

(Projects funded under the Call 2014 onwards must use this format)



LIFE Project Number  
< **LIFE16 GIE/IT/000700** >

**Final Report**  
Covering the project activities from 01/09/2017<sup>1</sup> to 01/12/2020

Reporting Date<sup>2</sup>  
< **26/02/2021** >

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym  
< **Sic2Sic-In bici attraverso la Rete Natura 2000 italiana** >

#### Data Project

<b>Project location:</b>	Italy
<b>Project start date:</b>	< 01/09/2017 >
<b>Project end date:</b>	< 01/02/2020 > <b>Extension date:</b> < 01/12/2020 >
<b>Total budget:</b>	€ 1,197,979
<b>EU contribution:</b>	€ 715,039
<b>(%) of eligible costs:</b>	59,69%

#### Data Beneficiary

<b>Name Beneficiary:</b>	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)
<b>Contact person:</b>	< Mr > < Matteo > < Lener >
<b>Postal address:</b>	< Via Vitaliano Brancati n° 48, 00144, Rome, Italy >
<b>Telephone:</b>	direct n° 39-06-50074111
<b>E-mail:</b>	lifestic2sic@isprambiente.it
<b>Project Website:</b>	www.lifestic2sic.eu

<sup>1</sup> Project start date

<sup>2</sup> Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

**This table comprises an essential part of the report and should be filled in before submission**

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<b>Package completeness and correctness check</b>	
<b>Obligatory elements</b>	<b>✓ or N/A</b>
<b>Technical report</b>	
The correct latest template for the type of project (e.g. traditional) has been followed and all sections have been filled in, in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
Index of deliverables with short description annexed, in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
<u>Mid-term report</u> : Deliverables due in the reporting period (from project start) annexed <u>Final report</u> : Deliverables not already submitted with the MTR annexed including the Layman's report and after-LIFE plan Deliverables in language(s) other than English include a summary in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
<b>Financial report</b>	
The reporting period in the financial report (consolidated financial statement <b>and</b> financial statement of each Individual Beneficiary) is the same as in the technical report with the exception of any terminated beneficiary for which the end period should be the date of the termination.	✓
Consolidated Financial Statement with all 5 forms duly filled in and signed and dated <i>On paper (signed and dated originals*) and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets + full Excel file)</i>	✓
Financial Statement(s) of the Coordinating Beneficiary, of each Associated Beneficiary and of each affiliate (if involved), with all forms duly filled in (signed and dated). The Financial Statement(s) of Beneficiaries with affiliate(s) include the total cost of each affiliate in 1 line per cost category. <i>In electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets + full Excel files) + in the case of the Final report the overall summary forms of each beneficiary on paper (signed and dated originals*)</i>	✓
Amounts, names and other data (e.g. bank account) are correct and consistent with the Grant Agreement / across the different forms (e.g. figures from the individual statements are the same as those reported in the consolidated statement)	✓
Mid-term report (for all projects except IPs): the threshold for the second pre-financing payment has been reached	
Beneficiary's certificate for Durable Goods included (if required, i.e. beneficiaries claiming 100% cost for durable goods) <i>On paper (signed and dated originals*) and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets)</i>	
Certificate on financial statements (if required, i.e. for beneficiaries with EU contribution ≥750,000 € in the budget) <i>On paper (signed original) and in electronic version (pdf)</i>	
<b>Other checks</b>	
Additional information / clarifications and supporting documents requested in previous EASME letters (unless already submitted or not yet due) <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
This table, page 2 of the Mid-term / Final report, is completed - each tick box is filled in <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓

*\*original signature by a legal or statutory representative of the beneficiary / affiliate concerned*

***Instructions:***

Please refer to the General Conditions annexed to your grant agreement for the contractual requirements concerning a Mid-term/Final Report.

Both Mid-term and Final Technical Reports shall report on progress from the project start-date. The Final Report must be submitted to the EASME no later than 3 months after the project end date.

Please follow the reporting instructions concerning your technical report, deliverables and financial report that are described in the document “Guidance on how to report on your LIFE 2014-2020 project”, available on the LIFE website at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/report-your-life-project.pdf>. Please check if you have the latest version of the guidance as it is regularly updated. Additional guidance concerning deliverables, including the layman’s report and after-LIFE plan, are given at the end of this reporting template.

Regarding the length of your report, try to adhere to the suggested number of pages while providing all the required information as described in the guidance per section within this template.

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## 2. List of key-words and abbreviations

### Key-words

awareness, bicycle, biodiversity, environment, Natura 2000, participation, sustainability

### Abbreviations

ADV, advertising  
ARPA (Agenzia Regionale di Protezione Ambientale), Regional Environmental Protection Agency  
ATL, Above The Line  
BTL, Below The Line  
CATI, Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing  
CAWI, Computer Assisted Web Interviewing  
CUP (Codice Unico di Progetto), Unique Project Code  
EASME, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises  
EEA, European Environment Agency  
ENCA, European Network of heads of nature Conservation Agencies  
EU, European Union

FIAB (Federazione Italiana Ambiente e Bicicletta), Italian Federation of the Environment and Bicycle  
FVG, Friuli-Venezia Giulia  
GPX, GPS (Global Positioning System) eXchange format  
ICT, Information and Communication Technologies  
ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale), Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research  
KML, Keyhole Markup Language  
KMZ, KML Zipped  
MATTEM (Ministero per l'Ambiente e la Tutela del Territorio e del Mare), Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea  
MoU, Memoranda of Understanding  
NN2000, Natura 2000 Network  
RDP, Rural Development Programs  
SCI, Sites of Community Importance  
SMEs, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises  
SNPA (Sistema Nazionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente), National System for Environmental Protection  
SN2000s, Natura 2000 Network Sites  
SPA, Special Protection Area  
TFR (Trattamento di Fine Rapporto), Employee Severance Indemnity  
VAT, Value-Added Tax

### 3. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)

The project LIFE Sic2Sic aimed at promoting a conscious and active citizens' participation to biodiversity protection in the sites covered by the Natura 2000 Network (NN2000). The LIFE Sic2Sic main objectives were:

- to increase public awareness on the meaning and importance of NN2000;
- to promote and diffuse environmentally sustainable behaviours in land use (bicycle routes and sustainable tourism);
- to foster and stimulate processes of active citizenship as far as environmental issues and land and environment protection are concerned;
- to promote the activation of collaborative models on “territorial governance”.

Key deliverables were: communication plan; website; social networks (Facebook, Instagram); monitoring reports; Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature; Cycling in protected areas. Perspectives, challenges, examples; Layman's report.

Key outputs reached:

- marking 100 cycling routes that intersect 387 NN2000 sites (SN2000s) selected in the three year of the project (for a total of about 5,770 km) and description of the environmental characteristics and sustainable tourism opportunities;
- at least 6,600 citizens sensitized and informed;
- 4,050 local entrepreneurs reached;
- 48 schools reached, about 4,200 trained and sensitized students, 161 between teachers and school referents involved;
- 236 institutional and of governance subjects involved in the stages and events;

- 14 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with local authorities and 6 regional Memoranda of Understanding with private companies in the regions crossed by the project;
- 225 news in newspapers for 250,000-300,000 estimated readers;
- 49,871 users trained and sensitized through surfing the 779,376 pages of the website;
- 1,998,103 people reached through the ATL and BTL campaigns.

Summary of achievements. Updates and uploads on social media regularly continued and the number of visitors showed a great interest in the project. The involvement of schools and local authorities took place with excellent results.

Summary of deviations. The creation of a specific app that allows citizens to report relevant issues and/or situations of environmental degradation was cancelled because a similar product was already produced by ISPRA EU Joint Research Centre. In agreement with the EASME monitor, the app has been replaced by a mobile version of the website capable of geolocation and access to GPX (letter of 12/06/2018, Ref. Ares (2018) 3081519).

In the first year, due to a delay in the tender for the provision of bicycles, technical equipment, and the rent of the transport van to follow the cyclists, it was necessary to change the timing of the cycling routes with respect to the provisions. Nonetheless, the end date of the first year of tours remained unchanged, with a great deal of physical and mental effort. In the second year, based on the past experience, it was necessary to revise the programming of the tours, moving the dates of those dedicated to Piemonte and Puglia and postponing the one in Sicilia to 2020, following the acceptance of the requested extension (letter of EASME dated 22/1/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 397855). Subsequently, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the tour in Sicilia was further postponed to September 2020.

Summary of important problems and difficulties. A negative aspect to be cited are the bad weather conditions which were a challenging obstacle for cyclists and had serious effects on the outdoor activities carried out during the tours, causing the cancellation of the two stages scheduled on Mount Terminillo (6-7/10/2018) during the Lazio's tour and one stage at Asti (18/5/2019), during the Piemonte's tour. Even more so, the Covid-19 pandemic was also a serious problem, resulting in a reorganization of the tour in Sicilia (dates and scheduled activities) and the renunciation of the activities in the schools that have been cancelled and replaced by remote activities.

#### 4. Introduction (maximum 2 pages)

Environmental problem/issue addressed. The project started by verifying the lack of information among citizens on the NN2000 and related topics (biodiversity, ecological network, fragmentation, ecosystem services, regulatory regulation and incentives for economic activities, etc.).

Information/communication strategy implemented. The information/communication strategy was based on the idea of spreading knowledge on NN2000 and SN2000s as a common heritage for biodiversity conservation, but also as a resource for sustainable development. This strategy was conveyed through the bicycle, an excellent means of sustainable locomotion and was implemented by involving the general public, entrepreneurs, representatives of public bodies at both local and national level.

Baseline situation. Citizens do not have the normative and practical knowledge to concretely act in biodiversity protection. There is a lack of knowledge on the meaning and role of the NN2000, on biodiversity, habitat fragmentation related issues, the opportunities for economic development that the NN2000 (and the Protected Areas System) can offer; community and national legislation in NN2000 management (Habitats Directive and Birds Directive), the National Biodiversity Strategy and 2020 strategic objectives, the economic incentives for SN2000s provided by the Rural Development Programs (RDP), and little awareness on the importance of implementing sustainable mobility and green infrastructure. Because of the gap between national and local policy-makers and citizens, the latter often are not aware of their civic role in protecting nature, often know little about protected areas, relative constraints or opportunities, regulation about citizen participation in land planning and management processes.

Stakeholders targeted. The targeted stakeholders of the environmental governance system are: policy makers, private enterprises, national and local authorities.

As far as the entrepreneurial system stakeholders are concerned, they are employer associations of industrial and services type, the enterprises of the artisan and the trade representation, as well as business incubators.

At local/national level, the network includes: Regions (Italian *Regioni*, the first-level administrative divisions in Italy) involved, State-Regions-Local Autonomies Conference, National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), trade unions, National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV), National Research Council (CNR), Regional Environmental Protection Agencies (ARPA), business associations, local industrial unions, Chambers of Commerce, foundations and environmental associations recognized by the Ministry of Environment.

For Europe, the stakeholders are the European Commission, the Directorate-General Environment and the other departments involved, starting from the Directorate E - Global & Regional Challenges, LIFE, as well as the main European organisations managing the NN2000 protected areas and the system of European cycling associations represented by the European Cyclists Federation (ECF).

Monitoring of the project impact. Monitoring was based on information obtained during the tour and by stakeholders, through analysis and periodic reporting that unfolded in three key levels:

- *Ex-ante*, i.e. before the beginning of activities, providing useful data and a report that constitutes the baseline to monitor the project progress and results;
- *In itinere*, i.e. at the end of each 12 months period providing useful data and a report evaluating efficiency and effectiveness of the actions, highlighting any critical issues to improve.

Furthermore, an analysis and monitoring activity was carried out combining:

- a quantitative analysis of participation in events and milestones together with the data made available by the analytics service of social network channels, web platforms and participation reports used as communication means of the project;
- a qualitative analysis through the survey tool, to all the categories that are involved in the project, conducted through Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI), mode that was preferred to direct way and Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) because it allowed interviewees to respond with the utmost ease, for example without having to interrupt a bicycle ride.

All monitoring activity was developed with reference to the following impact indicators:

- quantities, i.e. number of: citizens involved in the events and along the cycling routes; people knowing NN2000 and the LIFE program; associations/volunteer initiatives for biodiversity protection; institutional subjects involved; visitors of the website, social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube) and related interactions;
- qualities, i.e. increased awareness of citizens; variations of eco-sustainable habits; growth of relations between subjects that make up local governance.

Socio-economic context. The project aimed at supporting the development of an economy that valorises social and environmental sustainability as factors of competitiveness, together with innovation and offer quality. Consumer behaviour is changing with respect to the perception of the economic value of a proposal that pays attention to socio-environmental sustainability, which is increasingly considered as crucial to guarantee better living standards.

