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Title: D6.7 Created an agreement for the maintenance of the web platforms beyond the project life time

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1. Introduction

In order to ensure the sustainability and visibility of the results of the BENEFIT project after the completion of the project, a strategy for the maintenance of the web platform was prepared. The strategy includes preparation of the agreement of cooperation between the project partners for the maintenance not just the web platform, but also the project web site and the intranet site (on the UNI-KLU Confluence system) where all relevant project documents are uploaded. The agreement defines the terms and govern the relations between the project partners, by establishing their rights and obligations, and lays down the rules of procedure for the tasks to be carried out in order to ensure the functioning of the project website and web platform for the five-year period from the date the project ends. Furthermore, the partners will define the contact persons who will be the administrators of the web platform for their institution/company and ensure good communication between the project partners and UNI-KLU as the coordinator, as well as between the partners. Finally, the hosting of the web platform was subcontracted so that it allows the use of the web platform for a period of five years after the completion of the BENEFIT project.

2. Objectives of the Deliverable

This deliverable is a report which provides an overview of the “Agreement of cooperation on the web site, the intranet site (Intranet), and the web platform maintenance for the project “Boosting the telecommunications engineer profile to meet modern society and industry needs/ BENEFIT” (Agreement in the following text) as well as other related activities which are part of strategy preparation for the maintenance of the web platform and web site dedicated to the project dissemination after the end of the project.

3. Agreement of cooperation on the web site, the intranet site (Intranet), and the web platform maintenance

The Agreement consists of eight parts:

- Preamble;
- Object of cooperation;
- Coordination of the cooperation;
- Maintenance services (responsibilities) & technical support for the web platform;
- Maintenance services (responsibilities) & technical support for the project web site and intranet (Confluence);
- Information and protection of website content;
- Duration and termination of the agreement;
- Final conditions.

Furthermore, there is an annex with the list of the contact persons (administrator) for each project partners.

3.1 Preamble

The preamble provides key information about the project such as the duration of the project, the coordinating institution and the main objectives.

3.2 Object of cooperation

The Agreement defines that the object of cooperation is the maintenance of the web site, the intranet site (Intranet) and the web platform for the project “Boosting the telecommunications engineer profile to meet modern society and industry needs / BENEFIT”. It can be seen that in addition to the web platform, the contract includes a project website and an internal intranet page (Confluence) because they contain valuable information and documents to be kept after the project is completed.

3.3 Coordination of the cooperation

Regarding the effective implementation of the Agreement, each agreement party will appoint a contact person - administrator responsible for the operational coordinating, realization and implementation of the Agreement. Furthermore, each partner shall notify the coordinator in case of changing the contact person responsible for the operational implementation of the Agreement no later than 10 days from the date of the change.

3.4 Maintenance services (responsibilities) & technical support for the web platform

a) Maintenance of the web platform (<https://www.project-benefit.eu/eplatform/>)

FERIT will be responsible for the maintenance of the web platform i.e. the following tasks:

- software updates of the web platform
- small contextual changes of the web platform
- technical support – in the case of malfunction of functionality (or its part) implemented in the final release of the web platform

b) Hosting of the web platform

The company subcontracted to host the web platform for a period of 5 years after the completion of the project will be responsible for the following tasks:

- troubleshooting if the web platform goes down,
- periodic backup of the web platform and all the data contained within,
- maintaining the required data capacity for the web platform (a minimum of 20 GB in total)

c) Response

- Both FERIT and the subcontractor should respond promptly for all the maintenance and troubleshooting enquires.

d) Data Responsibility

- Each partner is responsible for the materials he uploads, as well as the information provided by his external industrial partners.
- Each partner is responsible for all the external materials that are not directly uploaded to the web platform, but rather provided as links by that specific partner (regardless of the origin of the link).
- Each partner is responsible for updating the materials he uploaded as well as the information provided by his external industrial partners.
- The administrators appointed by each of the partners will be responsible for ensuring all the above.

- Partners should send the information about their administrator no later than ten days after signing this agreement.

e) Data availability

- The materials uploaded to the web platform will be accessible for a period of 5 years.
- Upload and update of the materials will be possible for a period of 5 years.
- Each partner is responsible for providing the access to upload and update of the materials to his industrial partners and teachers for 5 years.
- The capacity for the materials is limited to 20 GB in total and 18 GB is equally distributed among the academic partners, while 2 GB is equally distributed among the industrial partners. If the capacity is to be exceeded, the partners shall provide other resources to store the extra materials. These materials will be shareable via links.
- After the expiration of this Agreement, assuming that the Agreement will not be renewed, the data provided by each of the partners will be returned to them in the most appropriate form/media.
- Each of the partners is obliged to keep the above-mentioned data 5 years after payment of the balance or longer if needed in accordance with Article II.27.2 of the Grant Agreement.

f) Responsibility for the credentials

- Each partner shall provide an administrator which will be responsible as a connection point between the partner and the web platform as well as between their external industrial partners and web platform.
- Partners are responsible for their industrial partners' credentials via the administrator they provide.
- FERIT is responsible for the credentials of the administrators provided by each of the academic partners.
- Partners shall not distribute data nor credentials to the third parties.

