment, based on the application of Earned Value calculations¹ taking into consideration the available figures for efforts, Work Package duration, and budget calculation as foreseen in the EPAD Description of Work (DoW), and the efforts and cost figures reported by partners until the end of June 2017. In large public-private consortia, Earned Value is a useful approach but it typically suffers from a WBS formed by very long tasks with not many discrete progress milestones – hence 'earning rules' may easily under- or over-estimate the actual degree of progress.
- 'Subjective' assessment, based on responses from project participants to a questionnaire specifically designed for appraisal of their perception on the degree of achievement of the project objectives. This complementary strategy is based on 'wisdom of the crowd' approaches², by which a sufficiently large Consortium can yield an accurate average estimate of a project's status by virtue of combining differing expert perceptions whilst cancelling individual noise. Comparing the 'subjective' approach with the 'objective' approach typically results in the most faithful estimate of progress.

The methodology implemented is based on international project management standards, adapted to the context of EPAD through the experience gathered in other research projects funded by both the European Commission and the Innovative Medicines Initiative JU. Final results of the assessment, along with other knowledge of the project compiled through the different monitoring and communication processes envisioned, will allow for the prompt detection of potential deviations in the work plan and the corresponding development of corrective measures to attain the objectives of the project in the most timely and efficient manner.

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