Expected longer term results. LIFE Sic2Sic Actions contributed to achieve the four objectives set by art. 12 of the Reg. (EU) n. 1293/2013 as follows:

- to promote awareness of environmental issues, supporting the development of EU environmental policies, and promoting knowledge on sustainable development and new models of sustainable consumption;
- to support the communication, management and dissemination of information in the environmental sector and to facilitate knowledge sharing on the best environmental solutions and good practices, also through the development of cooperation platforms;
- to promote the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement of EU environmental legislation, in particular by encouraging the development and dissemination of good practices and policy approaches;
- to promote better environmental governance by broadening the participation of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to consultations on policies and their implementation.

Moreover, LIFE Sic2Sic contributed to the achievement of Objective 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy until 2020 ("Preserving and enhancing ecosystems and related services through the green infrastructure"). Finally, the LIFE Sic2Sic approach, based on the active participation of citizens, on the continuous dialogue with institutions and on the creation of information sharing platforms, is easily replicable in all Member States.

## 5. Administrative part (maximum 1 page)

Project management process. ISPRA was the leader of the project, supervising and coordinating it, and performed its function through an administrative and an organizational secretariat. The organizational chart also included the following teams: *Technical team*, dedicated to the activities related to cycling connections, data collection and awareness activities during the tour; included ISPRA environmental experts, ISPRA cyclists, ISPRA experts in environmental video production, and FIAB cyclists and experts of the territory; *Communication and media relations team* (Ares 2.0) that dealt with all aspects of communication (creativity, media and institutional relations, digital channels); included 1 technology developer, 1 social media copywriter, 1 social media strategist, 1 graphic designer and 1 art director; *Events team*, including press office, 1 person for territorial animation, 1 person for logistics organization (ISPRA) and 1 person for institutional relations (Ares 2.0), with the aim of managing events activities, the dissemination activities related to the final event, the contents of the Layman's report and networking activity with other projects; *Monitoring and control team*, consisting of 1 specialized staff member (Ares 2.0), who daily

monitored activities and produced data, to verify the relationship between pre-established results and achieved results; *Development and sustainability team*, dedicated to the entrepreneurial sector, in particular the green-oriented sector, to highlight practices characterized by environmental sustainability.

Working method. Each team was ran by a manager who worked with the project coordinator, the monitoring and control team and the administrative and the organizational secretariats, in order to have a constant analysis of the progress of both technical and administrative activities. Project management activities involving all partners were usually performed as web conferences and communications were mainly carried out via e-mail.

Problems encountered. At the beginning of the project, bureaucratic delays in some phases prevented the project to close certain contracts and purchases on time, causing the postponing of the Lazio-Umbria tour from May to September 2018, Sardegna from July to October 2018, Piemonte from May to June 2019, Puglia from July to September 2019. These changes were possible thanks to the extension of the project (letter of EASME dated 22/1/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 397855), which also allowed the postponement of the tour in Sicilia to beginning of 2020. Later, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was carry out in September 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic had obviously an impact of the activities of the project, compelling to reorganize the normal program for the tour in Sicilia, making the online form necessary for official meetings and preventing participation in events that have been cancelled.

Partnerships and its added value. *ISPRA* is a technical body of the Italian Ministry of the Environment, with consolidated expertise on environmental protection and sustainability issues. Its staff members ensure the professional specializations for the construction and management of the naturalistic side of the project. *Ares 2.0* works in the field of research, communication and event organization; its interests include sustainability and local development, both basic themes in the project. *Ares 2.0* integrates traditional communication, new media and non-conventional communication (guerrilla marketing), and creates videos taking care of all production aspects. It is accredited to the European Parliament as a provider of social-web communication services. *Enne3* works on the creation of innovative start-ups and offers services such as the preparation of business strategies and models, the analysis and evaluation of the company performance. It plays a key role in defining the economic possibilities connected to the productive practices that support environmental protection and sustainability. *FIAB* is an environmental organization aimed at spreading bicycle as an ecological means of transport. It has a wide diffusion at local level, bringing together over 130 autonomous associations, in this way allowing a deep knowledge of the territory. *FIAB* is the National Coordinating Center for the development of the "EuroVelo" network in Italy.

Comments on any significant deviations from the work plan. The creation of the smartphone app has been revoked because there is already one available by the EU Ispra Joint Research Centre (Italy). In agreement with the EASME monitor, the app has been replaced by a mobile version of the website capable of geolocation and access to GPX.

Regarding the changes in the tour dates, thanks to the extension of the project duration (letter from EASME dated 22/1/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 397855) it was however possible to carry out all the planned tours, modifying the dates scheduled for the delivery of the various deliverables by making reference to the new project schedule; in particular the dates of presentation of the 1st *In itinere* report and of the Midterm report were moved forward to include the results of the Sardegna tour (ended 17/11/2018), while the 2nd *In itinere* report was delivered on 29/11/2019 to include the results of the tour in Puglia. The Covid-19 pandemic also caused changes in the project's activities, both on the tour in Sicilia, as dates and as organization (e.g., it was necessary to eliminate the presentation at the schools), and more generally in the participation in events dedicated to the world of sustainable mobility, which have been revoked.

Communication with the EASME and monitoring team. The monthly reports on the activities sent to monitor.

Visits: on 21/3/2018 first monitoring visit, on 27-28/5/2019 joint visit, on 27/4/2020 third monitoring visit, on 12/2/2021 fourth monitoring visit (the last three online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

Letters from EASME: 12/6/2018, Ref. Ares (2018) 3081519. 16/8/2018, Ref. Ares (2018) 3793001. 28/3/2019, EASME B3 AS A-25011971. 20/5/2019, Ref. Ares (2019) 3288462. 28/6/2019, EASME.B.3/GC. 22/1/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 397855. 13/12/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 7560021.

Reports: Midterm report, sent by mail on 20/3/2019. Progress report, sent by e-mail on 27/11/2019.

Changes due to amendments to the Grant Agreement. First amendment: modification in the definition of conditions for natural persons, submission of VAT (Value-Added Tax) certificate and threshold for submission of the certificate on the financial statements (letter from EASME dated 16/8/2018, Ref. Ares (2018) 3793001).

Second amendment: the changes concerned the end date of the project, extended from 2/2/2020 to 1/12/2020 (letter from EASME dated 22/1/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 397855).

## 6. Technical part (maximum 25 pages)

### 6.1 Technical progress, per Action

#### Action A - Preparatory actions

##### **Action A1 - Communication plan**

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 29/12/2017

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 29/12/2017

The Communication plan was delivered on time, fully in line with the contents indicated in the approved project and without changes. However, based on what emerged from the joint visit of 27-28 May 2019 and reported in the letter sent by the European monitor on 28/6/2019, the communication plan has been revised and updated in order to strengthen social media activity. A new media editorial plan was thus drawn up, released on 23/7/2019.

<b>Deliverable name</b>	<b>Done</b>
Communication plan	Yes

#### Action B - Core actions

##### **Action B1 - Cycling connections for the promotion and conservation of nature**

Foreseen start date: March 2018

Actual start date: 29/5/2018

Foreseen end date: November 2019

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 3/10/2020

The preparatory activities of the cycling connections concerned the elaboration of the itineraries of the cycling routes and of the informative material illustrating the environmental characteristics of the territories intersected, to be included in the project website.

The routes were defined by ISPRA and FIAB applying the following macro-criteria:

- presence of exclusive bicycle routes;
- higher number of habitats involved and greater wealth in terms of biodiversity, but possibly also greater criticality in terms of conservation;
- accessibility by a large audience, essential criterion for the 20 public stages.

Given its widespread presence on the territory, FIAB involved the local representatives of its federated associations to get information on the peculiar characteristics of the territories intersected by the cycling routes.

ISPRA proceeded with a selection of its staff members interested in the project and willing to share their professional skills and/or available to ride a bike along the project cycling routes. A team of 65 people, made up of experts in fauna, flora, ecosystems, landscape and communication was established. Among these experts 25 cyclist were selected. A smaller scientific team of 20 experts identified and described the environmental characteristics of the territories crossed, especially regarding the SN2000s. The collected material was used to prepare about 30 specific sheets (possibly with links to deepening boxes), which were then posted on the website. The ISPRA cyclists team composed of staff members with environmental skills was trained in dissemination activities and data collection to be carried out during the cycling routes.

On the road, the cyclist team was made up of ISPRA staff members (at least 4 people) and FIAB (at least 1 person, with accompanying role). During the cycling trips, materials (photos, videos, GPX lines) were collected to illustrate the section *Routes* of the website and to enrich the geo-referenced photographic database of the landscapes cyclists went through.

FIAB produced a local promotion action, aimed at ensuring participation to the public stages of cycling routes in the concerned municipalities and to solicit the involvement of the managing bodies of protected areas, local administrations and all interested parties. Each initiative was advertised both through the project website and the media activation.

As for the deviations with respect to the project proposal, they essentially concerned timing, without however involving any economic burden. The start of the tours was postponed from March 2018 to 29 May 2018, requiring a redefinition in the sequence of the regions involved: Friuli-Venezia Giulia, previously expected in July 2019, became the first tour because it is a region in Northern Italy, where the cold weather is felt early, while the 2019 tour started in May with the 4 weeks in Piemonte moved from 2018 to mid-2019. The tour in Sicilia has been postponed to the end of 2020. This was the new time schedule of cycling routes:

- Friuli-Venezia Giulia: 29 May - 9 June 2018;
- Lazio-Umbria: 18 September - 13 October 2018;
- Sardegna: 6-17 November 2018;
- Piemonte: 13 May - 8 June 2019;
- Puglia: 24 September - 19 October 2019;
- Sicilia: 8 September - 3 October 2020.

The reason for the change, in the first year, lies in issues related to the supply of bicycles and related technical equipment, and of the van for transport to follow the cyclists. The task was conducted in the form of a call for tenders, managed by ISPRA. This change in timing has caused changes in the organization of cycling routes (start of the press campaign, start of the relationship activity with media and with institutions, organization of local events, and so on). Nonetheless, the end date of the first year of tour remained unchanged, with a great deal of physical and mental effort, while the second year, based on the past experience, was split over two years. Consequently, despite the initial intention to finish the project by the scheduled date, it was necessary to request an extension. Subsequently, the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic forced to further move the date of the tour in Sicilia to the end of 2020 and ISPRA has entered into an agreement with the University of Palermo for the collection of data and the awareness of citizens towards the protection of biodiversity in the SN2000s.

Generally, each stage began with the project presentation in a school (with the exception of Sicilia, due to the pandemic), generally a primary school. ISPRA experts presented the project to the children and to the school staff, talking about biodiversity and NN2000. The school

children then participated to an educational game based on a written text which allowed them to interpret the environmental themes discussed.

In Sicilia, considering the anti-Covid measures, the meetings in schools have been cancelled, but the communication activity was carried out with a distance training (see Action B2).

After the school experience, the stage started. During the stages specific meetings were planned with institutions and stakeholders. Moreover, during the tour specific treks were organized to walk through other interesting SN2000s that could not be easily reached by bicycle. The complete list of the project's tour activities is summarized in the annex Tour activities.

According to the project, specific targeted questionnaires were developed by ISPRA and Enne3. However, considering the difficulties in presenting questionnaires to the people involved in the project activities, it was considered more effective to use a survey as a tool to monitor the impacts of the project, as required by European monitor (letter of EASME dated 28/6/2019, EASME.B.3/GC) (see Action C1). For this reason, the two deliverables relating to the reasoned summaries of the results of the interviews were not produced but were replaced by online surveys (see Action C1).

Regarding the activity of video recordings, the entire production of 113 audiovisuals is available on the Sic2Sic YouTube channel at the link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4yTRrAszuSVOhAQo\\_RT3w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4yTRrAszuSVOhAQo_RT3w).

As regards the publication of *Vademecum for the construction of cycle routes and green roads*, the title has been changed to *Cycling in protected areas. Perspectives, challenges, examples*, considered more appropriate to the content. In the course of this Final report it will be mentioned with this second name.

Deliverable name	Done
Questionnaire to be given to stakeholders	Yes
Monitoring questionnaire to be given to cyclists	Yes
Traces of the connection paths between the SN2000s selected in the first year of the project	Yes
Data sheets on the environmental characteristics of the territories crossed with the peculiarities of SN2000s and relevant points (hot spots)	Yes
Video recordings of 100 cycling routes	Yes
Reasoned summary of the results of the interviews with stakeholders	Replaced by 1st and 2nd surveys
Georeferenced photographic database of the landscapes crossed	Yes
Cycling in protected areas. Perspectives, challenges, examples (formerly Vademecum for the construction of cycle routes and green roads)	Yes
Reasoned summary of the results of the interviews with cyclists involved in the itineraries for monitoring purposes	Replaced by 1st and 2nd surveys

Milestone name	Done
Start tour first year	Yes
End of the first year tour	Yes
Start tour second year	Yes
End of the second year tour	Yes

## Action B2 - Animation and communication to enhance territorial cycling and natural areas

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 29/11/2019

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 27/11/2020

Media relation. Ares 2.0 selected a list of specific journalists, bloggers and influencers present in the territories and contacted them to disseminate information on the scheduled cycling routes.

