

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



LIFE Project Number

**LIFE16 GIE/CZ/000791**

## **Final Report**

**Covering the project activities from 01/07/2017<sup>1</sup> to 31/12/2020**

Reporting Date<sup>2</sup>

**31/03/2021**

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym

**LIFE-A2J-EARL**

Data Project

<b>Project location:</b>	Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Spain
<b>Project start date:</b>	<01/07/2017>
<b>Project end date:</b>	<30/06/2020> <b>Extension date:</b> <31/12/2020>
<b>Total budget:</b>	1 131 459€
<b>EU contribution:</b>	678 098€
<b>(%) of eligible costs:</b>	59,93%

Data Beneficiary

<b>Name Beneficiary:</b>	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.
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<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**

Please note that the evaluation of your report may only commence if the package complies with all the elements in this receivability check. The evaluation will be stopped if any obligatory elements are missing.

<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>Electronically Q-signed or if paper submission 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 electronically Q-signed or if paper submission 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	N/A
Beneficiary's certificate for Durable Goods included (if required, i.e. beneficiaries claiming 100% cost for durable goods) <i>Electronically Q-signed or if paper submission signed and dated originals* and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets)</i>	N/A
Certificate on financial statements (if required, i.e. for beneficiaries with EU contribution ≥750,000 € in the budget) <i>Electronically Q-signed or if paper submission signed original and in electronic version (pdf)</i>	N/A
<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>	✓

*\*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 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: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/pmtools/life2014\\_2020/documents/how\\_to\\_report\\_on\\_your\\_lifeproject.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/pmtools/life2014_2020/documents/how_to_report_on_your_lifeproject.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.

# 1. Table of contents

1. Table of contents	4
2. List of key-words and abbreviations	6
3. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)	7
4. Introduction (maximum 2 pages)	11
5. Administrative part (maximum 1 page)	13
6. Technical part (maximum 25 pages)	18
6.1. Technical progress, per Action	18
Action A1: Identification and analysis of the detailed target audience and stakeholders and their needs	18
Action A2: Development of a project communications strategy	22
Action B1: Legal analysis of the main sources of interpretation of the access to justice rights in environmental matters	25
Action B2: Development and dissemination of awareness-raising materials for the judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administrations, and public interest lawyers	27
Sub-Action B2.1: Publication and dissemination of a handbook on access to justice provisions in EU law and the Aarhus Convention	27
Sub-Action B2.2: Production and publication of toolkits on access to justice issues in target Member States	30
Sub-Action B2.3: Development and launch of a digital information platform on access to justice	32
Action B3: Preparation and delivery of training on access to justice in the field of environment	34
Action B4: Facilitating knowledge sharing between and within target audience and stakeholder groups on access to justice	39
Action C1: Monitoring the impact of the project's activities on the target audience (the judiciary, public interest lawyers, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administration bodies)	44
Action C2: Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on the local economy and population, and ultimately, on the overall success and impact of the entire project	50
Action D1: Information and awareness raising activities regarding the project to the general public and stakeholders	52
Sub-Action D1.1: Dissemination of project information to the general public and stakeholders	52
Sub-Action D1.2: Networking with other projects	54
Sub-Action D1.3: Press releases and public relations	56

Action D2: Dissemination of project information aimed at transferring the results and lessons learnt to those stakeholders that could usefully benefit from the project's experience	61
Action E1: Project management and coordination	63
Action E2: Project management on the national level	65
6.2. Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented	67
6.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation	68
6.4. Analysis of benefits	73
7. Key Project-level Indicators	78
8. Comments on the financial report	82
8.1. Summary of Costs Incurred	82
8.2. Accounting system	83
8.3. Partnership arrangements (if relevant)	86
8.4. Certificate on the financial statement	87
8.5. Estimation of person-days used per action	87

## 2. List of key-words and abbreviations

AC: Aarhus Convention or the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters 1998

A2J: Access to Justice

CE: ClientEarth

CJEU: Court of Justice of the European Union

DG: Directorate General

EU: European Union

J&E: Justice and Environment

MEP: Member of the European Parliament

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

The project aimed at improving the implementation and enforcement of European Union (EU) environmental law by providing the public with effective access to justice (judicial review, but also administrative review and complaints to other appeal bodies).

The body of EU environmental policy and regulation is one of the most advanced and comprehensive in the world. Relying on the principles of a high level of environmental protection and integration of environmental concerns in different policy fields and decision-making, as well as the precautionary principle, it has the potential to ensure truly sustainable development in the EU. Yet, despite this, Europe's environment is rapidly deteriorating.

An implementation gap has become evident; strong legislative and policy frameworks are not providing the results they should, because they are not properly implemented. This has been confirmed by studies carried out on behalf of or by the European Commission. This is both an environmental and a socio-economic problem; a 2011 estimate put the cost of poor implementation of EU environmental laws at around €50 billion a year. The lack of implementation of EU environmental laws also erodes the rule of law and public trust in both national authorities and the EU.

Experience across EU Member States has shown that relying solely on public authorities to overcome the implementation deficit will not yield the required results. Therefore, active citizens, either acting on their own or via NGOs, are essential to support or even substitute actions from the authorities. There are many ways in which this "citizen enforcement" could take place. However, in order to be truly effective, it needs to involve access to judicial review.

Changes in the behaviour of stakeholders, and not only judges, but also bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administrations and public interest environmental lawyers are dependent on greater awareness of both the barriers that may exist in practice as well as legal rules and case-law that enable them to be overcome. Even though many legal professionals may be aware of the general rules governing access to justice in environmental matters, awareness of the essential case-law is considerably lower, especially among public administrations and public interest environmental lawyers. This can prove to be a significant bottleneck to providing effective access to justice.

Firstly, we monitored the number of individuals we successfully reached through different communication methods, and thus, the number of target audience individuals accessing the unique materials offered as part of this project. These indicators measured the impact of the project actions numerically, by the number of people in the target audience who received the services of the project and who benefited from the project actions. We also monitored the impact of the project on the target audience's attitudes and behaviour both throughout the project period, and will do in the years immediately following the completion of the project. That is, we will assess whether a change occurs in either the attitudes or practices of members of the target audience.

Access to justice is a fundamental means through which citizens and NGOs can support the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies to protect the environment. In order to reach this long-term goal, the following objectives were pursued:

- Increase awareness of existing rules and case-law on access to justice in environmental matters among the target audience - judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public interest lawyers and public administrations.
- Increase the target audience's understanding of the importance of ensuring proper access to justice for the implementation of EU environmental laws and policies.
- Increase the target audience's understanding of specific challenges and obstacles to proper access to justice in environmental matters both at EU level as well as in EU Member states.
- Increase the target audiences' knowledge and capacity for overcoming legal (substantial and procedural challenges and obstacles to - and for providing the public with - effective access to justice in environmental matters.

This project consisted of actions combining legal expertise in the area of access to justice in environmental matters and outreach capacity provided by the beneficiaries in targeted Member States (Austria, France, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Spain). This resulted in the production of informative materials including a handbook, toolkits, digital platforms, a database of public interest lawyers and a series of face-to-face awareness raising and training activities. The following preparatory actions were necessary to ensure that the main activities (i.e. implementation actions) are as well tailored to the members of the target audience as possible in order to achieve the highest impact possible. These actions included:

- A1 – Detailed identification of the target audience and stakeholders.
- A2 – Development of a project communications strategy.

The implementation actions consisted of carrying out the legal analysis that informed the content of the awareness raising materials that were disseminated and used in face-to-face awareness raising and training activities. They included:

- B1 – Legal analysis of the main laws and sources of interpretation that enable access to justice in environmental matters, including horizontal EU environmental legislation, for example on environmental impact assessment or environmental liability, and Aarhus Convention (as described in the B2 form) provisions that apply to sectoral environmental legislation including in the context of nature conservation (the Aarhus Convention guarantees the so-called access rights (access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice) in environmental matters in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, i.e. the larger geographical Europe area).
- B2 – Development and dissemination of awareness-raising materials for the judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administrations, and public interest lawyers on accessing justice in relation to environmental issues regulated by EU law (particularly in relation to the implementation of the EU Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Liability Directives, and the implementation of the access to justice provisions of the Aarhus Convention).
- B3 – Preparation and delivery of training on access to justice in the field of environment.
- B4 – Planning, coordinating and holding awareness raising conferences and events on access to justice in environmental matters.

The expected results at output level were to be estimated against the number of members of the target audience that we aimed at reaching through the various actions described above. Our objectives, broken down as follows, were mainly met:



- “At least 6400 members of the target audience will access at least one of the following materials created during the project: handbook on access to justice rules and case-law provisions in EU law and the Aarhus Convention, national toolkits on access to justice in specific Member States and the digital information platform”: In total, 6221 members of the target audience had access to our materials.
- “At least 120 members of the target audience will receive an answer to their specific question via the “ask a lawyer” function that will be published online”: This functionality of the decision tree was unfortunately barely used so we did not meet this objective.
- “At least 1000 members of the target audience will be trained on access to justice issues at 48 workshops and seminars held in different locations in eight Member States or via 12 webinars”: This objective has been met, with a total of 2090 members of the target audience trained during the project.
- “At least 120 members of the target audience will share their experience and knowledge at a conference held in Brussels”: This objective was largely exceeded with 285 members of the target audience participating at our conference.

The achievements of the project correspond to the increased level in awareness and understanding among the members of the target audience of the existing rules and rights in the field of access to justice in environmental matters, as follows:

- At least 85% of the target audience that accessed project materials or attended events is more aware of rules and case-law on access to justice in environmental matters.
- At least 80% of the target audience that accessed project materials or attended events has a better understanding of specific challenges and obstacles to proper access to justice in environmental matters in their working area and ways to overcome these challenges and obstacles.

As regards plans, achievements and deviations, the following can be summarized of the project:

The project partners planned preparatory actions that were accomplished with a slight delay. First, the identification and analysis of the detailed target audience and stakeholders and their needs was done, partly via stakeholder mapping tools and via personal meetings such as national workshops. By this, the project achieved to have a list of key stakeholders in each country covered by the project who would form the core base of the target audience of the further project actions. Then – also as a preparatory action – the development of a project communications strategy was completed, thus creating a document that guides the communications actions of the project partners.

Following the preparatory actions, the core actions of the project were completed, sometimes with a delay, however, not affecting the overall success of the project. These actions achieved the following:

- 8 pieces of legal analyses were written of the main sources of interpretation of the access to justice rights in environmental matters in the affected EU Member States
- 48 training sessions were prepared and delivered on access to justice in the field of environment
- A database, gathering public interest lawyers specialised in environmental matters from the 8 countries of the project was created, and further expanded to an additional 7 countries (Bulgaria, Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovenia, UK)

- An interactive platform, offering the opportunity to quickly find answers to questions on access to justice through a user-friendly tool, was created for the Estonian, Hungarian and Polish legal framework
- 8 country-specific toolkits to enable effective access to justice in environmental matters at national were published and disseminated
- A comprehensive Guide (an awareness-raising material on EU law and the Aarhus Convention) was prepared for the judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administrations, and public interest lawyers in English, and was updated at the end of the project
- 12 webinars, addressing the European legal framework applying to access to justice rights in environmental matters, were organised live, recorded, and disseminated on YouTube

Communication and dissemination activities took place during the whole project, including the regular publication of the monthly/bi-monthly Access to Justice Newsletter of the project and also regular press releases, in addition to Facebook posts and tweets.

Among the vast amount of **communication activities** carried out throughout the project period, an English and national sites of the project partners related to the project were developed and frequently accessed by stakeholders. The English project related site was accessed 10681 times until the end of the project, mostly from the UK (55%), followed by Belgium (8.5%) and France (4%). The national language project related sites<sup>3</sup> were altogether accessed 7224 times, among which the French and Spanish websites reached 2392 and 2371 visitors respectively, while the Hungarian, Polish and Estonian sites were visited by 1664, 586 and 211 people, respectively. All national project related sites were visited frequently from the UK, especially the Polish one, where 72% of the visitors were from the UK<sup>4</sup>. According to the project coordinator, frequent visits to national sites from the UK can be attributed to the fact that the ClientEarth office with the project lead is situated in the UK. During the project period, 393 (social) media outputs (including Facebook posts, tweets, PRs, website articles, Facebook streams, news on partners sites, etc.) were issued, reaching approximately 164200 people. Within the framework of the project, a monthly newsletter was issued informing subscribers about project results and activities as well as about other news related to access to justice. By the end of the project, 764 people subscribed to receiving the newsletter, and 185 opened the newsletters on average, which means a 24% opening rate (approaching industrial opening rate of 25.35%)<sup>5</sup>.