3.5 Maintenance services (responsibilities) & technical support for the project web site and intranet (Confluence);

a) Maintenance of the project web site and internal Intranet platform (Confluence)

UNI-KLU will be responsible for the maintenance of the web site (<https://www.project-benefit.eu/>) and the Intranet platform (Confluence), (<https://intranet.aau.at/display/projbenefit/>) i.e. the following tasks:

- software updates of the website
- payment of the web site domain
- contextual changes of the website
- technical support

c) Response

- UNI-KLU should respond promptly for all the maintenance and troubleshooting enquires.

d) Data Responsibility

- UNI-KLU is responsible for uploading material to the website. Should updates be needed after the project termination, the Partner/s will inform UNI-KLU of such needed updates and will provide the material.
- Each partner is responsible for the materials uploaded to Intranet by that specific partner, as well as for material he uploads for his industrial partners.

- Partners understand the importance of all documentation uploaded and rendered available in Intranet during the project development, as well as, its confidentiality, value and necessity of maintenance. Such documentation proves the activities carried out and the results achieved. The European Commission may require access to it for auditing purposes even beyond the project lifespan. In such case UNI-KLU, must be informed so that the motivation is clarified and the authorization to access it can be given.
- Each partner is responsible for the upload and modification of material for his teachers, project workers or industrial contacts without Intranet accounts.
- Each partner is responsible for all external materials that are not directly uploaded to Intranet and the website, but rather provided as links by that specific partner (regardless of the origin of the link).
- The administrators appointed by each of the partners will be responsible for ensuring all the above.
- Partners should send the information about their administrator no later than ten days after signing this agreement.

e) Data availability

- In accordance with Article II.27.2 of the Grant Agreement, all materials uploaded to the website and Intranet will be accessible for a minimum period of 5 years starting from the date of payment of the balance or longer if needed for an audit or similar.
- UNI-KLU can revoke editing rights from partners' Intranet accounts after the end of the project in order to avoid accidental deletion/modification of project documentation uploaded to the Intranet space.
- Standard reading rights for partners' accounts will be maintained for a minimum 5 years after the end of the project.
- After the expiration of this Agreement, not earlier than 5 years after the payment of the balance, assuming that the Agreement will not be renewed, the data uploaded to the website and Intranet can be deleted. If for auditing or any other purposes mentioned in the Grant Agreement it will turn out that the material in Intranet needs to be maintained for a longer period, UNI-KLU will do so for as much time needed.

f) Responsibility for the credentials

- Each partner shall provide an administrator who is responsible as a connection point between the partner and UNI-KLU's administrator
- Partners shall not distribute data nor Intranet credentials to third parties.
- Only UNI-KLU has access to the web site credentials.

g) Fees; Limitations on Refunds and Cancellation Fees

- UNI-KLU will cover the costs for the website domain (19€ per year) and other costs incurred and related to Intranet and website maintenance for a period of 5 years. Should costs unreasonably increase, UNI-KLU will inform the Partners for finding a reasonable and beneficial solution for all parties involved.

3.6 Information and protection of website content

By signing the Agreement partners agree that they will not provide third parties with information about the system (code, method of implementation of functionality, etc.), nor with information about the data to which they will have access.

Agreement parties accept obligation of mutual informing on all the topics regarding maintenance of the project web page that are important for mutual cooperation.

Agreement parties may organize a joint virtual meeting on a yearly base in order to analyse the effectiveness of mutual cooperation under this Agreement and to examine the possibility of its improvement.

Materials developed and posted on the website may be only used within the scope of the project as templates of good practice. Copyrights shall be strictly safeguarded and permission for reproduction and scale of production has to be settled beforehand.

According to Art. 1.7 of the Grant Agreement all materials produced under the scope of the project must be made available for the public, in digital form, freely accessible through the internet under open licenses.

3.7 Duration and termination of the agreement

The Agreement is concluded for an initial duration of five years and shall take effect from the date the BENEFIT project ended.

At the end of the five-year period, the agreement may be extended by mutual initiative and consent of all agreement parties in written form.

Any specific situation or issues shall be the subject of mutual consent and approval of all agreement parties. The detailed terms of such an activity shall be discussed and agreed upon in writing and signed, by the legal representatives of the cooperating parties.

3.8 Final conditions

This Agreement can be modified only in written form, pursuant to the will of all agreement parties. All amendments to this Agreement must be accepted by all agreement parties and authenticated with signatures of authorized representatives of all agreement parties.

Agreement has been made in thirty (30) identical copies; each agreement party maintains two (2) copies.

4. Web platform hosting

In order to allow the use of the web platform for the period of five years after the completion of the project activities, a web hosting was subcontracted until February 15, 2026.

5. Conclusions

The BENEFIT project has developed a strategy that ensures the dissemination of project results after the completion of project activities. This strategy includes an agreement on the maintenance of the web platform, the project website and the internal intranet, a contact person appointed by each project partner and subcontracting the hosting of the web platform for a period of five years after the project is completed.