Institutional system. ISPRA, as a public body, selected public institutions (managing bodies of protected natural areas, Regions, Provinces, Municipalities, Mountain communities, environmental associations, etc.) and stakeholders (regional/provincial bodies for tourism and mobility, Pro loco, trade associations related to tourism and/or mobility, etc.), potentially interested by the tours. The lists of contacts were used to contact interested people before and during the tours. In this way we were able to organize events and meetings with 236 institutional and of governance subjects. The complete list of meetings made during the tours is in attachment Tours activities, while for the complete description of contacts see Action B3.

School system. Ares 2.0 prepared the list of schools present in the places the cycling routes drove through, among which one available to host the project presentation was selected. Following a careful evaluation, it was decided to apply exclusively to primary schools (higher-level schools were involved as an exception): indeed, school children are the most reactive targets in general and specifically on topics concerning the environment and moreover family members could also be involved. Totally, 48 schools reached, about 4,200 trained and sensitized students, 161 between teachers and school referents involved.

The experience at the schools was very rich and satisfying, thanks to the use, as a training tool for students, of the *caviardage* creative writing method. In this regard, a project product not foreseen, *Quaderno di attivazione sul metodo "caviardage" nell'esperienza del LIFE Sic2Sic* (Activation book on the "caviardage" method in the LIFE Sic2Sic experience), has been prepared, which is intended to be used in the After-LIFE plan (see), in order to strengthen the communication activity and spread the knowledge of the LIFE Sic2Sic project: the manual, accompanied by a video tutorial, will be sent to schools so that teachers can independently propose activities for the knowledge of environmental issues to their classes. All materials are available at the link <https://lifetic2sic.eu/scuole/>. For the moment, the publication was used as a dissemination tool by sending it to 831 primary schools in Sicilia, a region in which, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to present the project in schools, as was the case in all the others tours. Responsible for the activity was the University of Palermo, with which a specific collaboration was activated.

During the project activities the opportunity arose to carry out university lectures during which the project and its themes were presented:

- on 25/2/2019 at La Sapienza University, Rome, School of architectural heritage and landscape, a lesson was given on the subject "Managing and communicating the landscape in protected areas";
- at the University of Piemonte Orientale, Vercelli, within the Career day 2018 (506 participants) and Career day 2019 (777 participants), and the Master on services for tourism (2019 and 2020 editions), the LIFE Sic2Sic project was presented, with possible services for cycle tourism. As part of the activities envisaged in the After-LIFE plan, in the 2021 edition the *Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature* (see below) will be used as a model for planning local tourist services;
- in the same University, within the General economics course (professor Marco Novarese), in the academic year 2019-20 the students were prepared to carry out innovative projects on tourism and cyclomobility, with the simulation of 7 business models for the enhancement of the territory through tourism (42 students).

Green production system. Enne3 drew up lists of local entrepreneurs to be informed, sensitized and involved, with particular consideration of those present in the SN2000s or close to them. The choice of entrepreneurs started with the identification of four key sectors: tourism supply chain, innovative companies / start-ups of tourism services, sustainable

mobility supply chain, virtuous companies for policies to reduce environmental impact. In this way 4,050 companies were selected, then contacted by e-mail, establishing a dialogue which then resulted, where possible, in a direct meeting. In all cases, the correspondence of the company's activity and policy with the aims of the project was verified. During the contacts made on the site, Enne3 selected entrepreneurs with good practices in activities related to SN2000s. The data collected were used to draw up a *Collection of good green economy practices* and finally to produce a *Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature*. Initially the title intended for this publication was *Guidelines for the development of green-oriented entrepreneurial activities*, but we considered more appropriate to the content the new title, which will be used in the rest of this Final report. To date, the downloads of the *Vademecum* from the Easyholidays website are over 1,500. Furthermore, the interventions carried out during the tours and the visits to the companies made it possible to spread awareness on the themes of the project, with the result that currently 88 entrepreneurial subjects from the seven regions visited have accepted our suggestions and expressed their interest in integrating their activities with those related to natural and slow cycling tourism. Enne3 also oversaw the creation of video spots for companies, in order to strengthen the knowledge of the project's keywords. These short films are not among the deliverables envisaged by the project. In total, there are three videos dedicated to language and communication (Development: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olerpq0qPxI>; Natura 2000: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fe4WVD91ggA&t=3s>; Bikemotion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wG8JWD918TY> & t = 13s) and two in-depth videos and investigations on economic models connected to the natural world (Inside 1, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXMeFUjI2hk&t=126s>, which presents economic models applicable in natural territories; Inside 2, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6DOUdXZwtY>, which illustrates the economic interaction between the world of FIAB associations and the system of tourist routes and hospitality).

Critical mass and cycling learning. The local promotion action, aimed at guaranteeing participation in the public stages of cycling routes of the concerned municipalities was carried out by FIAB, thanks to its structure widely spread throughout the territory. At the same time, the action was aimed at soliciting the involvement of the managing bodies of protected areas, local administrations and all interested parties. Each initiative was advertised both through the project website and media activation.

Deviation with respect to what has been foreseen was the decision to prefer primary school children, rather than addressing schools of all levels, but the results obtained largely justified this change in program.

Deliverable name	Done
List of referring companies and subjects representing profit	Yes
Analysis report of the main local newspapers and identification of journalists, bloggers and influencers and mailing lists	Yes
List of main subjects and institutional actors (mailing list)	Yes
Main list of associative system (mailing list)	Yes
List of primary schools	Yes
Agenda contacts with institutional, associative, entrepreneurial and other stakeholders for each cycling routes	Yes
Press releases for initial launch, start of the stage launches for each route and invitation to participate in the final days of learning by cycling	Yes
Good practices of green economy	Yes
Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature (formerly Guidelines for the development of green-oriented entrepreneurial activities)	Yes

Milestone name	Done
Start-up of media relations and institutional relations	Yes
Start of relationship with the business system	Yes
Starting relations activities with the schools	Yes
Launch of critical mass and learning by cycling activation campaigns	Yes
Launch of press campaigns to raise awareness on the cycling routes	Yes

### **Action B3 - Institutional communication at regional and national level: 7 regional events and 1 national launch event**

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 11/11/2019

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 27/11/2020

The shift of the dates of the first year tours also involved a change in the dates of the regional events: in 2018 three events were held instead of the four planned (the fourth event was moved to 2019), in 2019 two events and in 2020 one event (following the extension of the project).

National launching event. The national event took place in Rome on 20/3/2018, at the conference room of the Spazio Europa (managed by the Information Office for Italy of the European Parliament and the Representation in Italy of the European Commission), a location particularly suitable to present a LIFE project. The topics dealt with during the event were: LIFE Sic2Sic project, NN2000, LIFE projects in general, bicycle as an environmentally friendly means of transport, choice of eco-sustainable behaviour by citizens, possibilities for green-oriented entrepreneurship. In addition to representatives of the four project partners, who illustrated its objectives and characteristics, Laura Pettiti, Ministry of Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea; Lucilla Carnevali, ISPRA, LIFE project ASAP; Roberto Sinibaldi, Lazio Region; and Domenico D'Alelio, Anton Dohrn Station of Naples, participated as speakers. The entire organization of the event was borne by ISPRA.

Territorial promotion event in Umbria. On 20/4/2018, at the Research Center "Climate change and biodiversity in lake environments and wetlands" of Polvese Island (Lake Trasimeno, Perugia) of ARPA Umbria, a meeting was held to present the LIFE Sic2Sic project. Umbrian regional and local institutional representatives and scientific experts involved in other LIFE projects were present. The entire organization of the event was borne by ARPA. Although not foreseen in the project, this meeting did not present any additional costs (except for the cost of travel to Polvese Island), but represented an important opportunity to discuss the project themes with the local Umbrian community.

First regional event in Trieste (Friuli-Venezia Giulia). On 8/6/2018, in the Bobi Bazlen Hall of Palazzo Gopceovich (historical building owned by the Municipality), a project presentation workshop was held. Speakers: Matteo Lener, project manager, who illustrated it in its features; Pierpaolo Zanchetta, Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, who spoke about NN2000; Luca Mastropasqua, FIAB Trieste, who discussed about cycling tourism; Stefania Del Frate, ARPA, who illustrated sustainable tourism. The organization of the workshop was the responsibility of ISPRA, in collaboration with ARPA Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

Second regional event in Perugia (Umbria). On 2/10/2018, back in the Research Center of Polvese Island of ARPA Umbria, a project presentation workshop was planned, which was not held for a sudden and unpredictable unavailability of ferries to the island. It will however

be postponed to 7/3/2019 event in Rome. Enrolled speakers: Matteo Lener, project manager; Massimo Boni, Umbria Region, on the regional cycling routes; Lorenzo Lener, Enne3, on business and the environment; Francesco Baroncini, FIAB, on bicycle and NN2000; Rosalba Padula, ARPA Umbria, on NN2000 and biodiversity; Emma Tedeschini, University of Perugia, on pollinosis. The organization of the workshop was the responsibility of ISPRA, in collaboration with ARPA Umbria.

Third regional event in Lazio region. Not carried out because too close to the one in Perugia on 2 October, postponed to 7/3/2019 event in Rome.

Fourth regional event in Cagliari (Sardegna). On 16/11/2018, at the Autonomous Region of Sardegna, Sala Anfiteatro, a project presentation workshop was organized. The speakers of the meeting were: Maria Cecilia Natalia, ISPRA, Lorenzo Lener, Enne 3, and Virgilio Scanu, FIAB, who told the first impressions at the end of the Sardinian tour; Marianna Mossa, Autonomous Region of Sardegna, who spoke about NN2000; Giovanni Satta, Autonomous Region of Sardegna, who presented the LIFE MASTER ADAPT project; Massimiliano Ponti, Autonomous Region of Sardegna, and Italo Meloni, University of Cagliari, who illustrated the development of the Sardinian cycle network; Francesco Ghirra, City of Cagliari, who examined good practices for the development of sustainable mobility. The organization of the workshop was the responsibility of ISPRA in collaboration with Region of Sardegna and LIFE MASTER ADAPT.

Recovery of the second and third events in Rome (Lazio). On 7/3/2019, back in the conference room of the Spazio Europa, a workshop on the experience of the first year of tour was organized. Speaker of the meeting was Maria Cecilia Natalia, ISPRA. During the workshop, videos about the tours of 2018 were broadcast and the planning for 2019 was discussed. The entire organization of the event was borne by ISPRA. It was decided to use this meeting to recover the second and third regional workshops first of all due to its nature, since the experiences of 2018 were summarized and the activities of 2019 were presented. Furthermore, a regional workshop can only take place locally and with the still vivid impressions of the tour just ended, together with an audience and representatives of the region crossed, and this, for organizational reasons, would not have been possible.

Fifth regional event in Torino (Piemonte). On 7/6/2019, at the regional office of ARPA Piemonte/Gran Paradiso National Park a project presentation workshop was organized. The speakers of the meeting were: Maria Cecilia Natalia, ISPRA, Lorenzo Lener, Enne 3, and Alberica Di Carpegna, FIAB, who told about the project; Enrico Rivella, ARPA Piemonte, who spoke about NN2000 in Piemonte and cycle tourism; the journalist Toni Farina, about bicycle and nature. The organization of the workshop was the responsibility of ISPRA in collaboration with ARPA Piemonte.

Sixth regional event in Lecce (Puglia). On 18/10/2019, at Officine Cantelmo, Maria Cecilia Natalia, ISPRA, Lorenzo Lener, Enne 3, and Federico Baroncini, FIAB, told about the project LIFE Sic2Sic. The discussion then began with the local actors on mobility and sustainable tourism, the importance of protected areas and the enhancement of the NN2000. The organization of the workshop was the responsibility of ISPRA.

Seventh regional event in Palermo (Sicilia). On 2/10/2020, at the Department of Rural and Territorial Development of the Sicilian Region, the final workshop was organized (both in presence and online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic). After the presentation of the project

conducted by Maria Cecilia Natalia, ISPRA, Lorenzo Lener, Enne 3, and Aurelio Cibien, FIAB, the following speakers took the floor: Mario Candore, Rural and Territorial Development Department of the Sicilian Region, Valentina Palmeri, IV Regional Assembly - Environment, territory and mobility, Giuseppe Cuffari, ARPA Sicilia, Giovanni Ruggieri, University of Palermo, Simone Morgana, FIAB Sicilia, Barbara Manachini, University of Palermo. The organization of the workshop was the responsibility of ISPRA in collaboration with University of Palermo, Rural and Territorial Development Department of the Sicilian Region, Department of Agricultural, Food Sciences and Forestry of the University of Palermo, ARPA Sicilia.