To start with, the biggest problem in project implementation in the beginning was the 3-month long delay by which the meaningful implementation actions started, however, with focused and coordinated work, this delay was compensated and most of the actions happened according to the original schedule of the project. However, at the end of the project, the Covid-19 global pandemic forced us to postpone the implementation of our remaining activities, knowingly our last training sessions and cancel the final conference in its originally planned form, i.e. a meeting based on personal encounter, held in Brussels. To face this unexpected situation, we requested a no cost extension which allowed us to adjust and finalise the implementation of our activities, including organize the final conference online. Overall, there were no major deviations from the plans other than insignificant adjustments of budget, timing and changes in some positions of the personnel of the project.

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<sup>3</sup> We received information on visitors' numbers related to the Estonian, French, Hungarian, Polish and Spanish project related sites.

<sup>4</sup> We received information on the nationality of site visitors from project partners, however, not all of them could provide this information.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mailerlite.com>

## 4. Introduction (maximum 2 pages)

- Description of background, problems and objectives (as foreseen in the proposal)
  - o For LIFE Environmental Governance & Information:
    - Environmental problem/issue addressed
    - Outline the information/communication strategy implemented in function of the environmental problem addressed by the project
    - Baseline situation
    - Stakeholders targeted
    - Monitoring of the project impact
    - Socio-economic context

Despite the fact that the body of EU environmental policy and legislation is very advanced and comprehensive, Europe's environment is rapidly deteriorating. Legislative and policy frameworks are not providing the results they should because they are not properly implemented.

Experience across the EU Member States has shown that relying solely on public authorities to overcome the implementation deficit will not yield the required outcome. Therefore, active citizens, either acting on their own or via NGOs, are essential to support or even substitute actions from the authorities. This enforcement involves access to judicial review.

The project aimed at improving the implementation and enforcement of European Union (EU) environmental law by providing the public with effective access to justice (judicial review, but also administrative review and complaints to other appeal bodies). Access to justice is a fundamental means through which citizens and NGOs can support the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies to protect the environment.

In order to reach this long-term goal, the following objectives were pursued:

- Increase awareness of existing rules and case-law on access to justice in environmental matters among the target audience - judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public interest lawyers and public administrations.
- Increase the target audience's understanding of the importance of ensuring proper access to justice for the implementation of EU environmental laws and policies.
- Increase the target audience's understanding of specific challenges and obstacles to proper access to justice in environmental matters both at EU level as well as in EU Member states.
- Increase the target audiences' knowledge and capacity for overcoming legal (substantial and procedural challenges and obstacles to - and for providing the public with - effective access to justice in environmental matters.

According to the project level commitment, at least **1000** people were to be trained in 48 national workshops and training sessions in the nine participating Member States or via 12 webinars. Based on the data received, altogether **2090** people attended these capacity building events. Furthermore, 1635 people watched the webinars' recordings. In more detail, 169 people attended the national workshops, 1257 people participated in the 48 training sessions in nine Member States, whilst 664 people took part in the webinars. Based on the above information, we can conclude that this commitment was achieved and significantly exceeded the originally planned target. Such overachievement in the number of event participants could possibly stipulate on one hand, the double impact of the project in terms of raising awareness among

twice as many people as foreseen, on the other hand, could indicate that the materials also reached more people than the relevant indicator on materials accessed demonstrated.

Based on project partners commitment, at least **120** people were to participate in the international conference in Brussels. Due to the Covid pandemic, this event was held online, and attended by **285** participants. Besides the events organized due to project level commitments, a side event during the 6th Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention with 40 attendees was also organized. Consequently, this target number was also achieved at an elevated rate. The project committed 50 non-NGO entities and 100 NGOs (summing up to **150** organizations) to be involved in the project. The project attracted 385 non-NGO and 127 NGO entities (altogether **512** organizations) to national project events (national workshops plus national training sessions). Again, this target value can also be considered as an over-achievement.

- Expected longer term results (as anticipated at the start of the project)
  - o LIFE Environmental Governance & Information: e.g. continued effect of the strategy followed on key stakeholders; expected transfer of the methodology implemented to other countries or policy areas; future impact on European Union environmental policy and legislation.

We hoped to achieve a lasting impact on the key stakeholders and to influence their mindset and inner decision-making structure towards granting more access to justice by transferring knowledge and attitude within the project activities. In case the project was a success, the transfer of the methodology implemented to other countries or policy areas is expected, not the least via new funding proposals to the LIFE funding scheme, targeting new countries. Finally, if the awareness raising and knowledge exchange component of the project was successful, it will have an impact on EU environmental policy and legislation as well, which in turn develop into a direction where a broad access is granted to justice in environmental matters.

## 5. Administrative part (maximum 1 page)

The project had one coordinating beneficiary and one associated beneficiary.

The coordinating beneficiary was Association Justice and Environment, z. s.; its name is abbreviated as J&E. J&E had six affiliates who worked on the Member State level. These were the following:

Austria	Ökobüro
Estonia	EELC
Germany	UfU
Hungary	EMLA
Slovakia	Via Iuris
Spain	IIDMA

The associated beneficiary was ClientEarth; its name is abbreviated as CE. Each organization performed organization/coordination tasks respectively, as follows. CE carried out activities in France, Belgium (only 3 trainings) and Poland via its affiliates CE Belgium and CE Poland.

### Coordinating beneficiary (J&E)

J&E had a half-time coordinator (Csaba Kiss) who was in charge of coordinating and organizing the operation of the organization. The same person was entrusted with the role of project manager as regards the administration and logistics of the EARL project.

The project manager called together (26/07/2017) the first project coordination skype meeting (Action E1) in order to launch the project and coordinate with the associated beneficiary. Later, until the associated beneficiary hired a project coordinator (Kristina Gasparovicova, December 2017), the project manager of the coordinating beneficiary was in charge of calling together the monthly project coordination skype meetings (Action E1).

The project manager drafted and then finalized the Project Sustainability Plan (Action D2) and the Consortium Table (Action E1) of the project and drafted and finalized the Affiliate Task Description (Action E1).

The project manager had sought and found (by 16/10/2017), with the assistance of the affiliates, national project coordinators at the 6 affiliate organizations and prepared a list of national coordinators (Action E2). The project manager also sought and found (by 31/10/2017) a project assistant (Katre Liiv) working at the coordinating beneficiary who later was replaced by a person (Andras Berki, by 01/01/2018) working at the affiliate EMLA (Action E1).

The project manager was in charge of submitting (since January 2018) brief narrative monthly progress reports to the monitor of the project on the last day of each month (Action E1).

The project manager was responsible for providing the affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary with advice regarding the substantive implementation of the project, in addition to advice regarding logistics, requirements stemming from the grant contract towards project actions (e.g. events) and communications and visibility requirements. The project manager also consulted with the associated beneficiary on issues that required coordination,

cooperation or decision-making regarding project actions, e.g. exact details of content of certain project activities (Action E1 and E2).

J&E had a half-time financial manager (Lubica Mockova) who was in charge of the financial coordination of the organization. The same person was entrusted with the role of financial manager of the EARL project. The financial manager set the timesheet system (by 31/07/2017) on deliverables and staff activity and the financial guidelines (Action E1). The financial manager was responsible for providing the affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary with advice regarding the financial implementation of the project, including eligible costs, requirements stemming from the grant contract towards project actions (e.g. invoicing) and accounting requirements. The financial manager also consulted with the associated beneficiary on issues that require coordination, cooperation or decision-making regarding project finances, e.g. exact details of keeping financial data (Action E1 and E2). The financial manager was a permanent participant of the monthly project coordination skype meetings (Action E1).

J&E had a communications consultant (Katre Liiv) for a certain period of time employed upon a contractual basis and providing ad hoc communications advice in case needed. The same person also helped time to time with advice regarding communications activities within the project if either the coordinating beneficiary or the affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary needed it. The communications consultant provided advice (by 06/12/2017) regarding the content and layout of the sub-site on the main website of the coordinating beneficiary (Action D1) and assisted the coordinating beneficiary in contributing to the preparation of the Project Communication and Outreach Strategy (Action A2). Later, communications advice was provided by the communications consultant of CE.

#### Affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary

There were 6 organizations that were considered as affiliates of J&E for the purposes of the implementation of the project. Each affiliate had designated (by 16/10/2017) a person at the respective organization to be the coordinator of the project (Action E2). These coordinators at the affiliates kept regular contact with the project manager and the financial manager and provided the necessary administrative and financial data to the coordinating beneficiary staff (Action E2). Also these coordinators at the affiliates were in charge of managing the content of the project and to follow the instructions given by the project manager (on administration and content) and by the financial manager (on accounting and finances) for the purpose of project implementation, or by the communications officer (on communications issues).

#### Associated beneficiary (CE)

CE had a project manager (Anais Berthier) who was responsible for ensuring the realization of the project by ClientEarth. She managed a team of 5 staff members: 3 lawyers (Anne Friel, Kamila Drzewicka, replaced later by Malgorzata Kwiedacz-Palosz, and Sebastian Bechtel), 1 project coordinator (Capucine Pineau) and 1 communications officer (Diane Vandesmet). She ensured the coordination of the project between ClientEarth Brussels's office which was responsible for some of the deliverables including the part of the project which took place in France and the lawyer in the Warsaw office. She set the priorities in relation to the deliverables, the content, the timeline, network opportunities and ensured the coherence in the way the project was carried out in both countries. She had recruited 1 project coordinator (Kristina Gasparovicova) and replaced her when she left (by Capucine Pineau). She also recruited the communications officer (Diane Vandesmet) and a lawyer in the Warsaw office of ClientEarth and replaced her when she left (Ewa Dabrowska).

She supervised the drafting of the brief monthly progress reports to the monitor. She took part in the monthly project coordination skype calls with the project manager and the financial manager of J&E to agree on priorities, timelines and content of deliverables (Action E1).

She has coordinated:

- The drafting of the Handbook.
- The drafting of the template to rely on for the toolkits. Provided guidance to J&E affiliates on the requirements to fulfil in drafting the toolkits.
- The drafting of the toolkits for France and Poland.
- The set-up of the participatory platform in coordinating the work on the template of the decision-tree by the Brussels team and the start of the work on the Polish version of the platform by the Polish lawyer.

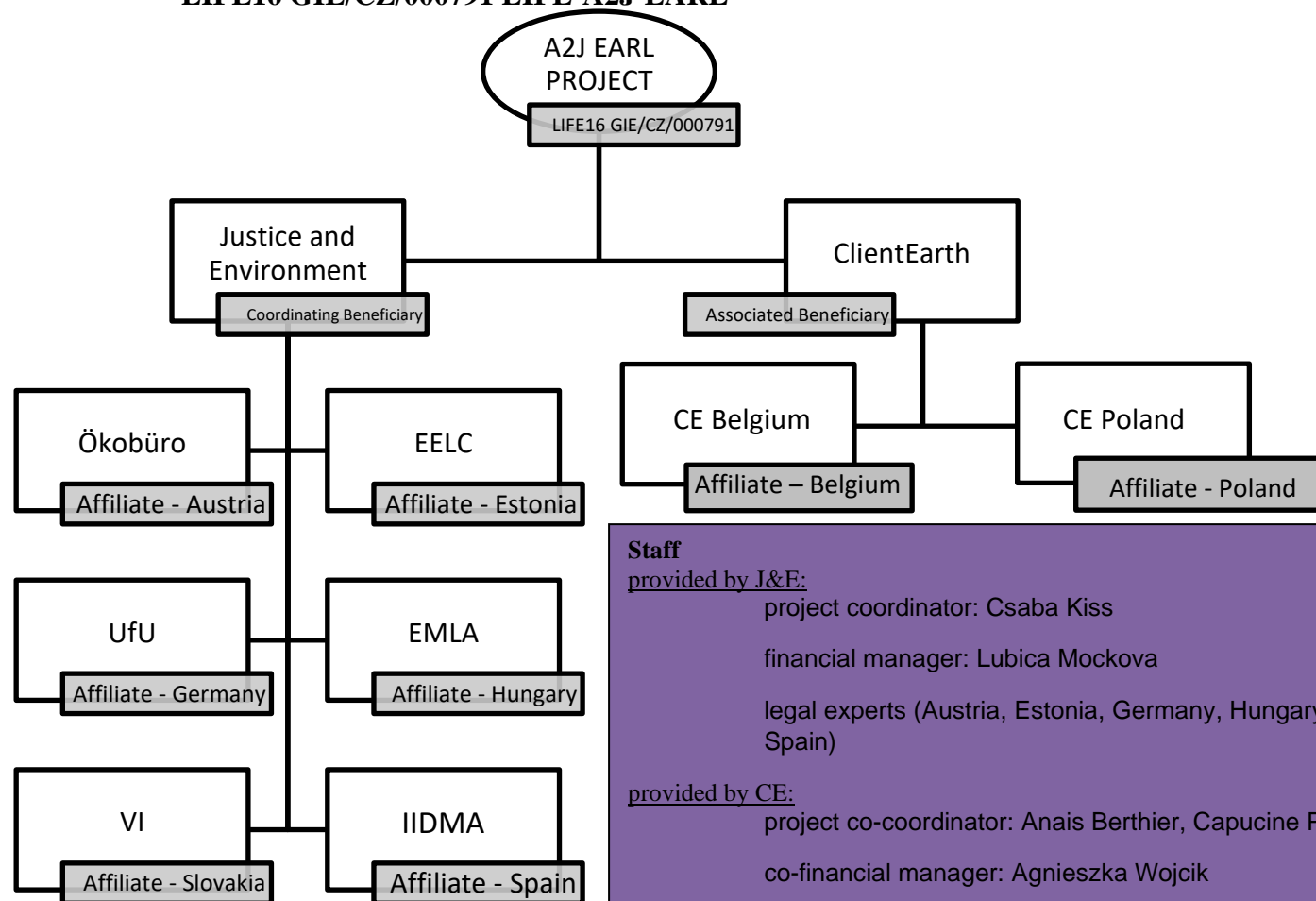
CE had a project coordinator (Kristina Gasparovicova, since 01/12/2017, replaced by Capucine Pineau, since 01/09/2018) who was in charge of the administrative coordination of the project implementation (Action E2). The project coordinator of CE was responsible for providing administrative and financial data to the project manager and the financial manager respectively, including timesheets and financial documents (Action E1). She was in charge of organizing the monthly project coordination skype meetings (Action E1). She was in charge of keeping track of the timeline of the project and has set up a system of reminders and calendar so that ClientEarth and J&E could strive to comply with the agreed calendar. She has dealt with CE's relations with external consultants and contributed to drafting contracts. She drafted contracts between CE and:

- 2 French consultants to carry out the legal analysis of the French legal framework on access to justice
- French and Polish consultants to review the toolkits for France and Poland
- The University of Limoges to co-organise the first event organized in France
- Several speakers presenting at the Polish training sessions
- A designer for the design of the Handbook (B2.1) and the agenda of the conference
- A proofreader for the finalisation of the Handbook (B2.1)

CE had a communications officer (Diane Vandesmet, since 17/11/10227) who was responsible for the overall external communications of the project (Action A2). The communications officer has set up (by 10/10/2017) a designated project website hosted on the website of CE (Action D1); provided basic content (by 31/10/2017) to the project website on the project (Action D1); included links to all project partners' websites (Action D1). She was responsible for the preparation and publishing of the monthly online newsletter (Action D1). This required asking for input from all J&E affiliates and CE's lawyers, gathering them, editing them, publishing them and sending the final newsletter to all the relevant recipients. She was in charge of preparing and releasing the press releases (on an average 1 press release in 2 months) of the project (Action D1). She led the process (by 06/12/2017) of the preparation of the Project Communication and Outreach Strategy (Action A2). She was a permanent participant of the monthly project coordination skype meetings (Action E1).

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

**Consortium Table**  
 for the joint project of Justice and Environment and ClientEarth called  
*Education and Awareness Raising of Legal Professionals on Access to Justice*  
**LIFE16 GIE/CZ/000791 LIFE-A2J-EARL**



**Beneficiary Task Description:** see the [MOU between J&E and CE](#)

**Affiliate Task Description:** see the [Summary of the work to be carried out by affiliates](#)

**Project Staff Task Description:** see the [contracts](#) made with staff members

**Staff**

provided by J&E:

- project coordinator: Csaba Kiss
- financial manager: Lubica Mockova
- legal experts (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain)

provided by CE:

- project co-coordinator: Anais Berthier, Capucine Pineau
- co-financial manager: Agnieszka Wojcik
- communications expert: Diane Vandesmet
- legal experts (Belgium, France, Poland)



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

There has been almost no major changes in the project's management structure in the reporting period (except the change at CE, see below).

There was a change in the person of the project coordinator of CE when Kristina Gasparovicova (from 01/12/2017 to 31/08/2018) was replaced by Capucine Pineau (from 05/09/2018). Also there was a change in the person of the project assistant of J&E when Katre Liiv (from 01/07/2017 to 31/12/2017) was replaced by Andras Berki (from 01/01/2018). Apart from this change the staff of the project was permanent and remained unchanged during the entire project period.

As regards communication with the EASME and Monitoring team, right in the beginning of the project implementation period (in July 2017) the coordinating beneficiary approached EASME in order to receive a letter of support confirming for external stakeholders the importance of the project and highlighting its significance in achieving a better access to justice in environmental matters. While there was no answer to this request directly from the EASME, the monitor of the project (Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper) was extremely helpful in discovering that the issuance of such a letter is not possible in the current arrangements. During the entire project implementation period thus far, the monitor of the project was extraordinarily helpful, cooperative, flexible and supportive and has made it significantly easier for the project management team to meet the requirements of the Grant Agreement and to implement the project according to the schedule. There have been already three monitoring visits (on 01/03/2018, on 20/02/2019 and on 28/05/2020) by the monitor, both held in the Budapest office of the Hungarian affiliate of the coordinating beneficiary where in fact the project manager of the coordinating beneficiary is seated. Also, there was an online mission held (on 12/11/2020, with the participation of the monitor and the EC Desk Officer Diana Oancea) due to the Covid pandemic.

There was one major change in ClientEarth partnership's structure, requiring an amendment to the Grant Agreement.

ClientEarth UK requested to add the following two affiliates, subsidiaries of CE UK:

- From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, ClientEarth AISBL ("CE Belgium"), a charitable organisation was registered under Belgian law, with a registration number 0714.925.038.
- From the start of the project, Fundacja Clientearth Prawnicy dla Ziemi ("CE Poland"), a charitable foundation was registered under Polish law, with a registration number KRS 0000364218.

This modification of the partnership structure of the beneficiary ClientEarth had no effect on the workflow or expected outcomes of the project, neither on the overall budget. The work allocated to ClientEarth in the proposed workplan was always intended to take place in all three of its offices. Registering only CE UK as a partner to the project was a mistake, coming from the fact that ClientEarth saw itself as a single cross-border organisation. For a more detailed explanation, please refer to our letter sent with the amendment request.

## 6. Technical part (maximum 25 pages)

### 6.1. Technical progress, per Action

#### Action A1: Identification and analysis of the detailed target audience and stakeholders and their needs

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
Actual start date: 01/10/2017  
Foreseen end date: 31/12/2017  
Actual end date: 29/05/2018

Progress achieved under the action: There were 4 distinct sub-actions performed within this action. These were the following:

- i) **Stakeholder mapping:** J&E expert Csaba Kiss searched for information online regarding the methodology of stakeholder mapping and compiled a brief paper for the project partners on the topic. Then J&E and CE jointly agreed in a standard template for a stakeholder register and a stakeholder matrix. Finally, J&E and CE experts jointly filled in a Stakeholder Register and a Stakeholder Analysis Matrix, applying these tools to the European Union level and to a hypothetical general pool of stakeholders, thus testing the applicability and verifiability of the method on the project components. Following this, both CE (in France and Poland) and the affiliates of J&E (in Austria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, and Spain) with the instructions received from J&E filled in national Stakeholder Registers and Stakeholder Analysis Matrices respectively. Before filling in these documents, CE and the affiliates were sent by the project manager a Project Brief<sup>6</sup> detailing tasks of stakeholder mapping and a brief introductory paper on the nature and features of stakeholder mapping<sup>7</sup>. This sub-action resulted in the identification of the target audience and stakeholders in the relevant countries.
- ii) **National workshops:** CE and the affiliates of J&E held one workshop in each country covered by the project between 29/01/2018 and 29/05/2018 in order to personally meet the representatives of the previously identified stakeholders. The dates of the workshops were the following:  
Vienna: 29 January 2018  
Tallinn: 14 February 2018 and Tartu: 22 February 2018  
Budapest: 20 February 2018  
Bratislava: 22 February 2018  
Warsaw: 21 March 2018  
Paris: 3 April 2018  
Madrid: 25 April 2018  
Berlin: 29 May 2018

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The purpose of the workshops was to present the EARL project to the members of the target audience, to learn more about the needs of the stakeholders and to discuss issues of importance in the area of access to justice in environmental matters. Before the workshops, a uniform protocol was prepared by the project team and distributed to the associated beneficiary and the affiliates. The protocol detailed the requirements to fulfil in preparing and holding the workshops in order to comply with the grant contract, the project implementation plan and the needs of the target audience. This sub-action resulted in the detailed identification of stakeholder needs on the national level.

- iii) **Contact lists:** 8 respective national contact lists were put together containing the contact details of the major stakeholders. This sub-action resulted in the collection of contact details of prominent representatives of the target audience. Those contact lists were constantly updated with new target audiences and stakeholders we identified along the project.
- iv) **Personal meetings:** Personal meetings were held with key stakeholders to further and more deeply uncover priorities and engage them into project implementation. Before the personal meetings, a circular email calling the associated beneficiary and the affiliates to organize such meetings was sent out to the mailing list of the project. Also a standard Meeting Memo template was created and sent to the mailing list of the project. The meetings were held with a varying number of stakeholders per country according to the availability of the key stakeholders. Some of the meetings led to the beginning of valuable collaborations for the organization of training/seminars. These meetings were typically held in the national language. Some of the meetings were later documented by a subsequent written memo. As an illustration, 3 such memos are attached from December 2017, January 2018 and February 2018. However, several meetings and calls took place without memos being drafted. Both J&E, ClientEarth and the affiliates had a lot of discussions with lawyers working for national NGOs, public interest lawyers and public authorities without drafting minutes of these incidents. The contacts made and advice received appeared in the organization of the training sessions and seminars. The feedback from the public interest legal communities on the project was overall very positive with several very valuable offers of collaboration.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The result of the first sub-action defined those institutions and persons that were later involved into the other actions of the project, most importantly into the training and awareness raising activities (Action B3 and Action B4). The second sub-action enabled us to scope their needs in terms of access to justice and identify the issues the training and awareness raising activities had to focus on in the later phases of the project (Action B3 and B4). The result of the third sub-action helped us contacting the major stakeholders and made it possible for the project partners to keep contact with the representatives of the target audience (Action B2 and B4). The result of the fourth sub-action was a deeper involvement of key stakeholders into project implementation and a higher level of buy-in by the affected person having been discussed with (Action B2 and B4).

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: This action was not impacted by any specific problem other than the general 3-month delay affecting the project implementation. Because the training sessions were not planned to commence earlier than the fall of 2018, the later completion of all national workshops (29/05/2018 instead of 31/01/2018) did not have any impact on other actions.

Comparison with time schedule: The first sub-action was completed according to the foreseen time-schedule; the second sub-action was completed with a 5-month delay; the third sub-action was completed with a 5-month delay; the fourth sub-action was continuously completed with no deadline, but was more typical for the first 1 to 2 years of the project, while such meetings became more scarce in the final year of the project, mostly due to the outbreak of the Covid pandemic.

Timetable on continuing action: The fourth sub-action was performed on an ongoing basis until the end of the project as was seen fit.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: The project partners during their other project activities, including the beneficiaries and the affiliates of the project, monitored those stakeholders that were interested in access to justice in environmental matters. As a result, meetings were held and issues relevant for the EARL project were discussed even outside the scope of the EARL project. Contact lists were updated based on such discussions and monitoring.

