

BBChina

*Master Program
on Bio-Based Circular Economy*

Evaluation report - Partnership

Author: CESIE

Via Roma, 94, 90133 Palermo (Italy)

<http://www.bbchina.eu>



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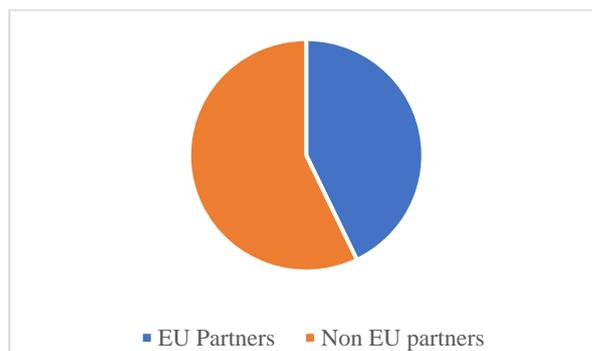
Introduction

The project partners involved in the project are the following: University of Florence (UNIFI), Italy, Co-ordinator, University of Rostock (UROS), Germany, Mälardalen University (MDH), Sweden, Tongji University (TJU), China, East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST), China, Sichuan University (SCU), China, and CESIE, Italy. In total: 6 HEIs and 1 NGO.

The scientific expertise was distributed as in the following:

- UNIFI expertise is highly qualified in agro-forestry, energy crops, thermochemical conversion and biofuels,
- UROS expertise is highly qualified in the field of Waste Management and Material Flow, of mechanical, biological and thermal treatment systems of waste and biomass, of bioenergy integration in renewable energy systems and of Land Management and Environmental Protection,
- MDH expertise is highly qualified in the field of Advanced Energy Systems, of biomass, and biogas, thermodynamic properties of fluids, and technologies of CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) and of biorefineries.
- TJU expertise is on biological, thermal treatment systems and sustainable landfilling of waste,
- ECUST on gasification and carbon capture and storage (CCS) and on biofuels,
- SCU on agro-forestry, energy crops, solid biomass and bio-fuel feedstock resource, biofuels, Green Chemistry.

CESIE was responsible to prepare the e-learning platform supporting the Master activities, it was acting as a cultural broker, ensuring consistency of activities, facilitating learning process and providing partial quality control, and it will also coordinate the action to train students in the principles of entrepreneurship, based on its experience in previous EU Projects.



During the implementation period all partners contributed to the project equality and were involved in all process, such as communication, decision making, trainings, group works, financial management, and etc.

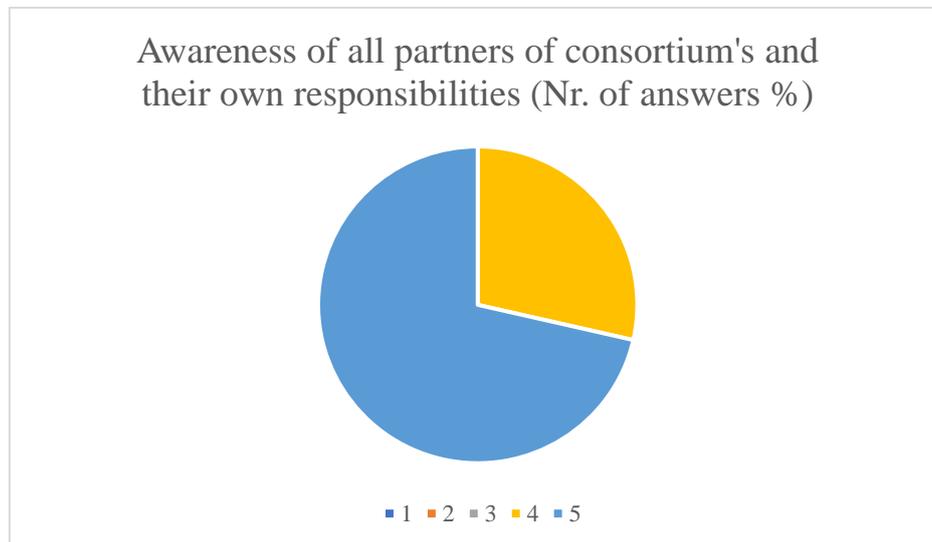
At the end of the project partners were asked to carry out a final evaluation of the working conditions and below presented data provides detailed information about the main findings.

Final Evaluation Survey

A group of questions was asked to the partnership and the evaluation scale used for this survey was from 1 – 5:

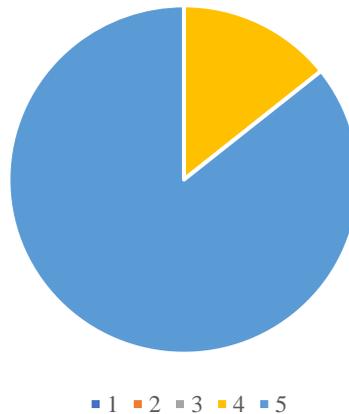
- 1: not observed
- 2: needs improvement
- 3: satisfactory
- 4: good
- 5: excellent

During the project preparation phase all partners shared responsibilities based on their competences and capacities, this information was reviewed at the beginning of the project (KOM in Florence). This double process helped to ensure smooth working process.