In all these events representatives of Italian national and/or regional authorities, environmental associations and entrepreneurial associations were invited. Furthermore, the news of the appointment was disseminated via the project website and the ISPRA website, to involve as many people as possible.

According to the project, a restricted online Forum for the confrontation with the representatives of municipalities, park authorities, organizations for the management of SN2000s, associations and companies met during the tours, with the aim to discuss and implement a territorial policy structure able to grasp the opportunity and the economic and social value of environmental issues. The forum preparation phase started at the end of 2019, while the planned activities began in 2020. Two concrete topics have been identified: management of bicycle activities (including e-bikes) in the SN2000s, where the basic discussion document was represented by the *Cycling in protected areas. Perspectives, challenges, examples* draft; sharing of experiences and strategies adopted or planned to encourage and plan the development of cycling in the area, where the basic discussion document was represented by the *Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature* draft. The Forum was also a useful tool to discuss the different regional approaches developed for the implementation of cycling mobility systems. Finally, it will be used in the activities foreseen in the After-LIFE plan (see), to continue the project beyond its end.

As foreseen by the project, in order to create the ideal conditions for a comparison between stakeholders present throughout the national territory, three channels were chosen: that of national events which were an opportunity for discussion between stakeholders and political decision-makers; that of the activation of a Facebook group to which 283 subjects have joined; that of the dissemination of project materials in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences and the activation of relationships between national and local decision makers. With this dense involvement activity, the number of 140 stakeholders involved in a discussion aimed at sharing Sic2Sic issues and policy responses has been largely exceeded. It should not be forgotten that the public events activated by the project alone were 23, to which was added the presence in initiatives of other subjects, during which the Sic2Sic experience was brought, creating a further opportunity for discussion between national decision-makers. and local. Furthermore, the dialogue with the institutions has matured interest in the MoU between Sic2Sic and local administrations, with the aim of guaranteeing support for the process of strengthening local policies aimed at environmental sustainability. At present, 14 MoU have been signed and another 11 are in the process of being approved by local authorities (see annex Memoranda of understanding).

Regarding the problems identified, the regional event of Perugia (2/10/2018) and the regional event in Lazio (2019) have been merged into a single meeting, serving both as a verification of the work carried out in the first year of the project and to present the start of the second year courses. Furthermore, with regard to the docu-videos of each event, it was decided to replace them with videos dedicated to the regional tours (see Action B4), in which each event

was created by assembling images and interviews collected during the tour, in order to obtain a more effective communication product; programs and presentations are on ISPRA website.

Deliverable name	Done
List of representatives of companies and subjects representing profit (mailing list)	Yes
Analysis report of the main local newspapers and identification of journalists, bloggers and influencers and mailing lists	Yes
List of main subjects and institutional actors (mailing list)	Yes
List of representatives of companies and subjects representing profit (mailing list)	Yes
List of the main contacts of the national association system (mailing list)	Yes
National event	Yes
First regional event	Yes
Second and third regional event	Yes
Fourth regional event	Yes
Fifth regional event	Yes
Sixth regional event	Yes
Seventh regional event	Yes
Audio video recording of each event	Yes
Docu-video of each event	Replaced by regional videos

Milestone name	Done
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the national event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 1st regional event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 2nd regional event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 3rd regional event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 4th regional event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 5th regional event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 6th regional event	Yes
Launch of press campaign to raise awareness of the 7th regional event	Yes

#### **Action B4 - ATL and BTL cross communication to support LIFE Sic2Sic initiatives**

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 30/09/2019

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 27/11/2020

Creative concept, graphic line and BTL production. The creative concept, as foreseen by the project, was developed on the key idea of the cycling routes and with the aim of representing and promoting with a strong, clear, effective and original image (visual/copy) the values of nature, biodiversity, responsible tourism (in the open air, cycling) and sharing. The logo and the pay off created in this way can be found in all communication tools but can also be used for BTL activities.

In addition to more generic material suitable for any occasion (stickers, folders, letterheads, pencils), materials specifically dedicated to national and local events (posters, roll-up, sails, flyers) were also produced. Regarding the group of cyclists of the project, both the bicycle frame and the cyclist uniforms (shirt and gilet) were personalized with the project logo. In every product and initiative the logos of the European Union, the LIFE program and the institutions and partners involved were also present.

The whole activity of creation and production of the project image was borne by Ares 2.0, in a process that has also involved the other three project partners.

Video/spot production. During the project the following videos were made:

- 1 national video spot *LIFE Sic2Sic - Natura 2000 network. The environment is making its way* (to promote the social project on a broad national target);
- 1 national video spot *LIFE Sic2Sic starts from Friuli-Venezia Giulia* on 29 May 2018;

- 1 regional video spot LIFE Sic2Sic, *Friuli-Venezia Giulia*;
- 6 regional videos (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio-Umbria, Sardegna, Piemonte, Puglia e Sicilia);
- 1 video storytelling *Slowly, LIFE Sic2Sic*;
- 99 videoclips of each stage of the tour;
- 2 long videos: *A year with Sic2Sic* and *LIFE Sic2Sic - By bike through the Italian Natura 2000 network*;
- video *Natura 2000 Network, LIFE Sic2Sic*;
- video *Inside Sic2Sic, the caviardage method in the schools*.

The entire production of 113 audiovisuals is available on the Sic2Sic YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4yTRrAszuSVOhAQo\\_RT3w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4yTRrAszuSVOhAQo_RT3w)); the long videos are present also on YouTube page of ISPRA.

Online communication via a dedicated website. Ares 2.0 created the website dedicated to the project, organized in the following sectors: Home; The project; Events; Travel diary; News. The site was continuously updated, with all the information related to the various events and related initiatives. It also contains a virtual archive of images concerning nature and biodiversity. Finally, following the decision not to create an app to geolocalize the SN2000s, this function was transferred to the website.

Animation on social networks. From a careful analysis of the rapid technological developments and interest of the multiple channels available, the choice was made to activate profiles and pages on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram. During the tours we proceeded with a continuous programming of posts in order to create a community, cover events, disseminate news on the project and SN2000s.

Smartphone applications. The project should have included a smartphone app developed in the Android environment aimed at identifying in a georeferenced way the SN2000s closest to the user, to know their characteristics and to visualize the routes and the stages on the map. This app was not created, because a similar app was already produced by the EU Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Italy). It would therefore have been an overlap. In any case, in order to create a useful tool for identifying SN2000s, the app has been replaced, in agreement with the EASME monitor, by a mobile version of the website that has the ability to perform the geolocation service and access to GPX. The numbers of the site unequivocally demonstrate the correctness of the choice made. An analysis of the pages on which the user of the website has addressed, it turns out that the attention is focused on the section of the itineraries where in addition to accessing information on the places crossed, it was possible to download GPX files and view KMZ files. An interesting fact is that despite the pandemic, in the period May 2020 - February 2021, the map views were 27,078 and the GPX downloads were 687. Overall, the GPX downloaded are 1339 and the access to KML / KMZ were 39,671.

Social and web advertising. The website was set up to directly and easily promote the contents and activities of the project and was the reference point for the web and social communication campaign, conveying basic and specific information for each individual initiative and hosting all the collected contents.

Following the extension of the project, in order to strengthen the communication activity and spread the knowledge of the LIFE Sic2Sic project, an activity not foreseen by the initial project has been carried out: a photographic contest with the aim of multiplying the public's interest in the NN2000 and its themes. The LIFE Sic2Sic competition. *Come, shoot and win*

(closed on 31/3/2020) intended to reward the passion for nature, enhance the beauty of biodiversity, making the citizens protagonists in making known the extraordinary Italian natural heritage (participation of 364 photographers with the creation of a photographic archive of over 1,000 photos). During the Final public event (27/11/2020) the winners of the photo contest were announced.

<b>Deliverable name</b>	<b>Done</b>
ATL and BTL material	Yes
Website	Yes
Social pages	Yes
App mobile	No
First long video	Yes
Second long video	Yes
<b>Milestone name</b>	<b>Done</b>
Set point of the creative concept	Yes
Activation of ISPRA TV web channel	Yes

### **Action C - Monitoring of project impact**

#### **Action C1 -Impact verification**

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 7/1/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 27/11/2020

The monitoring activity was fundamental to ensure an information apparatus that allowed to act in a timely manner to optimize the project results. Based on this assumption, the monitoring analysis was primarily aimed at verifying the activities listed below:

- development of the Communication plan;
- elaboration of the communication campaign;
- video/spot production;
- development, implementation and monitoring of the mobile website and social networks channels;
- organization and implementation of national and regional event activity;
- drawing of the routes, organization of the stages and technical preparation;
- mapping of the territory and identification of the categories of interest for the project;
- implementation of the first three regional routes and awareness-raising activities.

Data collection on the territory was edited by ISPRA and by Enne3 for the section concerning entrepreneurship. Ares 2.0 had the task of organizing the data in order to ensure the timely monitoring of the activities carried out, producing the *Ex ante* report, the 1st and 2nd *In itinere* reports and a Final report. The dates of presentation of the 1st *In itinere* report and of the Midterm report were postponed to include the results of the tour in Sardegna (ended 17 November 2018), while the presentation of 2nd *In itinere* report was postponed from July to November 2019, to report the data of the tours in Piemonte and Puglia. Overall, the set of activities planned was carried out, with some changes in the scheduled deadlines. It should however be considered that such a complex project is necessarily characterized by a certain level of experimentation.

A product not envisaged by the project and required by European monitor (letter of EASME dated 8/6/2019, EASME.B.3/GC) was the monitoring surveys, conceived following the difficulties encountered in presenting and having the people involved in the project fill out questionnaires. The surveys aimed to monitor the impacts of the project, in order to evaluate the activities carried out and possibly modulate the communication and dissemination action

based on the evidence emerging from the analysis (first survey, May - August 2019) and to reconstruct an overall picture of its impact and for a definitive analysis of the results obtained with respect to the project objectives and expectations, i.e. an increased awareness of the topics proposed during the planning (second survey, October 2020). The method selected involved the construction of a short online questionnaire (18 closed-ended questions) aimed at the target population to understand the degree of knowledge of some key themes of the project and to assess the impact of the activities carried out and their level of satisfaction. The evaluation questionnaire was administered via the Limeservice platform in CAWI social mode).

Deliverable name	Done
<i>Ex ante</i> report	Yes
1st <i>In itinere</i> report	Yes
2nd <i>In itinere</i> report	Yes
Final report	Yes

Milestone name	Done
1st <i>In itinere</i> report	Yes
2nd <i>In itinere</i> report	Yes

## **Action D - Communication and dissemination of the project and its results**

### **Action D1 - Dissemination plan of the project and its results**

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 7/1/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 27/11/2020

The project activities were accompanied by an intense dissemination work aimed at spreading the knowledge of LIFE Sic2Sic and its results, to promote its replicability and a better awareness of its opportunities. This dissemination activity has concerned the underlying sectors.

Networking with other LIFE projects. On 21/5/2018, on the occasion of the Natura 2000 European Day, the coordinator of the LIFE Sic2Sic project organized a meeting in Rome, at the presidential estate of Castelporziano (a SN2000, SPZ IT6030084), during which all the 14 LIFE projects in which ISPRA was involved were presented. The occasion was particularly important to start creating a synergy with other LIFE projects.