Continuing the action after the end of project: The listing and communication with the relevant stakeholders in access to environmental justice will not stop at the end of the project, given that this is the environment in which all project partners work for many years. While the action of stakeholder mapping may not continue in an organized and centrally managed manner after the end of project, it will indeed continue in some form. During the last mission, the project beneficiaries were advised to contact the European Judicial Network, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and also the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) for further cooperation. The suggestion is very relevant, and we also count with these organizations as highly important stakeholders involved in access to justice issues in environmental matters. We will certainly reach out to these organizations with relevant outputs or consultation requests.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Target audience and stakeholders contacts established and strategy for engaging with/targeting stakeholders according to their level of influence/reach/interest	A1	01/01/2018	Completed	29/05/2018	8 national Stakeholder Registers identifying public authorities	A1_EA RL_1
					8 national Stakeholder Analysis Matrices analyzing how national stakeholders relate to access to justice in environmental matters and why they are relevant	A1_EA RL_2
					8 national Stakeholder Management Plans	A1_EA RL_3
					8 workshops (one by targeted Member	A1_EA RL_4

					<p>state) held with relevant members of the target audience and stakeholders / 8 national workshops and related outputs, e.g. list of participants, photos, meeting minutes, presentations, etc.</p> <p>Contacts lists (with information on established contacts and training provided) / 8 national contact lists with contact details of relevant stakeholders, including public authorities, public interest lawyers, judges, NGOs</p> <p>Sample meeting memos made on the personal meetings held with key stakeholders</p> <p>Protocol for National Workshops</p>	<p>A1_EA RL_5</p> <p>A1_EA RL_6</p> <p>A1_EA RL_7</p>
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## Action A2: Development of a project communications strategy

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
Actual start date: 17/11/2017  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2018  
Actual end date: 06/12/2017

Progress achieved under the action: There were 2 distinct sub-actions performed within this action. These were the following:

- i) **Preparation and finalization of the project communications strategy:** The discussion to prepare a communications strategy for the project started right after the hiring of the communications officer by the associated beneficiary (17/11/2017) among the project management team. The communications objectives were to reach and engage legal professionals about access to justice through the project's awareness-raising materials and activities as well as to share the project's main messages with the public. The communications strategy focused on identifying the project's objectives, target audiences, communications tools and key messages. Communications actions have also been planned according to the deliverables. The final version of the Communications and Outreach Strategy was adopted by the project manager of J&E, the project manager of CE and the managing staff of the project.
- ii) **Commencement of communications actions:** The communications strategy started to guide the external communications activities of the project. Following the drafting of the communications strategy, a new website (<https://www.clientearth.org/access-justice-greener-europe/>) was designed by ClientEarth to fit the objectives of the project. The website features a project explanation, information and resources about access to justice, analysis about recent updates on access to justice, project updates, links to all the affiliates' websites<sup>8</sup> and a newsletter section. Its goal is to raise awareness about access

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<sup>8</sup> Austria

German: <http://www.oekobuero.at/schwerpunkte/den-zugang-zu-gerichten-verbessern>

English: <http://www.oekobuero.at/improving-access-to-justice-a2j-earl/>

Estonia

Estonian: <http://k6k.ee/k6k/uudised/kok-hakkab-juhtima-tahelepanu-senisest-tohusama-oiguskaitse-vajadusele-keskkonnaasjades>

English: <http://k6k.ee/eelc/news/eelc-will-focus-on-the-need-for-more-effective-legal-protection-in-environmental-matters>

Germany

German: <http://www.ufu.de/projekt/a2j-earl/>

English: <http://www.ufu.de/en/projekt/a2j-earl/>

Hungary

Hungarian: <http://emla.hu/hu/content/jogorvoslati-jogok-fejleszt%C3%A9se>

English: <http://emla.hu/en/content/improving-access-justice>

Slovakia

Slovak: <https://viaiuris.sk/sk/aktuality/zlepsovanie-pristupu-k-spravodlivosti-projekt-life-a2j-earl/>

English: <https://viaiuris.sk/en/news/improving-access-justice-project-life-a2j-earl/>

Spain

Spanish: <http://iidma.org/index.php/es/areas-de-actuacion/acceso-a-la-justicia/>

English: <http://iidma.org/index.php/en/areas-of-work/improving-access-to-justice-a2j-earl/>

to justice issues but also advertise the deliverables of the project including the coming seminars and training sessions.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The communications strategy influenced and guided the communications activities of the project and how external communication activities were designed and implemented (Action D1 and Action D2).

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There was no problem or delay occurring related to this action of the project.

Comparison with time schedule: The first sub-action started later than planned due to the fact that CE had to hire the communications officer and that the project started in July which made it more difficult. However, the intense work compensated for this delay and the action was completed before the planned deadline. The second sub-action was not impacted by the later start of the first sub-action as both J&E and CE had enough experience in communications to agree on priorities and fill the gap until the communications officer was hired.

Timetable on continuing action: The communications strategy of the project kept on influencing and guiding communications activities throughout the entire project implementation period.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: The communication actions of all project partners (beneficiaries and affiliates) took into consideration that there was a joint project running with their respective participation. Thus, all other communication of project partners in access to justice matters related to the EARL project, adding to its publicity as well.

Continuing the action after the end of project: The communications materials will be still accessible on the project website after the end of the project, as we undertook in the project proposal, for the agreed duration. Also in case any events or developments will make it reasonable to refer back to the project, after the end of the project, the project partners will mention the EARL project in their communications.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Project communications strategy finalized	A2	31/12/2017	Completed	06/12/2017	Project communications strategy document / Project Communications and Outreach Strategy	A2_EA RL_1
Implementation of the project communications strategy commenced	A2	01/01/2018	Completed	01/01/2018	Project website with LIFE logo  National language project roll-up	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/project/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/">https://www.clientearth.org/project/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/</a>  A2_EA RL_2

					banners with a uniform design and different national language texts to be displayed at event venues	
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## Action B1: Legal analysis of the main sources of interpretation of the access to justice rights in environmental matters

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
Actual start date: 01/01/2018  
Foreseen end date: 31/05/2018  
Actual end date: 30/11/2018

Progress achieved under the action: Within this action, experts in all 8 EU Member States covered by the project undertook to produce one legal analysis on the legislation and case law of their respective country in English. Task implementation started with the preparation of a template by CE in early 2018. After the approval of the template by the project management team, it was distributed to the coordinating beneficiary's affiliates in Austria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain, and to the associated beneficiary's national researchers in France and Poland. The national researchers compiled and analyzed the relevant pieces of legislation, the way it is implemented and the case-law of the courts on access to justice in environmental matters. The project managers of both the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiary assisted national researchers in their work while completing the national studies.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The completed studies are very satisfying, gathering the relevant case-law and legislation in order to provide a detailed overview of the national legal frameworks in environmental matter. The studies were not meant to be public, but served as the basis of all the other deliverables of the project including the national toolkits, the participatory platform and the training materials that were used during the training sessions in the later phases of the project. These were also provided to the relevant DG ENV of the European Commission in support of their own legal analysis on the way access to justice is provided at national level to understand where there are issues and hurdles.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: The implementation of the action suffered a delay. Firstly, the preparation of the template for the national analyses started later than planned and this was aggravated by the process of finalizing it, again adding time to the already existing delay. For this reason, the national researchers could only start working on their respective studies later than planned. Some researches were interrupted by the summer break and could only be completed after the summer, i.e. in the fall of 2018. This delay had an impact on the preparation of the national toolkits which also could start only later than planned.

Comparison with time schedule: Instead of 31/05/2018, the studies were completed by the following dates: Spain 08/06/2018, Estonia 12/06/2018, Austria 04/07/2018, Slovakia 27/09/2018, France 01/10/2018, Poland 03/10/2018, Hungary 30/10/2018, Germany 30/11/2018.

Timetable on continuing action: The action is completed, there is no continuation.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: Each project partner is working on access rights issues including access to justice cases. Any such work and its experience and the knowledge those cases generate were fed into the work relating to the analysis of access to justice in the respective Member States. The legal analyses were supposed to guide the work of the national legal experts, in order to help them uncover the situation (legislation and case law) in their respective country. For this reason, the analyses were

not meant to make an impact in the project countries. Indirectly, the impact of their preparation was that the national legal experts became up to date and could more easily manage the preparation of the national toolkit and the holding of the training sessions. Continuing the action after the end of the project: There will be no continuation of this type of thorough analysis, however, indeed the developments in the legislation and case law of access to justice in environmental matters will be continuously monitored and will be analyzed by the respective country experts and teams.

**Milestone table with deliverables**

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Completed analysis of the main laws and sources of legal interpretation to be analyzed including the Aarhus Convention, EU environmental horizontal laws	B1	31/05/2018	Completed	30/11/2018	Analysis of the main laws and sources of legal interpretation including the Aarhus Convention and EU environmental horizontal laws / National legal analyses of the legislation, practice and case-law on access to justice in environmental matters	B1_EAR L_1

## Action B2: Development and dissemination of awareness-raising materials for the judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administrations, and public interest lawyers

### Sub-Action B2.1: Publication and dissemination of a handbook on access to justice provisions in EU law and the Aarhus Convention

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/04/2018  
Actual start date: 01/04/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/01/2019

Progress achieved under the action: While under Action B 1, we produced studies on the legislation and case law of national courts on access to justice in environmental matters, under sub-action B2.1 the associated beneficiary produced a guide on the legislative framework applicable to access to justice in environmental matters under EU law and the Aarhus Convention. It analyses the relevant pieces of EU legislation implementing the access to justice provisions of the Aarhus Convention as well as EU directives which give rise to access to justice rights, the case-law of the CJEU and the findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. This handbook that we decided to call a “guide” as it is more practical than a handbook, is a unique tool at the disposal of the legal community (lawyers, public authorities, judges) and NGOs. There are no other publications on access to justice of such a broad scope encompassing both EU legislation, the case-law of the CJEU and the findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. It will therefore provide a thorough overview of the applicable legal framework to the target audience. It is written in English, and its first version was submitted to the graphic designer in December 2018 to be ready for publication and dissemination in 2019. It was published in its first format on 31/01/2019. Later, in 2020, the process of updating the guide was ongoing, however, the publication of the so-called Version 2 was only accomplished in 2021.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The guide is a guiding material and was a reference point for the other deliverables including for writing national toolkits and the participatory platform. It was a reference point and a source of information throughout the entire project for the associated beneficiary’s experts, the affiliates and the stakeholders.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: The writing of the first version of the guide started with a delay and its completion was later than planned. Our additional delay came first from the fact that we realised that the initial date of publication was not the most strategic. The project planned to have it published in July 2018. We thought that waiting for September would ensure greater visibility and that we would reach a broader audience. The additional delay stemmed from the fact that this is a very complex and broad topic and had to be carried out in parallel to other tasks related to the project and other tasks not related to the project. Writing requires having time ahead of you which was not the case. Also, we had not foreseen the need to have someone review the guide and do a language check which took a great amount of time. The last technical details of harmonisation took us longer than expected, as well as the graphic design process.

However, we are very happy with the result and are hopeful that it is a very valuable tool to raise awareness of the EU legal community on the EU and international legal framework on access to justice in environmental matters. Therefore the final version of the guide was only ready in January 2019 and is joined to this report. The Version 2 of the Handbook also was completed later than planned because we seized the opportunity of our project extension to wait for the outcomes of the Commission's proposal for a revised Aarhus Regulation. This way, we could launch a more comprehensive second version of our guide, which will stay up to date longer. Also, for this second version again, the time needed to proofread the guide took longer than expected.

Comparison with time schedule: While the start date of the sub-action was supposed to be 01/04/2018, in fact it was only 01/07/2018. Consequently, its completion date was not 31/07/2018 but 31/01/2019. As for Version 2, we could finalise it only after the release of the Commission's proposal for a revised Aarhus Regulation, which took place in October 2020. Consequently, this second version was only completed after the end of the project, in March 2021.

Timetable on continuing action: The action is fully completed.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: All project partners were active in a wide range of activities, projects and cases relating to access to justice in environmental matters. The coordinating beneficiary was running a project funded by the LIFE NGO Grants having a component on access to justice. It involved the monitoring and analysing the barriers that are there on the national level for those seeking judicial remedies in environmental cases, the identification in a number of EU MS of those sectoral areas where access to justice is key, and the monitoring of harassment of environmental activists. The affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary worked on their respective access to justice cases in their respective national legal systems. The associated beneficiary was coordinating a series of test cases at courts in a number of EU MS targeting the issues of clean air litigation. All these activities provided a huge amount of knowledge and practical experience that was fed into the preparation of the outputs of the EARL project and vice versa, the compilation of the knowledge of the project partners in the EARL project had a synthesizing impact on the work of the project partners.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The effect of the action will continue after the end of the project as the guide will stay publicly available on the project's website (resource tab) for the agreed period of time, and even afterwards, as long as its content is not too outdated to be relevant. Also, we will continue to ensure that the guide is used by the relevant stakeholders. In case of new funding for the continuation/replicability of our project, we would consider securing work capacity to keep the guide up-to-date.