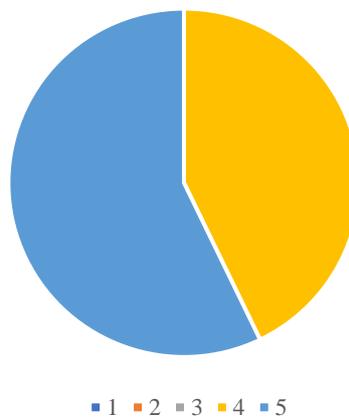
The workplan had his logical flow and all the partners contributed actively to its implementation, however due to the worldwide pandemic, it was a case to review the workplan and to plan actions, which (from one side) would help to prevent critical situations and (from other side) would help to manage all risks and continue the project. This helped to support collaborative working environment and respect the working plan.

Availability and clearness of Workplan and Timeline for all partners (Nr. of answers %)



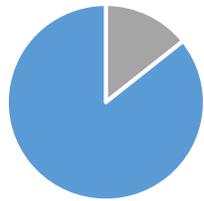
Moreover, continues monitoring of the tasks helped to stabilise working procedures necessary for the stable workflow and respect of the deadlines.

Procedures and deadlines: Compliance with Workplan (Nr. of answers %)



One of the main processes for the project implementation was the decision making. As, the partnership was based on values, such as: inclusion in decision making process, responsibility, gender equality, ethics and others, the decision-making process involved all partners equally and helped to balance communication and accountability as well. All partners agree, that discussion of topics during meetings, availability of relevant information, possibility for partner to contribute to discussions, involvement of partners in important decisions was organised very well, agendas and minutes of meetings (face-to-face and online) were clear as well, even if sometimes was challenging (for example: for a communication with the Chinese partners, the EU partners were obliged to use WeChat programme, as other apps are not supported in China, or google instruments doesn't function well, so similar tools were applied, etc.). However, a wiliness to collaborate supported strongly the project.

Decision-making procedure: discussion of topics during meetings, availability of relevant information (Nr. of answers %)



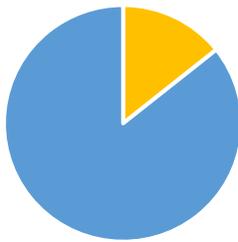
■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5

Decision-making procedure: possibility for partner to contribute to discussions, involvement of partners in important decisions (Nr. of answers %)



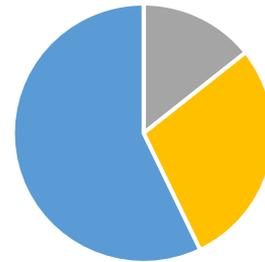
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Information flow: Clearness and timeliness of communications on project developments (Nr. of answers %)



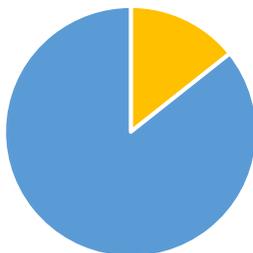
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Communication among partners, (Nr. of answers %)



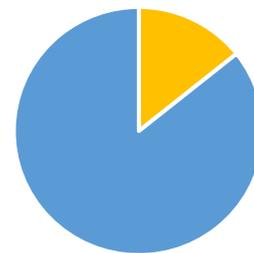
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Information flow: Clearness of agendas and minutes of meetings (face-to-face and online), (Nr. of answers %)