During the project, after a selection of more than 250 LIFE projects, financed from 2013 until 2017 and located in the 7 Italian Regions of SIC2SIC, several other LIFE projects took part in the activities conducted, starting with the exchange of links within the respective websites and in social activities to increase the visibility of the project products. In the course of the project, relationships were established with 24 other LIFE projects. Below the complete list including the activities carried out together:

Name of the project	Website	Activities
MASTER ADAPT - LIFE15 CCA/IT/000061	www.masteradapt.eu	Exchange of links Support for the organization of the Sic2Sic tour in Sardegna and the regional workshop in Cagliari (16/11/2018) Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659 "Measures for the conservation of the Egyptian culture in Italy and the Canary Islands" - LIFE Egyptian Culture	www.lifegyptianvulture.it	Exchange of links Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018

SEPOSSO - Supporting environmental governance for the P. oceanica sustainable transplanting operations - LIFE16 GIE/IT/000761	<a href="http://lifeseosso.eu">http://lifeseosso.eu</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018 Organization of meetings in Lazio on the occasion of the relative tour
ASAP - Alien Species Awareness Program - LIFE15 GIE/IT/001039	<a href="http://www.lifeasap.eu/it">www.lifeasap.eu/it</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the presentation of LIFE Sic2Sic on 20/3/2018, at the Spazio Europa conference room (Rome) Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
Lagoon Refresh - LIFE16NAT/IT/000663	<a href="http://www.lifelagoonrefresh.eu">www.lifelagoonrefresh.eu</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the presentation of LIFE Sic2Sic on 20/3/2018, at the Spazio Europa conference room (Rome) Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
LIFE Resilience - Prevention of X. fastidiosa in intensive olive & almond plantations applying productive green farming practices - LIFE17 CCA/ES/000030	<a href="http://www.liferesilience.eu">www.liferesilience.eu</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Lecce (18/10/2019)
LIFE AGRESTIC - Reduction of Agricultural GREENhouse gases Emissions Through Innovative Cropping systems - LIFE17 CCM/IT/000062	<a href="http://www.hortasrl.it/sito/progetto-life-agrestic">www.hortasrl.it/sito/progetto-life-agrestic</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Palermo (2/10/2020)
REMEDIA LIFE - REmediation of Marine Environment and Development of Innovative Aquaculture: exploitation of edible/not edible biomass - LIFE16 ENV/IT/000343	<a href="https://remedialife.eu">https://remedialife.eu</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Palermo (2/10/2020)
CHOO-NA - Choose the nature. Involvement of young volunteers for the Italian nature conservation - LIFE16 ESC/IT/000002	<a href="http://www.lipu.it/choona">www.lipu.it/choona</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Lecce (18/10/2019) Organization of a meeting to visit the Biviere di Gela nature reserve (tour in Sicilia, 16/9/2020), with video interview
Olive4climate - Climate change mitigation through a sustainable supply chain for the olive oil sector - LIFE15 CCM/IT/000141	<a href="https://olive4climate.eu">https://olive4climate.eu</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshops in Lecce (18/10/2019) and Palermo (2/10/2020)
Life4MarPiccolo - A new life for Mar Piccolo - LIFE14 ENV/IT/000461	<a href="http://www.lifemarpiccolo.it">www.lifemarpiccolo.it</a>	Exchange of links Organization of a meeting in Taranto (tour in Puglia, 14/10/2019) Invitation as speakers to the regional workshop in Lecce (18/10/2019), unfortunately not carried out
LIFE Wolfalps - Wolf in the Alps: implementation of coordinated wolf conservation actions in core areas and beyond - LIFE12 NAT/IT/000807	<a href="http://www.lifewolfalps.eu">www.lifewolfalps.eu</a>	Exchange of links Several meetings during the tour in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Piemonte with short video interviews at Tarvisio, Prato di Resia and Valdieri
LIFE Magredi grasslands - Restoration of dry grasslands (Magredi) in four sites of Community importance of Friuli Lowland - LIFE10 NAT/IT/000243	<a href="http://www.magredinatura2000.it">www.magredinatura2000.it</a>	Exchange of links During the Friuli-Venezia Giulia tour, meeting at the Region and visit to the Magredi di Pordenone, Greto del Tagliamento and Magredi del Cellina sites
AQUILA a-LIFE - Accomplish Western Mediterranean Bonelli's eagle recovery by working together for an electricity grid suitable for birds - LIFE16 NAT/ES/000235	<a href="https://aquila-a-life.org/index.php/es">https://aquila-a-life.org/index.php/es</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
PONDERAT - Restoration of the Pontine Archipelago ecosystems by management of rats and other invasive alien species - LIFE14 NAT/IT/000544	<a href="http://www.ponderat.eu">www.ponderat.eu</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
VISPO - Volunteering Initiative for a Sustainable PO - LIFE17 ESC/IT/000002	<a href="http://www.bevispo.eu">http://www.bevispo.eu</a>	Exchange of links Meeting during the tour in Piemonte at the Parco Valle Ticino headquarters (25/5/2019) with a short video-interview and in Turin at the ARPA Piemonte headquarters

		Participation in the online Forum
Life under griffon wings - LIFE14 NAT/IT/00048	<a href="http://www.lifeundergriffonwings.eu/it/index.html">www.lifeundergriffonwings.eu/it/index.html</a>	Exchange of links Several meetings with the creation of news and video interviews (Alghero, Bosa, Cagliari)
Sun LIFE - Strategy for the Natura 2000 Network of the Umbria Region - LIFE13 NAT/IT/000371	<a href="http://www.life-sun.eu">www.life-sun.eu</a>	Exchange of links Several meetings, for example on the occasion of the meeting at the ARPA Umbria headquarters in Polvese Island (20/4/2018)
SeResto - Habitat 1150* (Coastal lagoon) recovery by SEagrasses RESTORation. A new strategic approach to meet HD and WFD objectives - LIFE12 NAT/IT/000331	<a href="http://www.lifeseresto.eu/">www.lifeseresto.eu/</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
U-Savereds (Management of grey squirrel in Umbria: conservation of red squirrel and preventing loss of biodiversity in Apennines) - LIFE13 BIO/IT/000204	<a href="http://usavereds.eu/it_IT">http://usavereds.eu/it_IT</a>	Exchange of links Participation in the NN2000 European Day of 21/5/2018
Mather - LIFE16 ENV/IT/000211	<a href="http://www.matherproject.eu">http://www.matherproject.eu</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Palermo (2/10/2020)
Great Life - LIFE17 CCA/IT/000067	<a href="https://great-life.eu">https://great-life.eu</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Palermo (2/10/2020)
Lesswatt - LIFE16 ENV/IT/000486	<a href="https://www.lesswattproject.eu">https://www.lesswattproject.eu</a>	Exchange of links Invitation to the regional workshop in Palermo (2/10/2020)
LIFE Marbled duck PSSO - Habitat recovery and management actions to increase Marbled duck breeding population in Pantani della Sicilia SO area - LIFE18 NAT/DE/000797	<a href="https://www.lifemarbledduck.eu">https://www.lifemarbledduck.eu</a>	Exchange of links Meeting during the Sicilian tour at the Pantani della Sicilia sud-orientale (17/9/2020) and realization of a video-interview with the managers of the Site Invitation to the regional workshop in Palermo (2/10/2020)

Social networks and web animation. With the creation of the dedicated website and the social network pages (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter), continuously enriched with content, a solid system was created to ensure wide visibility to the project initiatives.

Final public event. On 27/11/2020 the final event was organized online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The date shift, previously 1 February 2020, was necessary following the extension of the project. The introductory speeches were made by Carlo Zaghi (general director of Directorate-General for Natural Heritage, MATTM), Tullio Berlenghi (chief of Technical Secretariat, MATTM) and Alessandro Bratti (general director, ISPRA). Later the interventions of Maria Cecilia Natalia (ISPRA) on the results of the project, Paolo Gandolfi (Municipality of Reggio Emilia) on the policies for the development of cycling, Valerio Montieri (FIAB) on the *Cycling in protected areas. Perspectives, challenges, examples*, Lorenzo Ciccacese (ISPRA) on NN2000 and the new EU biodiversity strategy, Giulia Gregori (Novamont) on circular bioeconomy for the regeneration of territories, Barbara Manachini (University of Palermo) on biodiversity between nature and agriculture, took place. The meeting was coordinated by Marco Motta (Radio3 Science). During the meeting the winners of the photo contest (see Action B4) were announced. At the opening of the event, we realized a new introducing video: *Why Sic2Sic* ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMqcG\\_SbjmU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMqcG_SbjmU)), collecting interviews with stakeholders encountered during the Tours.

Regarding the public, the threshold of 250 presences envisaged by the project has been abundantly exceeded: 2,012 views on Facebook and 762 on the ISPRA YouTube channel.

Layman's report. The submission date has been moved from 1 February to 23 November 2020 following the extension of the project. The report illustrated the activities of the project and the results achieved, highlighting the aspects connected to the reproducibility of the project and the legacy it left behind. An Italian and an English version has been prepared. The project

involved the printing of 1,000 copies of Layman's, but the document is however available on the project website.

Notice boards. Large panels were created in a 40x50 cm format specific for each different tour, to be placed in each municipality and / or school concerned by cycling routes, at the beginning or at the end of each stage, with the aim of informing about the project. In each panel the project program with the LIFE logo was clearly visible.

Following the extension of the project, in order to strengthen the communication activity and spread the knowledge of the LIFE Sic2Sic project, some activities not foreseen in the initial project were launched:

- the use of Albergabici 2020 - Discover Italy by bicycle catalog (FIAB) with a focus on the project, in which this was told and for each region crossed a route was indicated to discover the NN2000. Printed in 25,000 copies, the publication was sent to FIAB 20,000 members and distributed at trade fairs related to the world of bicycles (Cosmobike 2020 in Verona) and tourism (BIT 2020 in Milan), and other events promoting sustainable mobility. Unfortunately, in 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some scheduled activities where distribution of the publication was planned have been cancelled. It is possible to consult the guide at the link <https://ita.calameo.com/books/004315902cbba58faa52a>;
- university lectures during which the project and its themes were presented: on 25/2/2019 at La Sapienza University, Rome, School of architectural heritage and landscape, a lesson was given on the subject "Managing and communicating the landscape in protected areas"; at the University of Piemonte Orientale, Vercelli, within the Career day 2018 (506 participants) and Career day 2019 (777 participants), and the Master on services for tourism (2019 and 2020 editions, 20 and 22 students respectively), the LIFE Sic2Sic project was presented, with possible services for cycle tourism. As part of the activities envisaged in the After-LIFE plan, in the 2021 edition the *Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature* will be used as a model for planning local tourist services; in the same University, within the General economics course (professor Marco Novarese), in the academic year 2019-20 the students were prepared to carry out innovative projects on tourism and cyclomobility, with the simulation of 7 business models for the enhancement of the territory through tourism (42 students);
- created by Enne3, video spots for companies, in order to strengthen the knowledge of the project's keywords.

The LIFE Sic2Sic project was presented during numerous public meetings (conferences, workshops, etc.), thus contributing to spreading the knowledge of NN2000 and its use that is respectful of the environment, and creating useful relationships for the After-LIFE. Below the list of events:

Date	Event
21-5-2018	European day of the NN2000, at the presidential estate of Castelporziano, organized by ISPRA
17-2-2019	CosmoBike show, in Verona, organized by FIAB
21-5-2019	European day of the NN2000, in Asti
8-5-2019	Environmental sustainability festival, in Avigliana (Turin)
9-6-2019	"Il bicicletterario in festa", literary prize dedicated to the world of bicycles, Riviera di Ulisse Park, in Gaeta (Latina)
24-6-2019	Working table "Slow mobility in parks: the Sustainable development festival 2019 in PNAM on the occasion of the European day of parks", in Castel del Monte-Andria (Bari)
26-6-2019	Living lab. New governance models for the agro-climatic environmental measures of the RDPs within the protected areas, Parco Alta Murgia, in Gravina di Puglia (Bari)
1-7-2019	10th IALE world congress, in Milan

11-9-2019	Travel festival, in Viareggio
24-29/9/2019	ScienzaInsieme, the week dedicated to scientific publication
7-10-2019	Meeting "The management of UNESCO sites in relation to the changes generated by enhancement: the case of Matera", in Matera, organized by National Park of Alta Murgia, Polo museale of Puglia, Italian national commission for UNESCO, E-scapes observatory of the Milan Polytechnic
18-10-2019	"Landscape & Education (LED)" initiative, coordinated by CBLIS of the University of Sassari
15-11-2019	"Puglia, a way of life" workshop, in Rome
30-11-2019	Conference of the presidents of the FIAB member associations, in Ravenna
11-2-2020	BIT (International tourism exchange), in Milan
16-2-2020	CosmoBike show, in Verona, organized by FIAB
2-4-2020	RiArtEco, national traveling exhibition of works made with waste materials, at the National Etruscan museum, in Rome
21-5-2020	European day of the NN2000, in Bracciano (Rome)
5-6-2020	Online event "A network for biodiversity" (World environmental day), organized by ARPA Sicilia
<b>Events canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic</b>	
28-29/3/2020	Bicycle touring fair, in Milan
10-5-2020	XXI edition of Bimbibici, in Turin
2-5/6/2020	"Velo-city 2020". Smart cycling inclusion, in Ljubljana (Slovenia)

The various activities carried out in Action D have seen the collaboration between ISPRA and Ares 2.0. Where necessary, FIAB and Enne3 also contributed.

The list of articles published on the net that report news about the project can be consulted at the link <https://lifestic2sic.eu/news/>

Three articles are widely dedicated to the project:

- Natalia M.C., Lener M. (2017), "Progetto LIFE Sic2Sic - In bici attraverso la Rete Natura 2000 italiana e carta del valore naturalistico-culturale: sinergie attuali e future", *Reticula*, n. 16, p. 82;
- Lener M., Natalia M.C., Vinesi P. (2018), "Progetto LIFE Sic2Sic - In bici attraverso la Rete Natura 2000 italiana", in ISPRA, *Qualità dell'ambiente urbano. XIV Rapporto*, n. 82, pp. 231-232;
- Lener M., Natalia M.C., Vinesi P. (2019), "Proteggere la biodiversità e scoprire le regioni di tanta bellezza. Il secondo anno del progetto 'Sic2Sic - In bici attraverso la Rete Natura 2000 italiana' si conclude in Puglia", *Mediterraneo e dintorni*, n. 16, pp. 12-15.