### **Milestone table with deliverables**

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Publication of the handbook (1st edition)	B2.1	31/07/2018	Completed	31/01/2019	Handbook on access to justice	B2_EARL_1
Dissemination of the handbook (1st edition) to the target audience	B2.1	31/10/2018	Completed	28/02/2019	Handbook on access to justice	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/guide-on-">https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/guide-on-</a>

						<a href="#">access-to-justice-in-european-union-law/</a>
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Publication of the handbook (2nd edition)	B2.1	31/12/2020	Completed	31/03/2021	Handbook on access to justice	B2_EARL_2
Dissemination of the handbook (2nd edition) to the target audience	B2.1	31/12/2020	Completed	31/03/2021	Handbook on access to justice	<a href="https://clientearth.azurewebsites.net/latest/document/s/access-to-justice-in-european-union-law-a-legal-guide-on-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters-edition-2021/">https://clientearth.azurewebsites.net/latest/document/s/access-to-justice-in-european-union-law-a-legal-guide-on-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters-edition-2021/</a>

## Sub-Action B2.2: Production and publication of toolkits on access to justice issues in target Member States

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/04/2018  
Actual start date: 01/09/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: Sub-action B2.2 is in a close relationship with sub-action B2.1 since the latter was providing an analysis of the legal framework on access to justice at the EU level, while the former was providing a synthetic tool on the legal framework at the national level. Since national legislation implements EU legislation, both are intrinsically linked. We affirm our satisfaction regarding the content provided in the toolkits. It provides useful and practical legal information and advice when it comes to procedures, standing requirements, scope of review and remedies. It highlights hurdles to effective access to justice and gives advice on possible legal avenues to overcome them. The toolkits are written in the national languages of the different countries so that the relevant stakeholders can really use them. Most of these stakeholders do not speak fluent English. The objective of this tool was to provide in a short document with all the relevant information and legal references to legal practitioners and members of the public who seek to have access to justice in the 8 different jurisdictions. Our toolkits have been disseminated on the Access to Justice for a Greener Europe Twitter account and in the Newsletter. A press release has also been sent to each affiliate to help disseminating their toolkit to specialised media. They have been invited to post about the toolkits on their social media accounts to reach the right audience in their country.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The results of this sub-action were used as the training materials for the training sessions held in the Member States covered by the project, respectively in each Member State, to the extent decided by the national experts and project implementation team members.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: The delay in having the toolkits ready did not have any impact on other actions or deliverables.

Comparison with time schedule: While the national toolkits should have been ready and disseminated by 31/12/2018, they were completed in all Member States covered by the project in 2019 and disseminated as soon as completed during the year 2019. This delay however did not have any impact on the other activities, and we could still disseminate it as a material during our training as the training sessions also started only in 2019.

Timetable on continuing action: The action is completed.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: All project partners were active in a wide range of activities, projects and cases relating to access to justice in environmental matters. The coordinating beneficiary was running a project funded by the LIFE NGO Grants having a component on access to justice. It involved the monitoring and analysing the barriers that are there on the national level for those seeking judicial remedies in environmental cases, the identification in a number of EU MS of those sectoral areas where access to justice is key, and the monitoring of harassment of environmental activists. The affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary worked on their respective access to justice cases in their respective national legal systems. The associated beneficiary was coordinating a series of test cases at courts in a number of EU MS targeting the

issues of clean air litigation. All these activities provided a huge amount of knowledge and practical experience that was fed into the preparation of the outputs of the EARL project and vice versa, the compilation of the knowledge of the project partners in the EARL project had a synthesizing impact on the work of the project partners.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The effect of the action will continue after the end of the project as the toolkits will be available on our project's website (resource tab) for the agreed period of time and even afterward, as long as its content is not outdated to be relevant. Also, we will keep on mentioning the toolkits' existence to any interested stakeholders we work with. In case of new funding for the continuation/replicability of our project, we would consider securing work capacity to keep the toolkits up-to-date.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Publication of the toolkits for each Member State	B2.2	31/10/2018	Completed	French and Polish Toolkit published in May 19, Spanish Toolkit published in June 19, German Toolkit published in July 19, Estonian and Austrian Toolkit published in October 19, Slovakian Toolkit published in November 2019, Hungarian Toolkit published in December 2019	Training materials for the training sessions / Toolkits for each Member State (Austria, France, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Spain) / National toolkits for the stakeholders on the legislation and practice of access to justice in environmental matters on the national level	B2_ EARL_3
Dissemination of the toolkits for each Member State	B2.2	31/12/2018	Completed	31/03/2019	National toolkits for the stakeholders on the legislation and practice of access to justice in environmental matters on the national level	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/country-toolkits-on-access-to-justice/">https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/country-toolkits-on-access-to-justice/</a>

## Sub-Action B2.3: Development and launch of a digital information platform on access to justice

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/04/2018  
Actual start date: 01/10/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/03/2019

Progress achieved under the action: The digital platform on access to justice was established for Hungary, Estonia and Poland. Digital interactive platforms with an “ask a lawyer” function were developed for three pilot Member States and these three platforms were reached by 263 stakeholders until the end of the project (Estonia 17, Hungary 113, Poland 133). Even though people visited the sites, questions through the “ask the lawyer” function were not submitted, rather they were asked via e-mails according to the project coordinator and partners.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The platform provides information to those seeking advice in legal matters regarding access to environmental justice. The platform and the information it provides contribute to the attainment of the goals of Action D1 Information and awareness raising activities regarding the project to the general public and stakeholders and Action D2 Dissemination of project information aimed at transferring the results and lessons learnt to those stakeholders that could usefully benefit from the project's experience.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: The small delay we encountered with the completion of this action did not impact any other action.

Comparison with time schedule: The completion of the platform was 31/03/2019 instead of 01/03/2019.

Timetable on continuing action: The action is completed.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: All project partners were active in a wide range of activities, projects and cases relating to access to justice in environmental matters. The affiliates of the coordinating beneficiary worked on their respective access to justice cases in their respective national legal systems. These legal advisory services are similar to the online digital platform but represent a less automated, a less sophisticated version of the same service.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The action will continue under the same form after the end of the project as the online digital platform will stay online and provide the information the same way after the project. The advisory services of the affiliates and the associated beneficiary as they operate outside the project will be maintained also in the future. Only, if the legal information of the platform become outdated, we will have to delete the decision tree concerned. In case of new funding for the continuation/replicability of our project, we would consider securing work capacity to keep the digital platform up-to-date and extend it to cover the other 5 countries of the project.

### **Milestone table with deliverables**



Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Launch of the digital information platform	B2.3	01/03/2019	Completed	31/03/2019	Digital information platform and “ask a lawyer service” / Online digital platform on access to justice with an ‘Ask a Lawyer’ function in 3 countries	B2_EARL_4 <a href="https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/interactive-platform-on-access-to-justice/">https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/interactive-platform-on-access-to-justice/</a>

## Action B3: Preparation and delivery of training on access to justice in the field of environment

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/10/2018  
Actual start date: 01/10/2018  
Foreseen end date: 31/03/2020  
Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: The core activity of the project was the knowledge transfer to the stakeholders identified under Action A1, with the information compiled under Action B2.

A total of 48 training sessions and 12 webinars were held over the duration of the project. The list of all the training sessions and the webinars is attached to this report. During the project, 48 national training sessions with altogether 1257 participants took place in 9 Member States since beside the eight participating Member States training sessions were also held in Belgium. During the project period, 12 international online webinars took place, which was attended altogether by 664 interested stakeholders. The recordings of the online webinars were viewed on YouTube 1635 times until the project ended.

Before the training sessions, a uniform protocol (similarly to the national workshops) was prepared by the project team and distributed to the associated beneficiary and the affiliates. The protocol detailed the requirements to fulfil in preparing and holding the training sessions in order to comply with the grant contract, the project implementation plan and the needs of the target audience. As part of this protocol, a short narrative report was written for each training, giving more details on the discussion and knowledge shared during those events. The short narrative report also included relevant annexes or links to information such as the list of participants, the questionnaires, and the presentations.

### General overview of discussions/feedback from the training sessions in France and Belgium:

Following the advice of French legal professionals, we decided to organise a mix of training and seminar sessions on access to justice applied to different contexts. Indeed, the first workshop and initial discussions we had stressed that there was a greater need for the different stakeholders (lawyers, NGOs, prosecutors, judges) to meet in order to discuss remaining access to justice hurdles, and exchange best practices from their experiences and that the understanding of the access justice legal framework was already rather good within the legal community. According to the feedback we received (orally as well as in the questionnaires), this format really met the expectations of our target audience. That also made sense given that the additional 12 webinars provided for most of them were in a training format. One event in Belgium, targeting exclusively the NGO community, was an actual training. This training was also successful as the participants felt empowered with the possibility to make access to documents requests more easily than they thought. 15 people attended that event<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/access-to-justice-seminars-in-germany-spain-and-belgium-june-2019/>

Discussions were very rich and enable stakeholders to speak to each other's in a frank and open way thanks to this format. For example, prosecutors and NGOs and the environmental police exchanged and agreed in a very constructive way that some improvement had to be made in the functioning of the justice system such as better informing the plaintiff on the procedure and the progress of the case before the court including when it is an NGO. These sessions also enabled stakeholders to make contact: NGOs, judges and lawyers.

The training sessions also gave us opportunities to significantly broaden our network which has already proven to be extremely useful in the rest of our work on access to justice. We have seen an increase in the interest on the topic and an eagerness from NGOs, public authorities and lawyers to continue collaborating with us to improve access to justice. Some collaboration resulted from our sessions, including discussion on bringing cases before the French Court in collaboration with us. Another collaboration that resulted from our project is with the Ministry of Justice. The ministry issued a report to reform the access to justice system and asked us to organise an event on their report to promote their recommendations so that they do not remain dead letter. The report led to the adoption of a new law<sup>10</sup> that was discussed during our event. As a result, we were also invited to speak at high-level events including at the Cour de Cassation, the highest Court in France.

Feedback from participants in our trainings and webinars was very positive and we received lots of thanks stressing that they “gained confidence to be in the right pathway” to tackle various environmental issues using the power of law.

Finally, France Nature Environnement, the biggest coalition of environmental NGOs in France with the biggest legal network with whom we collaborated recognised that the event on-line format we created worked really well and are considering organising similar ones in the future.

#### General overview of discussions/feedback from the training sessions in Poland:

The training sessions in Poland were very successful. The feedback was very positive concerning the content, and we managed to reach a wide range of legal professionals. There were even members of a political party and journalists at one of the training sessions (in Warsaw at the training on the draft amendments to the Geological and Mining Law). After one of the training sessions (in Kraków), we published the interventions in the form of articles in the “European Judicial Review”<sup>11</sup> so it would be accessible for the wider public.

Most of the discussions during the training sessions with the Polish lawyers and NGOs concerned the possibility to address directly the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee with the shortcomings identified in Polish law. The other main topic of discussion was the possibility to incite the judges to ask for the preliminary ruling of the CJEU in environmental matters. We gave practical advice on the best way to convince judges to proceed. The participants stressed also on the role of national judges in interpreting national provisions to the fullest extent possible in accordance with the objectives set out in the Aarhus Convention.

During the training sessions with the Self-Government Boards of Appeal (2<sup>nd</sup> instance of administrative proceedings in Poland), the discussion focused on the issues of the scope of judicial and institutional control on the basis of case law. As the administrative

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<sup>10</sup> La loi n° 2020-1672 relative au parquet européen, à la justice environnementale et à la justice pénale spécialisée.

<sup>11</sup> The articles are online only when one buys access to them. For free, there are just the titles of the articles: <https://www.proinfo.pl/sklep/europejski-przeglad-sadowy,7252,r,2020,nr,10.html>

court does not make a substantive assessment of the report on the impact of a given project on the environment, it is to the employees of the second instance body that rests the necessity to adequately make factual findings. That was identified as a major issue. Some of the participants proposed that a compilation of the case law of the CJEU and ACCC in Polish would be very useful which led us to translate the guide in Polish. However, it turned out to be difficult to engage with Polish judges and make them participate in training sessions. The recent disciplinary actions taken in Poland against judges having outspoken on issues of judicial independence and the rule of law explain this difficulty.

We also did not manage to organise a training at the Polish Ministry of Environment although we had a meeting at the Ministry about the possible topics. At the end, the Ministry decided that they are not interested for the moment.

General overview of discussions/feedback from the webinars: We received many compliments about the presentations given in our webinars, describing them as: “interesting”, “informative”, “explanatory”, “excellent”, “rich in content” and more importantly “usefully targeted to highlighting real issues”. Participants could relate to their own ongoing cases and enjoyed having the chance to ask specific questions/advices during the events, as well as per email afterwards. This way, we also got to know about ongoing issues and cases, as well as about other existing environmental projects. Also, the webinars being recorded and disseminated on our YouTube channel, we could reach a very broad audience (644 participants in live sessions / 1635 views on YouTube as of January 2021). Thomson Reuters Practical Law resources website also asked us for the authorisation to disseminate our recordings, which will help us reach an even wider lawyer audience.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The training sessions belonged to a series of events, therefore each session had its relevant purpose. The first training sessions always functioned as a test in order to see to what extent the target audience was interested in the given topic. The first of such events was also a lesson on what issues must be highlighted for which audience and how the preparation and the follow-up of such events is best to be managed.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There were no problems or delays having an impact on other actions.