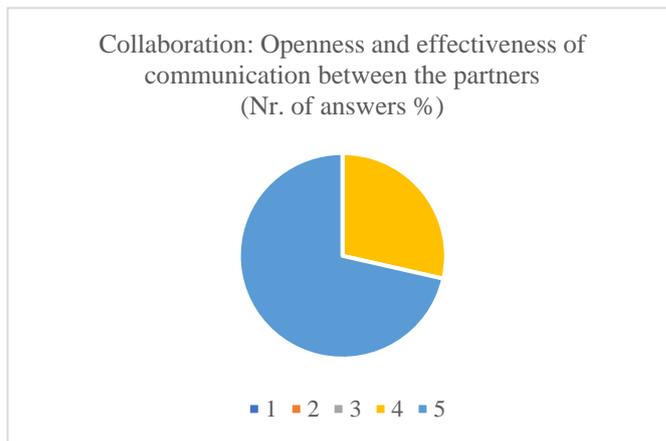


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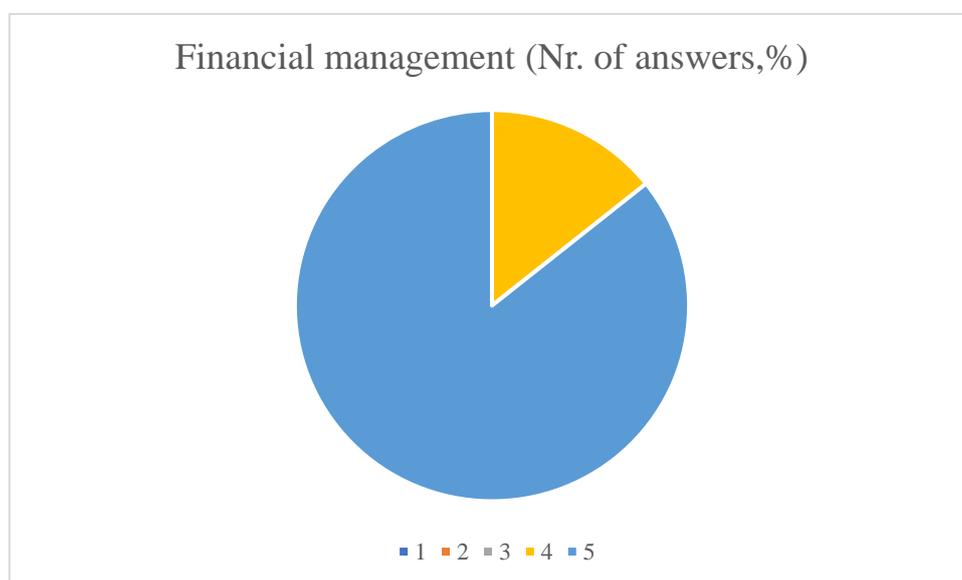
Collaboration: Respect and acknowledgement of each partner, value attached to partners' expertise and special competences (Nr. of answers, %)



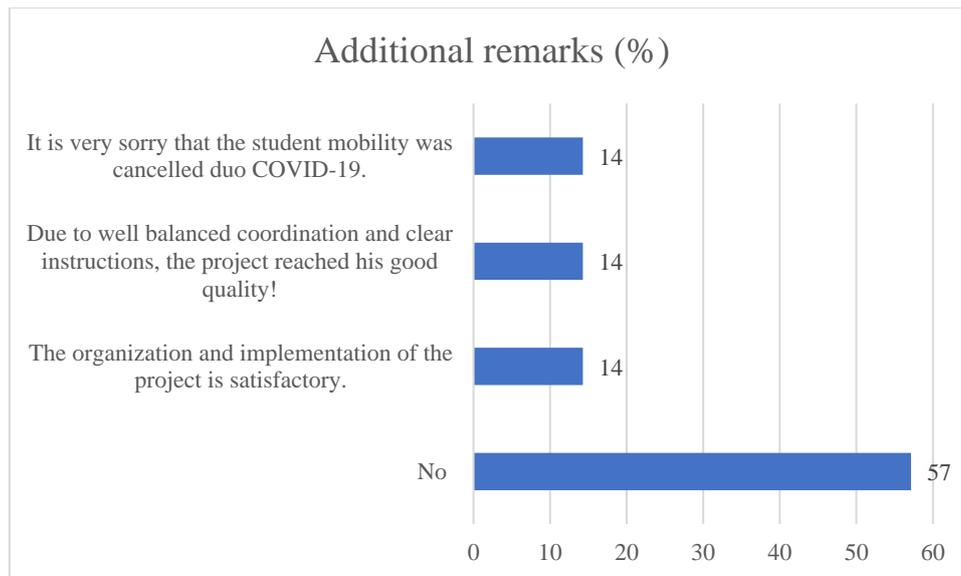
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Financial management of the project was efficient as well, it was possible due to UNIFI coordination skills and personal collaboration with each partner, aiming to support and provide all information about the EU funding rules, accountability, management of documents and reporting.



Additional remarks are several are linked to good implementation of project or COVID-19 issues.



As the main **strengths of this partnership**, responders mentioned: good collaboration and openness; easy communication, devoted participation, close cooperation, exchange of ideas from cross disciplines; openness and responsibility of the partners, well coordination.

Meantime, the **main weaknesses** are: communication due to technological EU & China barriers (for example, non-google service support, whatsapp, etc.); the COVID-19 pandemic inhibited the face-to-face meeting, and student mobility to Europe, which has a great appeal for recruiting new students; the linkage to the industry is kind of weakness; more engagement of Chinese partners in communication with other EU partners, the coronavirus has had a major impact on programme development.

These obstacles were mentioned as well: E-mail communication sometimes was difficult due to filters; the students need to complete some compulsory courses required by the university, with the BBChina courses (more than 6), they feel a little burden; there are different rules in different countries and even in different universities, such as the credit system; due to the pandemic situation, partners were not able to travel to project meetings, however, this was largely compensated for by the good project coordination; the English level of China students' needs to be promoted.

And as final remarks the partners stress these points: to develop a follow up the project; BBChina's cooperative approach can only be recommended and should be pursued further, especially in the field of renewable energy and waste management.

All partners agree that the coordinator established effective and efficient working environment for the implementation of the project and thanks to the coordinator's staff the project has reached the final stage with a good quality.