Deliverable name	Done
Notice boards	Yes
Layman's report	Yes

Milestone name	Done
Final public event	Yes

### **Action E - Project management**

#### **Action E1 - Project management**

Foreseen start date: 1/9/2017

Actual start date: 1/9/2017

Foreseen end date: 30/4/2020

Actual (or anticipated) end date: 1/12/2020

For each activity, dedicated work teams were defined, assigning roles and responsibilities based on their professional skills:

- ISPRA was the project leader, with the task of supervising and coordinating the project, taking part in the team of naturalists responsible for collecting, transmitting and analyzing environmental data and managing event activities;

- FIAB guaranteed the local presence thanks to the federated organizations and participated to identifying and managing the cycling routes among SN2000s, and to sensitize locally in participating in the events;
- Ares 2.0 was responsible for social and visual communication, and participated to the elaboration of events creating relationships with all the local institutional actors.

The project organigram was therefore set up as follows:

- Technical team (ISPRA and FIAB): dedicated to the activity related to cycling connections, with the aim of ensuring a qualified management of data collection and awareness activities during the tour; it was made up of environmental experts, ISPRA cyclists, ISPRA environmental expert in video production, and FIAB cyclists, animators and experts of the territory;
- Communication and media relations team (Ares 2.0): dealt with all aspects of communication, from creativity to the development of the plan, the means of implementation, media and institutional relations, the technological development of digital channels (web, social); it was made up of 1 technology developer, 1 social media copywriter, 1 social media strategist, 1 graphic designer and 1 art director;
- Events team: consisted of the press office, 1 person in charge of territorial animation, 1 person in charge of logistics organization (ISPRA) and 1 person in charge of institutional relations (Ares 2.0), with the aim of ensuring the effective management of events activities (including contact with stakeholders and the public), carrying out the dissemination activities related to the final event, producing the contents of the Layman's report and supporting the networking activity with other projects;
- Monitoring and control team: consisting of 1 specialized resource (Ares 2.0), with tasks of daily monitoring of activities and data produced, to verify the relationship between pre-established results and results achieved.

The activities were monitored on a daily basis, verifying the scheduled and achieved results. In this way, the integration between the members of the working group was guaranteed both vertically (different phases of the project) and horizontally (multiple tasks and actions in the same planning phase). Each team manager worked closely with the project coordinator, the monitoring and control team, and the administrative and organizational secretariat.

At the beginning of the project an organization chart was defined to show all the functional roles envisaged with the manager assignment. Furthermore, an executive plan was drawn up to define the various activities in their content and timing.

Action E was under the responsibility of ISPRA, in collaboration with Ares 2.0, which contributed with two technical assistance figures to the project coordinator for administrative and organizational activities.

<b>Deliverable name</b>	<b>Done</b>
Executive plan	Yes

<b>Milestone name</b>	<b>Done</b>
First intermediate meeting	Yes
Second intermediate meeting	Yes

## 6.2 Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented

During the first 12 months of the project the most important change compared to the project proposal was a problem arising in the supply of bicycles and necessary technical equipment, and in the rent of the van to transport project staff and technical equipment, following the cyclists. The task was carried out as call for tenders, managed by ISPRA. This change in time schedule caused changes in the organization of the cycling routes (start of the press campaign,

start of the relationship activity with the media and with institutions, organization of local events, etc.), but for the first year the end date of the tours remains unchanged, although a great deal of physical and mental effort was required. For the subsequent phases of the project, in order to avoid over-fatigue problems and to devote maximum concentration to the planned activities, an extension to 2020 was requested (letter of EASME dated 22/1/2020, Ref. Ares (2020) 397855). It should however be considered that the first year of a project is often characterized by a certain experimentality, especially when the project is very complex, as in this case.

To recover the Polvese Island (Perugia) workshop on 2 October 2018 (cancelled due to sudden and unpredictable unavailability of ferries to the island) and the Third regional event in Lazio region (not carried out because too close to the one in Perugia on 2 October), it was decided to prepare a new event in Rome on March 2019, which would serve both to verify how much done in the project first year and to present the start of the second year activities, thus also illustrating the regional experiences that were not discussed during a dedicated workshop. This choice was motivated by the fact that a regional workshop can only take place locally, with the still vivid impressions of the tour just concluded, together with an audience and representatives of the region crossed, and this, for organizational reasons, would not have been possible.

Regarding some critical issues that emerged for that part of the public interested in learning by cycling, but not available for pedalling, the choice was made to introduce new opportunities to involve the general public, for example through simple events in public squares where a LIFE Sic2Sic outdoor space was created, using bicycles and posters, and ISPRA experts talked with the general public. In this way the project had a significant increase of the number of citizens involved in non-conventional communication activities at local level.

Regarding the methodology for collecting information from citizens involved in cycling activities, a recreational-informal occasion such as cycling with experts or the meeting in a public square was found unsuitable for a survey methodology that imposes high levels of formality, even of an organizational nature. For this reason, the qualitative analysis through the survey tool was conducted through Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI), mode that was preferred to direct way and Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) because it allowed interviewees to respond with the utmost ease, without perhaps having to interrupt a cycling route or a lunch.

Finally, the Covid-19 pandemic had a negative effect on the project, as imaginable, forcing us to review the organization of the tour in Sicily (during which no presentations were possible at schools and public meetings were only held where open spaces were available) and to renounce events and conferences because they were cancelled, to conduct the latest events of the project online.

### 6.3 Evaluation of Project Implementation

Methodology applied. At the base of the project there was the choice to reach the goal through the combination of several communication methods that found a precise description within the Communication Plan. The result was a hybrid approach in which an unconventional communication action took place through cycling routes across SN2000s, involving school children and students, institutions, companies and the entire citizenship residing in the municipalities concerned. Alongside this methodology, it was decided to intervene also through a traditional approach of local and national events and through a press office action. The third level of intervention was that of new media web and social networks both ADV (advertising) and in editorial mode. In general, this hybrid approach in which different methodological levels communication coexist proved to be very effective as it has allowed to

intercept a heterogeneous target. However, since the public attention to the project themes did not always seem sufficient to stimulate a broad participation to the events, to make communication even more effective a second static moment is added to the scheduled cycling routes, where the cyclists team has equipped a space branded in a public place to talk about, through the information products on the project, the value of biodiversity and SN2000s, as well as the characteristics of the Sites present in the region crossed by the project and their economic and social value.

Results achieved, objectives and expected results.

Action	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation	
B1	<i>Objective: Citizens awareness</i>	<u>Expected results:</u> at least 10,000 citizens/cyclists sensitised through the 100 covered stops	Direct involvement of about 6,600 people	The predictions of achieving the planned result have been revised in light of the Covid-19 pandemic which has drastically reduced the expected participation for the 20 stages of Sicilia. However, it should be noted that the decision to organize 7 evening events allows us to bring the number of subjects involved just over 7,000
B4		<u>Expected results:</u> 1,000,000 through the ABL and BTL communication	To date 1,998,103	
B1 B2		<u>Expected results:</u> at least 10,000 students sensitised through 100 covered stops	4,200 students trained in school meetings	During the tour in Sicilia due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to enter the schools. On the latter front, in order to find alternative solutions compatible with the health situation, an explanatory book and a toolkit-video <i>The caviardage method in schools</i> have been developed and disseminated in schools in the region. The integration of the Sicilian tour with 7 evening events in 7 municipalities, in addition to the other scheduled events, allowed to push the number of sensitized students to over 7,000
B1 B4		<u>Expected results:</u> 10,000 students through ATL and BTL communication means	Approximately 219,791 young people under the age of 24 reached	Using the Istat data with respect to the component engaged in education and training, it is estimated that the share of students was just over 100,000
B1	<i>Objective: Environmentally sustainable behaviours</i>	<u>Expected results:</u> marking 100 cycling routes	Made and available in GPX format. To ensure public access, each route is linked to the story of the stage on the Sic2Sic website	
B2 B3		<u>Expected results:</u> implementation of 7 regional networks of green-oriented enterprises	Seven agreements signed in each of the regions crossed by the Sic2Sic project with companies-business networks-incubators-universities	

Action	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
B2	<p><u>Expected results:</u> download at least of 1,000 <i>Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature</i></p>	<p>The guide, created at the end of 2019, was made available to all selected reception facilities and to all those identified in the Easyholidays database (over 150,000 in Italy), as well as being available on all project communication tools. The downloads from the Easyholidays website to date exceed 1,500</p>	
B2 B3 B4	<p><u>Expected results:</u> at least 2,000 citizens/cyclists trained and active in the data collection through the B1 action</p>	<p>Overall, over 7,000 people were met and received materials</p>	<p>The information offered by the Sic2Sic group, in addition to activating the curiosity of citizens towards the issues dealt with, had a further response in the photo competition (participation of 364 photographers with the creation of a photographic archive of over 1,000 photos)</p>
B2 B4	<p><u>Expected results:</u> at least 2,000 students trained and active through 100 covered stops</p>	<p>About 4,300 students were trained through meetings in schools alone</p>	
B2 B4	<p><u>Expected results:</u> 10,000 citizens/cyclist and 10.000 university student trained through "direct contamination"</p>	<p>An estimate of nearly 50,000 people reached among citizens, students, institutions and representatives</p>	<p>The results of direct contamination both towards citizens and towards students find an answer in the number of subjects who, following the territorial meetings, as well as the multiple communication actions, decided to access the mobile website to learn more about the various Sic2Sic issues by visiting the 301 pages of contents that populate the portal</p>
B2 B4	<p><u>Expected results:</u> at least 1,000 university students trained and active through 100 covered stops</p>	<p>The activity towards the university target was concentrated in the events and courses of the University of Piemonte Orientale; in particular, we disseminated information on the project and the NN2000 at: Career day 2018 (506 participants); Career day 2019 (777 participants); Masters in tourism services 2019 (20 students) and 2020 (22 students); university course for General economics exam with the</p>	

Actio n	Foreseen in the revised proposal		Achieved	Evaluation
			simulation of 7 business models for the enhancement of the territory through tourism (42 students)	
B2	<i>Objective: Activation of "territorial governance" collaborative model</i>	<u>Expected results:</u> interaction between at least 140 institutional, associative, entrepreneurial, territorial actors during the 7 regional events and digital tools focused on the construction of participating policy	The number of 140 stakeholders involved in a discussion aimed at sharing Sic2Sic issues and policy responses and 7 agreements on a regional basis has been largely exceeded	Three communication channels used: 1) national events (opportunity for discussion between stakeholders and political decision makers); 2) Facebook group activation (membership of 283 subjects); 3) dissemination of Sic2Sic materials (facilitating the sharing of experiences, activation of relations between national and local decision makers). Furthermore, the only public events activated by Sic2Sic were 23, with a presence in the initiatives of other subjects in which the Sic2Sic experience was brought, creating an opportunity for discussion between national and local decision makers
B2		<u>Expected results:</u> development of at least 25 practices between stakeholders for MoU to support the sustainable development	14 municipalities and/or park authorities involved	The comparison with the institutions has matured interest in Sic2Sic MoU and local administrations with the aim of ensuring support for the process of strengthening local policies in the direction of environmental sustainability. At the moment 14 municipalities and / or park authorities have gone in this direction and 11 are near completion

Project results immediately visible. The results achieved are reported hereafter:

- 100 cycling routes that intersect 387 NN2000 sites (SN2000s) selected in the three year of the project (for a total of about 5,770 km) and description of the environmental characteristics and sustainable tourism opportunities;
- the involvement of elementary school students (but also of some higher-order classes): despite the difficulties in sharing with school teachers staff an interruption of the scheduled educational program, the importance of the topic made sensitization and information activities possible in 48 schools, for a total of about 4,200 trained and sensitized students, 161 between teachers and school referents involved;
- in addition to school children and students during the cycling stages about 6,600 people participated to the project and were informed and sensitized towards the LIFE Sic2Sic themes;
- an important milestone was the identification of the institutional subjects interested in the development of a network for the analysis and sharing of policies aimed at creating the network cycle within protected areas. All this finds evidence through the meetings held during the 100 routes, that involved 236 institutional representatives and governance subjects;
- 4,000 private companies were contacted within the geographical areas and municipalities involved in cycling activities;
- regarding the level of communication, information and activation of citizens and young people target through all the digital channels designed within LIFE Sic2Sic, some figures are undoubtedly important to describe the effectiveness of this activity, for instance the website, which aims at raising awareness and inform about the project, reached 49,871 users who have consulted 779,376 pages. No less significant are the results of the social network activity, where the mix of an ADV and editorial activity reached almost 1,998,103 people, and nearly 20,000 of them interacted with the project Facebook page;

- the presentation of the project during numerous public meetings contributed to the dissemination of its themes and to create useful relationships for the After-LIFE.