Comparison with time schedule: The implementation of the action happened according to the planned time schedule. The first training sessions were held on time, and the following ones were implemented all along the duration of the project as planned. However, by the end of the project, the Covid pandemic forced us to reschedule our last training sessions, and to organise them online. But this unfortunate situation turned out to be positive to some extent. Indeed, it made it easier to have around the table stakeholders from different regions, and also to reach a broader audience. In France for instance, we could organise a seminar with the participation of a judge from the Administrative Court of Lyon and a representative from the Ministry of Justice based in Paris as speakers, which might not have been possible in person due to the distances. Unfortunately, this situation also made us cancel two training sessions and consequently 9 training sessions were held to the French audience instead of 11. Indeed, ClientEarth was in contact with some academics regarding those two training sessions but they had no more interest in an online event. However, with a total of 432 participants to our French training sessions, our overall goal of 20 participants per event was largely exceeded. Besides, considering the quality of the presentations and discussions, as well

as the variety of topics tackled during those seminars, we are confident that our training sessions met the general objectives.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: While the access to justice training sessions were the core activities of the EARL project, both the beneficiaries and the affiliates had during the project implementation period other occasions when they held educational events for stakeholders or for the members of the public on issues relevant for access to justice in environmental matters. These events are regarded as complementary actions to the actions of the project.

Continuing the action after the end of the project:

Webinars will keep on being organised, whenever our target audience needs to be aware of new major legal developments. For instance, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021, we organised a webinar<sup>12</sup> emphasising the importance of the access to justice provision of the EU Climate Law, which was discussed at EU level.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
First round of training sessions held in each Member State	B3	30/04/2019	Completed	30/04/2019	Training sessions for the members of the target audience  Training invitations  Training agendas  List of trainings held	B3_EARL_1
First round of webinars held	B3	30/09/2019	Completed	30/09/2019	Webinars for the members of the target audience        List of webinars held	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/">https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/</a>  B3_EARL_2
Subsequent rounds of training sessions held in each Member State	B3	31/03/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Training sessions for the members of the target audience  Training invitations  Training agendas  List of trainings held	B3_EARL_1
Subsequent rounds of webinars held	B3	31/03/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Webinars for the members of the target audience	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/webinar-the-eu-climate-law-and-access-to-justice/">https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/webinar-the-eu-climate-law-and-access-to-justice/</a>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/webinar-the-eu-climate-law-and-access-to-justice/>

					List of webinars held	<a href="#">s-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/ev-ents/</a> B3_EARL_2
	B3	31/12/2019	Completed		Survey for the training participants about the usefulness of the trainings / Training evaluation questionnaire	B3_EARL_3 (see: C1_EARL_2)

## Action B4: Facilitating knowledge sharing between and within target audience and stakeholder groups on access to justice

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/10/2017  
Actual start date: 01/10/2017  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: This action was somewhat complementary to the previously detailed actions within the B chapter. There were 4 sub-actions within this action that were performed as follows:

- i) **Project newsletter:** We published a monthly/bi-monthly online newsletter with up-to-date information on the legislation and case law on access to justice in environmental matters, related to the countries covered by the project as well on EU level. Each newsletter was published on the project's website (<https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/#newsletters>) and disseminated via our Access to Justice for a Greener Europe Twitter account. It was also sent to interested recipients. This enabled a dissemination beyond Eastern and Central Europe since a large part of our readers come from the UK, the US, France and Belgium. They were also published on the affiliates' websites and disseminated via their social media. Links were integrated in the newsletters to the project website where the articles written by ClientEarth and Justice & Environment lawyers were published. We received very positive feedback on the newsletter from public interest lawyers as well as staff of EU institutions (Commission, MEPs and Council staff). It is a unique tool which provides the most up-to-date information on legal development on access to justice in environmental matters in 8 different European countries and on the case-law of the CJEU. Overall, 27 Newsletters were sent during the project. Longer intervals were inserted between the publication of newsletter volumes during the summer holiday seasons for instance, as well as during the Covid pandemic because the judicial activities of the Court of Justice and of the General Court were reduced. Indeed, at the beginning of the pandemic, the Courts gave priority to cases that were particularly urgent (urgent proceedings, expedited proceedings and interim proceedings), and consequently most of the judgments we expected to comment in our newsletters were postponed. The newsletter was sent to a database of 764 people including lawyers, judges, staff of public authorities, NGOs, academics and EU institutions in the 8 different countries covered by the project. We had a very satisfactory average opening rate of 24,2% (above the industry average of 21%), which means that in average 185 persons read our newsletter. Newsletters were also disseminated by Justice & Environment affiliates on their own websites, newsletters, and social networks platforms (Twitter or Facebook). Our readers mostly came from Belgium, France, the UK, Luxembourg and the US.
- ii) **Online public interest lawyer database:** We created an online database of public interest lawyers in the field of environmental law. It aimed at helping people and NGOs to get in touch with lawyers to try fixing breaches of environmental law in different European countries. The objective was twofold:

ensure that NGOs and individuals find the right lawyer and that lawyers specialised in environmental law get in contact with each other when needed. As part of this, the collection of data of lawyers serving the public with legal advice (either as a profession or as a supplementary activity) started in the fall of 2018. By the end of November 2018, sufficient number of lawyers from each country covered by the project contributed with their contact data to the database and also gave their consents in a GDPR-compliant manner to publish such data online. In December 2018, the database was launched on the website of the associated beneficiary (<https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/access-to-justice-lawyer-database/>). As we received several requests, we decided to expand the database to lawyers from European countries outside the project as well. To date, 117 lawyers from 15 countries are part of the database.

- iii) **Project conference:** The conference took place in October 2020 and was a success. The title was “Access to justice in environmental matters: obstacles, impacts and ways forward”. Selected to be part of the European Green Week as a partner event, we enjoyed the participation of 285 members of the target audience (<https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/virtual-conference-on-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters/>). The discussions gave us the opportunity to share our experience regarding the state of play in the different countries of the project, and to engage in discussion with representatives from EU institutions, legal professionals, judges and NGO representatives from all over Europe. The first session, “Strategic litigation to make the green transition happen”, gave us the chance to discuss the importance of access to justice in environmental matters, and reflect on the current situation. The second session, “Overview of access to justice in four national jurisdictions” provided us with the opportunity to get an overview of access to justice hurdles in Spain, Estonia, Germany and France, as well as to share national best practices and possible recommendations. Then the third session, “How to promote access rights”, gave the opportunity to hear from different stakeholders what they consider being the next challenges to address in order to promote access rights. Finally, the fourth session, “Strategic litigation in practice” focused on strategic litigation in practice and gave us the chance to explore five recent environmental landmark cases, such as the Urgenda case, the Białowieża case, or the Protect case. The detailed summaries of each session, as well as the recordings, are available online. However, we did not receive scientific articles following our conference from external sources. Our speakers regretted, but the period between the conference and the end of the project did not give them the chance to write a scientific article. -The speakers reacted less positively than we expected and either were up to write very short pieces or turn down our offer for lack of time. Also, the postponement of the project and of the conference made it more difficult to ask people to write articles for us and to produce them as well. Luc Lavrysen (judge at the Belgian Constitutional Court) provided a short article about the theme of his presentation: “A judge’s perspective.”
- iv) **Scientific articles:** Anaïs Berthier wrote an article titled «*Le pari de l’activisme judiciaire – Atouts et limites – Perspectives d’une juriste d’ONG*» which is published in a collective book: *A quoi sert le droit de l’environnement? Réalité et spécificité de son apport au droit et à la société*. Sous la direction de Delphine Misonne. Published by Bruylant in January 2019. (<https://www.larciergroup.com/fr/a-quoi-sert-le-droit-de-l-environnement->



[2018-9782802761624.html](https://www.earlproject.eu/2018-9782802761624.html)). This book was published following a conference organised in honour of François Ost.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The project newsletter fed into Action D1 that aimed at raising public awareness on access to justice, while the online public interest lawyer database helps implement both Action D1 and Action D2, in addition to contributing to a better general awareness of access to justice and a better access of the public to specialized legal assistance and expert lawyers.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There were only minor problems when compiling certain newsletter volumes, e.g. expected articles were delivered a few days later, therefore some newsletter volumes were not published in the given month but within the first few days in the next month. The online public interest lawyer database was released with a 1 month delay due to the later arrival of the GDPR-compliant consent forms from our lawyers. The conference had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic situation, and we had to rethink the agenda in order to make it suitable for an online event. There were problems regarding the writing of scientific articles by the lecturers of the conference, and ultimately, there were no such articles produced for the reasons listed above.

Comparison with time schedule: The implementation of the action was happening mostly according to the planned time schedule as regards the newsletters, while the online public interest lawyer database was released in the end of December 2018 instead of 16/11/2018. The final conference was initially planned for the end of 2019, but we had already agreed on the necessity to postpone it until the very end of the project, in order to benefit from all the knowledge gathered in the different national training sessions. However, due to the Covid pandemic, we had to postpone it again. This has been agreed by the Commission in our no-cost extension agreement.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: The International Visegrad Fund was funding a complementary project to the EARL project called Visegrad 4 Aarhus Center. Within the latter project, partners from Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia worked together and promoted access to justice in environmental matters in the V4 region. As part of the project, partners issued 2 volumes of specific newsletters on access to justice in the V4 region. The articles were from the EARL project affiliates plus from the Czechia according to a contract with Frank Bold Society (CZ). Another ongoing project where the Hungarian affiliate participated was managed by the Institute of State and Law of Czechia, Prague. The Institute was running a project funded by the International Visegrad Fund on collective redress mechanisms. The project monitored the development of legislation and case law of collective redress cases in the V4 region and held an international conference on 23/11/2018 in Prague on collective redress mechanisms.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The action will partly continue, as the database of public interest lawyers will stay available online providing the same service. The newsletters will remain accessible even after the end of the project for the agreed period of time. When relevant, legal updates will need to be commented, the team considers the publication of more newsletters. Also the project partners will write news pieces and scientific articles about their respective works, although not in the form of a large joint project.

## **Milestone table with deliverables**

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Launch of the 1st monthly newsletter	B4	31/10/2017	Completed	31/10/2017	Monthly newsletters / 1 volume of the project newsletter	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/#newsletters">https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/#newsletters</a>
Launch of subsequent monthly newsletters until the end of the project with certain intervals	B4	31/05/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Monthly newsletters / 27 volumes of the project newsletter	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/#newsletters">https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/#newsletters</a>
Launch of the online public interest lawyer database	B4	16/11/2018	Completed	20/12/2018	Online public interest lawyer database  GDPR-compliant consent forms sent in by the national public interest environmental lawyers	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/lates/document/s/access-to-justice-lawyer-database/">https://www.clientearth.org/lates/document/s/access-to-justice-lawyer-database/</a>  B4_EARL_1
EU-wide conference delivered	B4	06/11/2019	Completed	31/12/2020	EU-wide conference on access to justice  The proceedings of the EU-wide conference	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/virtual-conference-on-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters/">https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/events/virtual-conference-on-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters/</a>  B4_EARL_2
Publication of scientific articles based on the conference	B4	31/05/2020	Not completed	31/03/2021	Scientific articles based on the conference	

topics, presentations, issues						
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## Action C1: Monitoring the impact of the project's activities on the target audience (the judiciary, public interest lawyers, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public administration bodies)

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
Actual start date: 01/01/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: This action is the first one that was supposed to run for the entire duration of the project implementation period. It took multiple forms and was not confined to a single action or a specifically dedicated action. It rather influenced all related activities within the project, such as A1: Identification and analysis of the detailed target audience and stakeholders and their needs, Sub-Action B2.3: Development and launch of a digital information platform on access to justice, Sub-Action B3: Preparation and delivery of training on access to justice in the field of environment, Sub-Action B4: Facilitating knowledge sharing between and within target audience and stakeholder groups on access to justice. Across all these actions and sub-actions, the impacts of the project were being monitored by the respective national teams at the affiliates or at the associated beneficiary. This monitoring was done via personal discussions and expert exchange of information on the impacts of all the deliverables including the newsletter, events and training sessions. The different impact types were monitored in different manners, we relied on quantitative and qualitative criteria to assess the impacts of our deliverables. Relying only on quantitative criteria such as the number of participants in our events would have not demonstrated the potential impacts achieved. What matters is whether the relevant stakeholders had discussed among themselves issues to address in relation to access to justice, learnt about the legal framework they need to apply/comply with/rely on. Eventually, the data collected during project implementation in the form of evaluation questionnaires were analysed by an external evaluator / consultant.

Findings of the consultant regarding Action C1 are to be found in the document called Socio-economic impact assessment of the LIFE-A2J-EARL project - Education and Awareness Raising of Legal Professionals on Access to Justice attached to this report. The findings in a nutshell are the following:

Based on the information gathered from the filled in national data sheets, we could analyse the impacts of the capacity building materials prepared within the frame of the project. The Guide on Access to Justice in European Union law was developed in English in the framework of the project and was also translated into Polish. The English version of the guide was printed and distributed to 100 stakeholders, while 1759 stakeholders downloaded either the English or the Polish version of the guide. The national toolkits on access to justice were developed in all of the participating Member States (Austria, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Spain) in the framework of the project. The toolkits (either their printed or online versions) reached altogether 1117 stakeholders until the end of the project. Digital interactive platforms with an “ask a lawyer” function were developed for three Member States (Estonia,

Hungary and Poland) out of the participating countries. These three platforms were reached by 263 stakeholders until the end of the project. All visitors needed to fill in their professional background when they entered the platforms. A public-interest lawyer database was established with 117 lawyers active in the field of environmental law from 15 countries. The database was accessed by 2982 people until the end of the project. Furthermore, based on the information provided by the filled in national data sheet, we could assess the impacts of the capacity building events organized in the framework of the project. Project partners held national workshops to kick off the project in each participating Member State, thus, altogether eight workshops took place, and were attended altogether by 169 stakeholders. Professional background of workshop participants varied from academics, experts, judiciary, supreme court advisors, public and private interest lawyers, attorneys, judges even from the supreme courts, NGOs, public officials to representatives of public authorities (ministries, ombudsmen, public administration offices, etc.). During the project, 48 national training with altogether 1257 participants took place in 9 Member States since beside the eight participating Member States training sessions were also held in Belgium. Attendees of the training sessions came from the same country where the concerned event took place except for Slovakia, where Czech stakeholders also attended. Professional background of all training participants varied from legal professionals (lawyers, judges, supreme court representatives), academics, think tanks, civil servants, NGOs, journalists to representatives of public authorities (ombudsperson for the environment, administration of justice, ministries) and even interested citizens, including students. During the project period, 12 international online webinars took place, which was attended altogether by 664 interested stakeholders. The recordings of the online webinars were viewed on YouTube 1635 times until the project ended. Beside the above-mentioned events, an international conference was organized. Originally it was planned to be organized in Brussels, but due to the Covid pandemic it was eventually held online with 285 participants coming from all over the world. Due to the pandemic, more participants took part in the event as originally planned. The conference was attended by all groups of the project target audience namely, public and private interest lawyers, attorneys, judiciary, court advisors, judicial administration organizations, public authorities (including ministries), as well as academics, experts, and even students.

- i) The number of individuals from the target audience reached was easier to monitor by adding up the number of persons having participated at the A1 national workshops.

Number of participants at the stakeholder workshops:

Vienna:	15 persons
Tallinn and Tartu:	9 persons and 7 persons, respectively
Budapest:	50 persons
Bratislava:	10 persons
Warsaw:	13 persons
Paris:	5 persons (because of a general strike including of public transport on the same day)
Madrid:	44 persons
Berlin:	20 persons

- ii) The number of individuals from the target audience trained was easier to monitor by adding up the number of persons having participated at the B3 training sessions.

Number of participants at the training sessions:

Austria:	40 persons
Belgium:	104 persons
Estonia:	120 persons
France:	432 persons
Germany:	25 persons
Hungary:	154 persons
Poland:	193 persons
Slovakia:	62 persons
Spain:	127 persons

- iii) The number of individuals from the public reached was monitored via the analysis of website traffic, related to the dedicated webpages of the associated beneficiary (hosting the official website of the project), of the coordinating beneficiary (hosting an information website of the project) and the ones of the affiliates (maintaining information websites and news of the project). Also the Facebook traffic of the coordinating and the associated beneficiaries of related news was being monitored. A vast amount of communication activities was carried out throughout the project period. An international (in English) and national languages project websites were developed and frequently accessed by stakeholders. The English language project site was accessed 10681 times until the end of the project, mostly from the UK (55%), followed by Belgium (8.5%) and France (4%). The national language sites were altogether accessed 7224 times, among which the French and Spanish websites reached 2392 and 2371 visitors respectively, while the Hungarian, Polish and Estonian sites were visited by 1664, 586 and 211 people, respectively. All national project websites were visited frequently from the UK, especially the Polish one, where 72% of the visitors were from the UK. According to the project coordinator, frequent visits to national sites from the UK can be attributed to the fact that the ClientEarth office with the project lead is situated in the UK.
- iv) In order to facilitate the standard monitoring of impacts, the project team prepared a pre-training questionnaire that was distributed to the training participants at the beginning of each training session with a warning to be returned at the end of the training session. These provided a baseline information on the situation within the target audience against which improvement could be evaluated at the end of the project implementation period. This part of our analysis is based on the assessment of filled in training evaluation forms. Project partners provided a summary of the filled in evaluation forms about the training sessions they organized. The evaluation table of the provided summaries can be found in Annex 4. Altogether 375 out of the 1257 attendees returned their evaluation to the event organizers resulting in an approximate 30% returning rate. According to the evaluations, people were very satisfied with the organized events, especially the issues covered and the presentations held. The usefulness of distributed materials was usually rated the lowest. Almost all attendees (98% of them) would like to participate in these kinds of capacity building seminars

organized by the project partners in the future. Evaluation also touched upon the level of participants' awareness of the importance of ensuring access to justice in environmental matters before as well as after the training. Similar comparison questions revealed the level of participants' awareness of problems regarding access to justice in environmental matters before and after the event. We synthesized the collected answers in order to reveal whether the training significantly changed attendees' awareness on these issues. Comparing training impacts on attendee's awareness can be measured through statistical methods using the so-called paired sample-t test, where a group of people are treated and the impact of the treatment can be assessed. In our case the treatment is providing information on access to justice related issues. Our t-test results showed whether there are significant changes in participants' 1. *awareness on the importance of ensuring proper access to justice in environmental matters* and 2. *awareness of problems regarding access to justice in environmental matters* before and after the capacity building events. Participants needed to rate the level of their awareness on the scale between 1 (lowest level) to 10 (highest level) on these two issues. According to the filled in evaluation forms and their statistical analysis, the level of participants' awareness on the importance of ensuring proper access to justice in environmental matters before and after the events are statistically significantly different. Regarding the other question on the level of awareness of problems regarding access to justice in environmental matters, our results show that participants' awareness on this topic even more significantly changed during the training sessions. Based on the t-test results<sup>13</sup>, we can say that the training had significant impacts<sup>14</sup> on the change of attendees' awareness.

- v) Follow-up actions to the seminars, training sessions and events. We published the presentations on the relevant national affiliates' websites after the training sessions.
- vi) Assess whether some follow-up actions can be envisaged with the relevant stakeholders.

Results of action feeding into other actions: The findings of this action were feeding into the implementation of the Action C2.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There were no problems in monitoring the number of members of the target audience reached. While there was a longer time than planned until the pre-training questionnaire could be completed, it had no impact whatsoever on the monitoring of the project impacts given that by the time of the first training (Budapest, November 2018) it was already ready for use. The content of the questionnaire i.e. the actual answers of the target audience had a major impact on Action C2: Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on the local economy and population, and ultimately, on the overall success and impact of the entire project. It is analysed in the findings of the consultant regarding Action C1 are to be found in the document called Socio-economic impact assessment of the LIFE-A2J-EARL project - Education and Awareness Raising of Legal Professionals on Access to Justice attached to this report.

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<sup>13</sup> t values in both cases are much higher than the values in the student t distribution table in case of 7 and 6 degrees of freedom respectively

<sup>14</sup> maximum at 0.01 significance level

Comparison with time schedule: While the start date of the sub-action was supposed to be 01/07/2017, in fact it was only 01/01/2018. Its foreseen end date was 30/06/2020 but was moved to 31/12/2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Timetable on continuing action: The action was continuously implemented until the end of the project, but there were certain internal stages when different activities were completed, such as

- after each training session, the respective questionnaires were collected from the participants
- after the online publishing of the handbook, its download rate was monitored and registered
- after the launch of the online digital platform, its use rate was monitored and registered
- although the public interest lawyer database is now online, its release date close to the end of 2018 did not make it possible to monitor its use meaningfully, however, from 01/01/2019 its use rate was monitored
- the number of viewers of the webinars was also registered

Complementary actions outside LIFE: There were no complementary actions to this action.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The action will be continued in order to uncover the impacts of the project 3 and 5 years after the end of the project.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
The number of members of target audience reached or having access is measured	C1	31/12/2018	Completed	31/12/2018	List of participants of the national stakeholder workshops	C1_EAR L_1 (see: A1_EAR L_4)
The number of members of target audience having received a training in the first round is measured	C1	30/06/2019	Completed	30/06/2019	Pre-training questionnaire  List of participants of the national training session	C1_EAR L_2  C1_EAR L_3 (see: B3_EAR L_1)
The number of members of target audience having access the webinar in the first round is measured	C1	30/11/2019	Completed	30/11/2019	Data on the access to the first round of webinars	C1_EAR L_4
The number and features of members of target audience having used the digital platform is measured and recorded	C1	31/12/2019	Completed	31/12/2019	Number and features of members of target audience having used the digital platform	C1_EAR L_4
The number of members of target audience having	C1	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Data on the access to the subsequent	C1_EAR L_4



received a training or accessed the webinar in the subsequent rounds is measured					rounds of webinars and training sessions	
The change of attitudes in the target audience is monitored, surveyed, collected and evaluated	C1	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Report on outreach and impact of the project in terms of changes in awareness and changes in practices related to environmental justice	C1_EAR L_4

**Action C2: Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on the local economy and population, and ultimately, on the overall success and impact of the entire project**

Status of the action: Completed  
 Foreseen start date: 01/04/2020  
 Actual start date: 01/04/2020  
 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
 Actual end date: 31/03/2021

Progress achieved under the action: This action was completed after the end of the project implementation period. It is included in the findings of the consultant regarding Action C1 are to be found in the document called Socio-economic impact assessment of the LIFE-A2J-EARL project - Education and Awareness Raising of Legal Professionals on Access to Justice attached to this report.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There were no problems or delays having an impact on other actions.

Comparison with time schedule: The action was completed in due time.

Timetable on continuing action: There will be no continuation of this specific action but it will feed into the post project analysis and the follow-up monitoring / after LIFE evaluation of the project, as well as will influence the implementation of the Sustainability Plan of the project.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: There were no complementary actions to this action.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The action will be continued in order to uncover the impacts of the project 3 and 5 years after the end of the project.

**Milestone table with deliverables**

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Completion of the assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on the local economy and population	C2	30/06/2020	Completed	31/03/2021	Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project actions on the local economy and population  Layman report of the socio-economic impact assessment of the project	C2_EA RL_1 (see: C1_EA RL_4)  C2_EA RL_2 (see: C1_EA RL_4)

					Data collection template	C2_EA RL_2 (see: C1_EA RL_4)
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## Action D1: Information and awareness raising activities regarding the project to the general public and stakeholders

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
Actual start date: 01/09/2017  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/12/2020

### Sub-Action D1.1: Dissemination of project information to the general public and stakeholders

#### *LIFE EARL A2J webpage<sup>15</sup>*

Progress achieved under the action: The project website was created in October 2017. In January 2018, the project website was revamped to better highlight all of its components. Also, in 2019 we decided to better highlight our resources (guide, toolkit, database, digital platform, webinar recordings...) by creating a specific “resources” tab on the website. The idea was to have a better balance between “static content” about the project (main objectives, actions, results, beneficiaries and explanation of what access to justice in environmental matters is) and “evolving content” (articles, newsletters) to generate traffic on the website. Also, to help spread information about the project in the countries where ClientEarth was organising trainings (France, Poland, Belgium), we built a French version of the website<sup>16</sup> as well as a Polish version<sup>17</sup>. Each affiliate of J&E had also their own website, which we refer to with a link in the main project website. During the project, 163 articles have been uploaded on the website, including analyses, workshop reports, news releases and newsletters. This had generated a total of 10,681 page views with a good “bouncing rate” of only 46% (this means just 46% of people who visited the project page left before reading a story or clicking some other link). It is a good result because it means that about 55% of the people when landing on this page click on the newsletters and updates and explore more.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: We have experienced delays in having the project website ready on time because we were working with external consultants who had other projects to finish before working on our site. Due to the website configuration, hosted on the ClientEarth server, it was also not possible for us to show how many people were visiting the site. We have to look for this specific information by analysing data provided by the ClientEarth digital team. The fact that the content of our website is in English can limit people from other countries who may not be fluent in that language to understand the information we provide, like articles. Some content about the workshops is also available in other languages on the beneficiaries’ websites but analyses and opinions remain in English. We try to translate some content in French for the French version of the website but lack capacity and resources to translate all the articles. Still, the French website was visited 2,392 times during the project, and the Polish website 586 times.