Project results deferred over time. The results will be summarized in the After-LIFE (see).

Effectiveness of the dissemination activities. The dissemination activity, although foreseeing a greater commitment in the final phase of the project, did not fail to produce important results. In this regard, the activities carried out can be summarized as follows:

- notice boards were created and delivered at every institutional meetings and attendance in schools with the engagement of posting in a public and visible place;
- a networking activity was carried out with other LIFE projects. In total, meetings with the participants to 24 projects were planned and carried out;
- institutional meetings with representatives of local institutions were an opportunity to share the construction of a policy path, but also represented an important moment for the dissemination of the project. In this regard, a measure of the density of this activity is certainly the total number of institutional subjects encountered, 236;
- the website, in its 301-page configuration, 1,804 photographs and graphs, was undoubtedly the place on which to structure a dissemination activity able to cross the boundaries of the project in terms of both target categories and institutional geographic perimeter.

Policy impact. It is useful to highlight that relations were established with 236 institutional subjects who expressed their interest in sharing a common path of study and updating of protection and enhancement policies of protected areas. This took place during 83 meetings that made it possible to establish relationships with local representatives, useful in the development of the restricted online Forum and the 20 MoU signed with local administrations and companies in the area crossed by the project (see Action B3). Indeed, at the end of the project we signed 14 protocols with Municipalities and Park Authorities (another 11 are nearing completion) and 6 with companies (see annex Memoranda of Understanding), in order to develop new planning on the themes of sustainable use, protection and development of the areas included in the NN2000. On this point, it is envisaged to continue to stimulate the administrations to sign these agreements also for the entire After-LIFE period.

The MoU have several long-term implications. Thanks to them, the project has created a privileged partnership to develop future plans on the themes of sustainable development and slow mobility. These plans will be based on the strategies developed in the After-LIFE plan and the practices highlighted in the two deliverables *Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature* and *Cycling in protected areas*, and will address the more recent policies at EU and national level, also conjugating the need for after-pandemic social and economic intervention plans and the opportunities represented by the green areas. In this framework, the agreements imply the exchange of information between Sic2Sic partners and the institutional stakeholders about two major pillars: technical expertise related to sustainable mobility and biodiversity; and funding sources. The first one will imply concrete consultancies and exchange of best practices about solutions for the improved respect and valorization of biodiversity and environment in local areas. A practical and preliminary example of the concrete implications of these MoU is represented by the plan to build cycle paths in Sicilia between Trapani and Mazara del Vallo and between Sciacca and Agrigento, whose path involves various sites of the NN2000. Similarly, Sic2Sic team will improve and update the maps created during the project, with the information the territorial entities and private stakeholders suggest. The second pillar of the exchanges developed within the framework of the MoU will concern one of the major weaknesses of the entities involved: the synergic and strategic use of funds.

Sic2Sic team will provide support for national and international funding. Alternative economic activities, for instance, will be enhanced by the proper awareness raising about important loans to SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) in the field of sustainable mobility and green economy. In both cases, network and exchange of information is the powerful lever to achieve better and more sustainable management of the green areas. Sic2Sic team, whose members represent diverse yet all relevant missions, will be engaged not only in the quantitative improvement of the involved stakeholders, but will also work to keep their interest and their engagement active through the years through constant technical support. This will keep the eye of the public policy-makers open on their responsibilities, which will in turn definitely improve the regional and national policies on green mobility and to create alternative economic activities related with the NN2000.

## 6.4 Analysis of benefits

### 1 Environmental benefits

Direct/quantitative environmental benefits. The commitment to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is part of the policies of the proposing association and of the project partners. This commitment was evident:

- directly, thanks to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during and after the project, given that the most important and innovative aspect was precisely focused on the use of sustainable means (train and bicycle) to carry out most activities;
- indirectly, with the promotion of sustainable tourism (one of the project expected results) and stimulating all the stakeholders involved to develop this policy, which over time could result in a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Furthermore, management activities were organized in such a way as to minimize the production of polluting substances: the project management activities involving all the partners were usually performed as a web conference (significantly reducing emissions deriving from means of transport for project partners); communications among partners are mainly carried out via e-mail, with the use of scanners and online document collection (saving on consumables, such as paper and toner for printers, and reducing the use of transport); most paper supports to be used in advertising and communication activities were made of recycled paper.

As for the events planned by the project, we used email to send out invitations and the materials before and after events (materials that were always made public through the site); we preferred local restaurants and as much as possible at km 0 and we tried to minimize the consumption of potentially polluting materials (such as drinks in plastic bottles etc.).

Qualitative environmental benefits. Stakeholders were stimulated to develop a policy aimed at spreading knowledge on biodiversity and the NN2000; to make the important development opportunity provided by the SN2000 known; to increase the number of cycling routes; to support the development of green-oriented entrepreneurship.

The methodology implemented, based on citizens active participation, on the continuous dialogue with organizations and institutions, on the creation of information sharing platforms, increased awareness of the role of RN2000 in the protection of biodiversity and in the development of green businesses, and is easily replicable in all Member States.

Regarding EU environmental policy and legislation, LIFE Sic2Sic Actions contributed to achieve the four objectives set by art. 12 of the Reg. (EU) n. 1293/2013 as follows:

- to promote awareness of environmental issues, supporting the development of EU environmental policies, and promoting knowledge on sustainable development and new models of sustainable consumption;

- to support communication, management and dissemination of information in the environmental sector and to facilitate knowledge sharing on the best environmental solutions and good practices, also through the development of cooperation platforms;
- to promote the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement of EU environmental legislation, in particular by encouraging the development and dissemination of good practices and policy approaches;
- to promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholders participation including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to consultations on policies and their implementation.

Moreover, LIFE Sic2Sic contributed to the achievement of Objective 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy until 2020 ("Preserving and enhancing ecosystems and related services through the green infrastructure"). Finally, the LIFE Sic2Sic approach, based on citizens active participation, on the continuous dialogue with institutions and on the creation of information sharing platforms, is easily replicable in all the Member States.

## 2 Economic benefits

There is no doubt that the involvement of private companies aims at bringing out the economic employment value of the protected sites. At this stage, as anticipated in other parts of this document, the private companies contacted were 4,050. These companies will receive from the project a set of materials useful to transfer some knowledge that should facilitate this enhancement process. At present is too early to make impact forecasts, but the expressed interest bodes well for the achievement of the planned objectives.

## 3 Social benefits

SN2000s, biodiversity, environment and sustainability are all key words on which a dense communication, awareness and education activity was built for children, students, citizenship and the governance system. It is clear that this is an investment that aims at raising awareness on certain issues that in social literature are also linked to a maturation aimed at improving the ability to adopt equality and integration principles. Positive signals in this sense are not lacking. Indeed we were faced with an audience that both in the various occasions when they met the LIFE Sic2Sic caravan and in social network interactions showed a particular interest in investigating these issues. An unmistakable example is the over 2,000 people who joined the project Facebook page, as well as the nearly 5,000 people who benefited from the website mobile content.

## 4 Replicability, transferability, cooperation

The LIFE Sic2Sic project for objectives, goals, methodology, activities and products has revealed a great ability to be replicated in other social issues and beyond national borders. Furthermore, there is no doubt that the maturation of consumers on environmental issues, as well as on social sustainability, makes the project format an excellent example for those companies that understand the economic value of a socio-environmental commitment. The project has produced various tools useful for its replicability: the publications *Cycling in protected areas. Perspectives, challenges, examples* and *Vademecum welcome tourist bike-nature*; the format of the sheets on the environmental characteristics of the territories crossed with their peculiarities; the Layman's report; the school toolkit for teachers. In general, the dissemination of the project is expected to continue among the most interested and active stakeholders (local decision makers, environmental cycle associations and the business system), at both Italian and European level. FIAB, which is a member of the European Cyclists' Federation, will promote the results of the project to Italian and European cycling associations. As far as institutions are concerned, in Italy the main role in replicability can be

played by the National System for the Protection of the Environment (SNPA) which, in order to support environmental education and training, will be able to use the tools made available from the project. Furthermore, ISPRA has the opportunity to present the results of the project at the tables of EEA (European Environment Agency) and ENCA (European Network of heads of nature Conservation Agencies), with the aim of strengthening the tools for environmental protection in Europe, the exchange of good practices and the collaboration between the various bodies.

Regarding further financing for the project replicability and the continuation of its activity, the members of the project team more experienced in European and national funds, addressed their efforts to develop potential funding opportunities to monitor next months. In particular, as part of the future actions of the project, the following sources of funding relating to the design/maintenance of cycle paths as well as related activities will be monitored:

- European funding: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Rural Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Next Generation EU (e.g. Rural Development programme and [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/clean-transport-urban-transport/cycling\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/clean-transport-urban-transport/cycling_en)) in addition to the new fundings and programmes emerged in the framework of the new programme 2021-2027;
- national loans: pursuant to ministerial decree Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 12/08/2020 "Resources for urban cycle routes"; Funds Sustainable Urban Mobility Incentive Program (PRIMUS) and any other site useful for providing useful information on incentive / financing measures. The general sites of the Ministries will also be monitored with particular reference to the Ministry of Agriculture and the dedicated sites. With regard to national parks, the funding will be monitored provided under Article 4-ter of the legislative decree n. 111 of October 2019 (the so-called "climate decree"), converted with amendments by law n. 141 of December 2019 and subsequently amended with law n. 120 of September 2020 ("Urgent measures for digital simplification and innovation") and relating to the economic-environmental zones. Additional loans and subsidized loans are managed by Invitalia for SME and there are specific measures that will be published soon providing increased supports and funds to SME working in the field of the green economy.
- regional and municipal funding.

## 5 Best Practice lessons

There are no previous experiences from which project aims and activities were borrowed. The originality of a communication campaign that had its gravity centre in an unconventional action through the bicycle means that the project had some experimental connotations that could make it gain the value of good practice for the results it obtained.

## 6 Innovation and demonstration value

Although it is premature to recognize this value as a good practice to this project, it can not be denied that some contents made it a particular interesting experience. The decision to access an unconventional communication that uses bicycles as a means to capitalize the attention of the public in a 5,770 km tour, the decision to significantly invest in the new media dimension without giving up a traditional event intervention with the actors of the territory, calibrating the action plan according to the target, as well as the decision to enhance the video medium to illustrate the project and its contents, made it a very complex experience but with extraordinary potential impact. Obviously, all this introduces a constraint with respect to the profile of the actuators who inevitably had to express extraordinary technical skills, but also a strong institutional recognition. Only through an institutional partner such as ISPRA it was

possible to activate relations with the local governance, which on all occasions expressed an interest in sharing a process of strengthening its territorial policies.

## 7 Policy implications

LIFE Sic2Sic perfectly responded to the European objective of raising awareness and commitment to biodiversity and environmental protection. Equally evident is the ability to give a concrete response to the European will to make citizens discover the significance of the SN2000s, as well as the socio-economic potential of these same Sites. Finally the commitment of the project must be emphasized through an activity of institutional relations with decision makers. The basis of this choice lies in the willingness to provide a concrete response to the European will to support national and regional actions aimed at guaranteeing the highest standards of environmental protection of protected areas. On this basis, a restricted online Forum was created (see Action B3) for the confrontation with the representatives of municipalities, park authorities, organizations for the management of SN2000s, associations and companies met during the tours, with the aim to discuss and implement a territorial policy structure able to grasp the opportunity and the economic and social value of environmental issues. Furthermore, collaboration agreements are being drawn up between the project partners and companies, municipalities and park authorities.

## 7. Key Project-level Indicators

There were no significant deviations from the objectives, targets and activities planned.

## 8. Comments on the financial report

### 8.1 Summary of Costs Incurred

The table below shows the costs incurred from the beginning of the project until its conclusion on 30/11/2020. It should be noted that these costs include VAT: for ISPRA, which is a public body, they are non recoverable, while for the other shareholders (Ares 2.0, Enne3 and FIAB), which are companies subject to VAT, as such can exercise the deductible rights provided for by current legislation.

The project Sic2Sic envisaged a budget of € 1,197,979.00 and received 2 pre-financing payments over the years:

- 1st of €214,511.70 (30% of the total EU contribution) on 18/10/2017;
- 2nd of €286,015.60 (40% of the total EU contribution) on 1/4/2019.

Project costs incurred				
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement in €	Costs incurred within the reporting period in €	Difference	%
Personnel	829.100,00	894.474,97	65.374,97	7,89%
Travel and subsistence	199.800,00	128.081,12	-71.718,88	-35,90%
External assistance	33.500,00	59.953,15	26.453,15	78,96%
Durables goods: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost				
- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>				
- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>				
- <i>Prototype sub-tot.</i>				
Consumables	2.500,00	3.620,77	1.120,77	44,83%

Other costs	56.500,00	66.919,68	10.419,68	18,44%
Overheads	76.579,00	77.377,00	798,00	1,04%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.197.979,00</b>	<b>1.230.426,69</b>	<b>32.447,69</b>	<b>2,71%</b>

Eligible expenses exceeded the total amount indicated in the Application Form by 2.71%. In particular, the differences for each cost item are:

Personnel: the expenses incurred, reported according to the timesheets drawn up by the staff employed in the project, were greater than 7.89% (insignificant percentage) since the commitment of the staff (especially by ISPRA) was higher than that estimated in design phase.

Regarding ISPRA, the daily rate of the staff reported was almost always in line with what is indicated in the Application Form; the only significant changes were:

- Crosetti Donatella, Laureti Lucilla and Piccini Claudio, as these employees have a very high salary level that was not estimated at the time of filling out the Application Form;
- Cascone Carmela and Ruscito Valerio, as said employees in the reporting year had a low number of hours worked due to illnesses and / or paid leave that cannot be foreseen;
- Carcani Giulio, as the employee had a high salary increase that was also not foreseeable.

In addition, the role of the financial manager, not foreseen in the Application Form, was included in the project. The daily cost of Fabbri Andrea (financial manager) was on average € 318.00, quite high as a figure with considerable experience was deemed necessary. in the field of management and reporting of European projects and in particular LIFE. Since ISPRA is a public body whose national public contract has not undergone any changes since 2018, the total annual salary of the reported staff has not undergone substantial changes; the only changes recorded are due to career advancements.

Regarding Ares 2.0, Falbo Andrea is an employee since December 2016. When he started to work for Ares 2.0 he was already an experienced senior collaborating with public and private entities. Ares 2.0, before December 2016, implemented its activities on audio-visual and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) collaborating with external experts. The use of a network of experts, in some cases in house-consultant, provided the possibility to have a flexible structure but it was not efficient in terms of coordination and timely delivering of the outputs. Due to these issues, Ares 2.0 decide to employ an expert able to cover audio-visual and ICT issues. Falbo was employed in the end of 2016, in order to implement all Ares 2.0 activities in audio-visual and ICT, coordinating, if necessary, other experts. In the beginning of the contract, the parties (Ares 2.0 and Falbo) agreed a salary scale based on the first officer category (gross basic salary €2.223,06 plus specific remuneration for €2.514,00 as foreseen by the national contract legislation). The total monthly salary was €1.657,97 (35% part time) equal to a gross salary of €4.737,06 (full time equivalent). The specific remuneration, called "superminimo assorbibile", took in consideration all the salary increases due to seniority and to the renewing of the national labour contract. In March 2018, Ares 2.0 and Falbo agreed to reduce the amount of the specific remuneration from 2.514 to €2.080. Due to the reduction the parties agreed to do not include anymore, in the specific remuneration, the increase of salary due to seniority and changes in the national labour contract.

Regarding Enne3, in the application, a mix of human resources was hypothesized which provided for the maximum degree of seniority only for coordination and first contact actions referenced with third parties (above all) and partners. At the start of the work in the field,

given the multitude and variety of contacts, however, the need emerged for a more intensive use of offices with greater aptitude for management and public relations even in the non-institutional phases. As a consequence, the teams were designed to recreate a balance around the average value of daily rates. With this in mind, for the activities of territorial animation of companies, the tasks were divided between Lener Lorenzo, with a high degree of seniority for the more complex tasks, and Bianchi Alberto, for the more standardized activities and more consolidated relationships with counterparties. With this structure, a weighted weight has been obtained which can be found in an average daily rate which is approximately €284,00. For Lener, additional hours should be reported with respect to the theoretical commitment, linked to the additional time of some weekends of the tours, and an increase in salary between 2017 and 2018. Similarly, instead of having a single professionalism dedicated to the activities of analyst of the local production system, the tasks were divided between Giani Carlo and Sarino Marcello: the first with a more managerial profile and the second with attitudes more related to the operational phases. Giani has a daily rate above the limit offset by the lower daily rate of Sarino, reaching an average daily rate close to the value of €304,00. In addition, two factors affected the daily rate increase for Giani, not foreseen in the application compilation phase: on the one hand, a salary increase which acted as a growth factor in gross salary between 2017 and 2018 net was amortized initially by an equivalent contribution relief in the first year, and on the other hand by a lower amount of hours in the years 2018 and 2019 due to periods of illness. Regarding gross cost and total cost of personnel, when filling in the application, the personnel costs were parameterized with respect to the company's standard costs. From the comparison with the real data that emerged and then reported in the financial statements, we note in the final balance an excess overrun due primarily to the above-mentioned causes. In addition, at the global level of the project, it should be added that a total number of hours higher than expected has been reached, in the proportion of 8.5% in excess. This surplus therefore increases the co-financing share of the project to be paid by Enne3. It also affected an operational reorganization that was made opportune in 2020 with the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic situation. In fact, a concentration of roles was opted for, increasing the activities charged to Lener and reducing those charged to Sarino and Giani. Regarding the non-employee personnel, in the initial segments of the first three tours of 2018, where there was a need for greater organizational commitment to fine-tune the planned activities, three ad-hoc figures from the non-employees category were signed on an occasional basis. As for costs, if you parameterize their use with respect to the reference year, the days worked on average do not exceed the threshold of two days per month. With the experience acquired, in the subsequent tours the activities to be carried out by Enne3 were carried out only with structured personnel.

Regarding FIAB, didn't declare standard annual working hours: Alberica Di Carpegna was hired to follow the project as assistant manager for FIAB and she is responsible for all their actions. Her contract is for 5 hours per day (part time job), the number of hour of the timesheets are charged on the project correctly. In FIAB employee doesn't badge the entrance: most of the work is in smart working mood especially during Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the extension of the project during the 2019 her number of hours on the project are less than 2018 and she work on the project also in the 2020.

Travel and subsistence: the expenses incurred were 35.90% lower (significant percentage) as the costs of accommodation and meals of the personnel on mission were lower than expected and in addition the last tours were carried out by fewer participants due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

External assistance: the costs incurred were higher by 78.96% (significant percentage), due to:

- ISPRA has stipulated a contract for the supply of bikes, vans and accessories higher than that estimated and reported in the Application Form (€38,250.00 excluding VAT vs. €33,500.00 expected). However, the contract was awarded through a public tender inviting 12 companies and the total cost was in line with market prices. In addition, the contract also included the supply of technical clothing for cyclists and 4 goPro for video shooting not included in the Application. Finally, the total actual price paid was €34,942.03 excluding VAT;
- with regard to the service provided by Mazzeo Iorio Filippo (FIAB), it was paid following the issue of an invoice and therefore, as indicated by the monitor, it could not be included in the employer category, as envisaged by the Grant Agreement.

Consumables: the expenses incurred were higher by 44.83%, a high percentage, but due to the fact that the budgeted amount was small (€2,500.00), this variation is absolutely insignificant.

Other costs: the expenses incurred were higher by 18.44% (scarcely significant percentage) for the following reasons:

- FIAB supported the unforeseen expenditure of *Albergabici 2020 - Discover Italy by bicycle* catalog (not indicated in the planning phase), a publication created with the aim of spreading knowledge about NN2000, in particular on the simpler cycling itineraries that can be traveled in autonomy, and dedicated to cycling routes and bike friendly hotels that have a greater sensitivity in welcoming cyclists along the routes. The project was told in the first pages and a LIFE Sic2Sic path was suggested for each Italian region crossed by the project. The publication was printed in 25,000 copies, sent to the 20,000 members of FIAB (together with the association's magazine) and also distributed at trade fairs and conferences in the cycling sector (such as BIT 2020 in Milan and Cosmobike 2020 in Verona). This contributed to spreading the knowledge of the LIFE Sic2Sic project and of NN2000 and its paths, and to promote the sustainable tourism. It is possible to consult the guide at the link <https://ita.calameo.com/books/004315902cbba58faa52a>;
- ISPRA, also due to the Covid-19 emergency (which prevented an organizational trip to Sicilia), has entered into an agreement with the University of Palermo for the preparation of the routes to be traveled, for the collection of data and for the awareness of citizens to the protection of biodiversity in the SN2000s during the Tour in the region;
- there was a very important event for the project, European Natura 2000 Day, which was attended by unreported ISPRA staff. The cost of this participation has been included in that category;
- three ISPRA employees participated in specific project activities by not reporting their hours; two participated in the tour as environmental expert cyclists (Bianco Pietro and Angiolillo Michela) and one (Ciccarese Lorenzo) was a speaker at a conference in Puglia for the dissemination of project activities.

Overheads: the amount expressed in the Consolidated report is 1.04% higher precisely due to the slight increase in the overall costs of the project.

## 8.2 Accounting system

Overall, the trend in spending has adapted to the estimated budget. For ISPRA, the codes used to identify the project are L0000028 for the internal accounting system and I55I17000150006 as the unique project code (CUP, Codice Unico di Progetto). The situation relating to each balance sheet item is detailed in the paragraphs below.

Staff costs: the hours worked in the project resulting from the timesheets of each individual worker have been reported and the system for calculating the hourly cost has been explained.

For ISPRA, the calculation of hours is based on automatic presence detection.

The hourly cost of Enne3 employees was obtained by dividing the total annual cost of each employee by the number of hours actually worked. The annual cost is obtained by adding the social security contributions to the gross salary. More in detail, the latter is the result of the sum of its components: fixed elements of the remuneration (sum of minimum tables, contingency, seniority increments, third element, super-minimum), thirteenth, fourteenth, unused holidays and annual share of the employee severance indemnity (TFR, Trattamento di Fine Rapporto). Social security contributions include the contributions to be paid by the company due to INPS and payments to INAIL. The daily rate is obtained by multiplying the hourly cost by the 8 hours of daily work contractually provided for.

The hourly rate of FIAB employees is given by the ratio of fixed and recurring remuneration received in the calendar year reduced according to the part-time shares (basic salary, contingency allowance, increases for seniority, superminimal allowance, third element, etc.), plus the social security contributions paid by the employer (INPS, INAIL) and the portion of the TFR, divided by the hours actually worked during the year. The daily rate is obtained by multiplying the hourly rate by the contractual daily hours, which vary according to the part time of each employee (Di Carpegna 25 hours a week, Baroncini 10 hours a week and Balloni 20 hours a week).

Travel and accommodation: the expenses were recognized only in the presence of the original supporting documents and the authorization granted by the supervisor.

External assistance and other costs: in all invoices presented there is a clear reference to the project as a description or as an indication of the CUP.

Finally, it should be noted that two partners have changed their president, that is the one who signs as legal representative: for Enne3, from 30/11/2020 Avanzi Giancarlo; for FIAB, from 14/4/2019 Tursi Alessandro.

## 8.3 Partnership arrangements (if relevant)

As agreed with the partners and formalized in partnership agreements, the lead partner was responsible for providing the beneficiaries with the financial contribution based on two installments:

- 30% upon signature of the Grant agreement, namely:
  - €78,000.00 to Ares 2.0 on 25/1/2018
  - €24,558.00 to FIAB onlus on 25/1/2018
  - €36,000.00 to Enne3 on 29/1/2018
- 40% after approval of the Midterm report, namely:
  - €104,000.00 to Ares 2.0 on 25/6/2019
  - €32,744.00 to FIAB onlus on 8/7/2019
  - €48,000.00 to Enne3 on 25/6/2019

The lead partner will undertake to provide the beneficiaries with the financial contribution relating to the third installment after the approval of the Final report. As regards the implementation of financial reporting, it was agreed that each partner compiles the tables relating to their own expenses and the lead partner compiles the overall dossier.

#### 8.4 Certificate on the financial statement

No external audit is to be carried out, as no beneficiary foresees a LIFE contribution over € 325,000.

#### 8.5 Estimation of person-days used per action

In order to have an overview of the use of budgeted person-days by group of actions, see the following table:

Action type	Technical application form	Budgeted person-days	Estimated % of person-days spent
All projects when applicable Action A: Preparatory actions	40	28	70
GIE projects Action B: Core actions	2,640	2,584	98
ENV and GIE projects Action C: Monitoring of the impact of the project action	120	70	58
ENV and GIE projects Action D: Public awareness/Communication and dissemination of results	105	11	10
ENV and GIE projects Action E: Project management	560	633	113
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,465	3,326	96

NB: the reduction in days worked also depends on the fact that if the staff employed are more competent (although more expensive) they are able to reduce working times (eg. see management).