Impact on other actions: The website design was used as an inspiration for creating the banners. Banners include the map of the countries involved in the project, adopting the same graphic

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.clientearth.org/access-justice-greener-europe/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/acces-a-la-justice-pour-une-europe-plus-verte/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.pl.clientearth.org/prawo-na-rzecz-bardziej-zielonej-europy/>

identity to create a real branding for the project. However, ClientEarth changed the communication branding in the summer of 2020, and therefore the graphic identity of the banners do not match the project website anymore.

Comparison with time schedule: The project component was started later than planned but was completed in due time, by 10/10/2017.

Timetable on continuing action: The action is completed.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: There were no complementary actions to this action.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: The project website will be maintained with all the relevant resources on the main website of the associated beneficiary after the end of the project for an agreed duration of time.

### ***Twitter account***

Progress achieved under the action: As part of the dissemination strategy, a project Twitter account has been launched in January 2018 on the basis of an account formerly used to tweet about Aarhus Convention related topics. The former Twitter account was renamed “Access to Justice for a Greener Europe” and is mostly being used to tweet articles from the project website, advertise our events, as well as the newsletters. From 30 followers before it was renamed, the @A2JusticeCE Twitter page is now followed by 300 people. 200 tweets were posted for the whole length of the project for an average tweet impression of 1500. To increase dissemination, articles about access to justice are also tweeted on ClientEarth main account (33.7k followers) and ClientEarth French account after translation (539 followers).

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: It is sometimes difficult to engage people with legal analysis or seminars on access to justice. To cope with these difficulties, we try to make tweets more interesting by quoting people intervening in the seminars or highlighting the main results of a training. The coordinating beneficiary J&E regularly re-tweeted the posts of the associated beneficiary CE. The fact that affiliates do not always have a Twitter account is also an issue as it prevents posts from being disseminated further. As articles are prepared to be sent with the newsletter, they are often uploaded at the same time and tweeted within a couple of days.

Impact on other actions: The Twitter account is also a good tool to connect with people involved in access to justice, which is useful to later know and invite people to our seminars.

Comparison with time schedule: The action was not foreseen in the original proposal, therefore its completion was an extra.

Timetable on continuing action: The Twitter account is being regularly updated with posts linked with articles on the site, retweets from external accounts or from beneficiaries’ accounts.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: This account also enables us to share information on cases linked with access to justice outside the scope of the LIFE project.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: We will keep this account alive and keep on sharing information about access to justice on a regular basis. This will be used by ClientEarth environmental democracy team to keep on sharing analysis and information after the project ends.

## Sub-Action D1.2: Networking with other projects

Progress achieved under the action: There were a number of occasions when the project beneficiaries participated in other projects or at events and have spread information on the EARL project. These were, amongst others, the following:

- i) EEB Law Group Meeting, Brussels, 17-19/10/2017: Csaba Kiss presented the project to the participants of the meeting
- ii) Access to Justice Task Force Meeting of the Aarhus Convention, Geneva, 26-28/02/2018: Csaba Kiss presented the project to the participants of the meeting
- iii) Aarhus Convention 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event, Rome, 14-16/05/2018: Csaba Kiss mentioned the project to the participants of the meeting
- iv) EEB Law Group Meeting, Brussels, 22-23/10/2018: Csaba Kiss presented the project to the participants of the meeting
- v) Environmental Governance Assessments Stakeholder Meeting organized by DG Environment, Brussels, 29-30/11/2018: Csaba Kiss presented the project to the participants of the meeting
- vi) Meeting with the DG ENV on Access to Justice: Compliance and Governance, Brussels, 30/11/ 2018: both Anais Berthier and Csaba Kiss mentioned the project to the participants of the meeting
- vii) Training organised by ERA and the EJTN for judges and prosecutors, Trier, 9-10/07/2018: Anaïs Berthier gave a presentation on the Communication of the European Commission on access to justice in environmental matters
- viii) Conference organized by the Marseille University, Aix-en-Provence, 21/09/2018: Anaïs Berthier gave a presentation on access to justice at EU level. This conference allowed us to get acquainted with the Head of the Master in European Environmental law and Coordinatrice du Centre d'Excellence Jean Monnet as well as other EU environmental law professors. They expressed their interest in collaborating with us to organise a training/seminar in Aix.
- ix) 20/03/2019, in Paris - Anais Berthier participated at a Colloque organised by the Bar association of Paris (Maison du Barreau), about « Le contentieux à la Cour de Justice de l'UE - approches pratiques du contentieux européen ».
- x) 04/04/2019 and 05/04/2019, in Trier - Annual Conference on European Environmental law, organised by ERA. Malgorzata Kwiedacz-Palosz attended the meeting, representing ClientEarth and the EARL project.
- xi) 12/04/2019, in London - Sebastian Bechtel participated at the conference PIEL (Public Interest Environmental Law) – « 12 years to mitigate, legislate, and litigate: How can environmental law adapt in time? »
- xii) 16/05/2019, in Brussels - Seminar organised by the University Saint-Louis Brussels « Le droit, marchandise ou bien commun ? La lutte pour le droit au XXIème siècle ». Anais Berthier participated as speaker in the panel « Le droit remodelé : Les pratiques d'advocacy »
- xiii) 25/06/2019, in London - Sebastian Bechtel participated at the Conference organised by The Centre of European Law, King's College London: "The Aarhus Convention Coming of Age?"
- xiv) 26/06/2019, in Paris - Colloque Bilan et perspectives de l'Autorité Environnementale – Anais Berthier was speaker in the panel « Informer et associer le citoyen aux décisions à portée environnementale ».

- xv) 14/06/2019, in Brussels - Conference Call for Europe organised by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies – Anne Friel participated as a speaker in the session « United for Climate Justice »
- xvi) 21/09/2019, in Paris - Colloque organised at the French Cour de Cassation - « Le procès environnemental: du procès sur l'environnement au procès pour l'environnement ». Anais Berthier participated as speaker in the panel « Débat avec les parties prenantes ».
- xvii) 21&22/11/2019, in Brussels - ERA training “The Right to Information in the European Union: Current trends and developments” - Anne Friel was invited as trainer.
- xviii) 27/11/2019, in Brussels – University of St. Louis event – Anne Friel was invited to do a presentation on “access to EU court in environmental matters”.
- xix) 02/12/2019, in Berlin - Sebastian Bechtel participated at the Conference on the implementation of the access to justice provisions of the Aarhus Convention both on EU level and in Germany.
- xx) 29/01/2020, in Prague - Seminar on access to justice in environmental matters, organised by the CEELI institute during its course on Fundamental Rights in EU law, attended by human rights lawyers from Central and Eastern Europe. Anne Friel was invited as trainer to give a presentation on access to justice
- xxi) 11/05/2020, online - Webinar organised by UfU. Sebastian Bechtel gave a presentation on access to justice.
- xxii) 30/06/2020, online - Webinar organised by UfU. Sebastian Bechtel gave a presentation on access to justice.
- xxiii) 09/10/2020, in Paris - Event “Justice pour l’environnement: une semaine de débat pour préparer une ère nouvelle”, organised by le Collège des Bernardins and the French Ministry of Justice. Anais Berthier was invited as speaker.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: We sometimes lack capacity or funding to attend conferences, especially if they are organised abroad. Also, the outbreak of the Covid pandemic hindered in-person participation dramatically at meetings and conference, however, indeed it increased the participation rate at online events.

Impact on other actions: Participation at events really helps improving knowledge about the project and increase interest in the trainings. Also, it is thanks to our trainings that we were invited to participate in so many events. The two actions were complementing each other.

Comparison with time schedule: The action followed the originally planned time schedule.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: These networking actions were not indicated in the budget of the project as independent budget lines, therefore participation as such events or meetings was in fact an extra to the LIFE project. Any such event or meeting participation is therefore regarded as a complementary action outside LIFE. The most successful networking took place with the project of EEB called Implement for Life. For instance, the EARL project provided materials for the discussions and the publications of the EEB’s project, e.g. see here: <https://eeb.org/sustainability-and-governance/implement-for-life/>.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: Indeed project partners will participate at such events and meetings also after the end of the EARL project, therefore continuation of this action is going to be evident.

## Sub-Action D1.3: Press releases and public relations

Progress achieved under the action: We have sent 22 press releases in English about the project's updates, upcoming events organised by each affiliate or major news on access to justice. We mostly got some press coverage about the project when we launched the guide on Access to Justice at EU level. Press releases were sent by ClientEarth to a database of contacts, linked on the newsletter and forwarded to J&E affiliates to be translated and sent to their media contacts and on their websites. ClientEarth had translated 6 access to justice articles in French and posted them on ClientEarth French website (<https://www.fr.clientearth.org/acces-a-la-justice-pour-une-europe-plus-verte/>). Press releases were also disseminated via the ClientEarth Access to Justice Twitter account and ClientEarth main Twitter account to improve dissemination.

Press releases about project updates (7 posts):

1. <https://www.clientearth.org/new-project-will-help-europeans-go-to-court-to-protect-the-environment/>
2. <https://www.clientearth.org/commission-publishes-citizens-guide-to-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters/>
3. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/clientearth-launches-european-legal-guide-to-protecting-the-environment/>
4. <https://www.clientearth.org/access-to-justice-lawyer-database/>
5. <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/interactive-platform-on-access-to-justice/>
6. <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/country-toolkits-on-access-to-justice/>
7. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/clientearth-launches-legal-guide-to-help-the-public-protect-the-environment/>

Press releases about upcoming events and webinars (14 posts):

<https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/#events>

Press releases on access to justice in general:

8. <https://www.clientearth.org/eu-delays-compliance-with-international-environment-treaty/>
9. <https://www.clientearth.org/clientearth-applauds-rebellion-against-european-councils-shocking-lack-of-access-to-justice-ambition/>
10. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/lawyers-report-bulgaria-and-poland-to-eu-commission-for-blocking-access-to-justice-to-ensure-clean-air/>

Press releases in French (12):

11. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/clientearth-partenaire-du-colloque-50-ans-de-contentieux-lapport-du-mouvement-associatif/>
12. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/lue-repousse-a-plus-tard-sa-mise-en-conformite-avec-un-traite-environnemental-international/>
13. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/acces-a-la-justice-clientearth-applaudit-la-rebellion-des-etats-contre-le-manque-dambition-du-conseil/>
14. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/clientearth-reunit-experts-france-acces-a-la-justice/>



15. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/seminaire-acces-la-justice-en-matiere-environnementale-en-france-etat-des-lieux-pistes-damelioration-paris-3-avril-2018/>
16. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/un-nouveau-projet-va-aider-les-europeens-aller-devant-les-tribunaux-pour-protoger-lenvironnement/>
17. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/justice-et-environnement-en-france-quelles-avancees-possibles/>
18. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/acces-a-la-justice-contexte-de-la-qualite-de-lair-en-belgique/https://www.fr.clientearth.org/aarhus-et-acces-a-la-justice-quelle-actualite-vu-de-belgique/>
19. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/protoger-lenvironnement-devant-les-tribunaux-clientearth-publie-ses-fiches-pratiques-pour-la-france/>
20. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/seminaire-acces-a-la-justice-dans-la-lutte-contre-lexploitation-illegale-du-bois-et-respect-du-devoir-de-vigilance-paris/>
21. <https://www.fr.clientearth.org/seminaire-acces-a-la-justice-dans-le-contexte-de-la-qualite-de-lair-paris-31-janvier-2020/>

Members of the project participated in international events as mentioned in D1.2. These are all reported internally and sometimes externally as a topic for an article to be published on the website in our news section. Reports with pictures and main lessons learnt from workshops or trainings happening in different countries were published on the main project website in English and disseminated via the newsletter and social media. Reports were also available in national language on affiliates' websites to reach national stakeholders. We have written 26 articles about events and trainings beneficiaries of the project participated in (below). We have also introduced the project to some specialised journalists in Brussels and in France. One of them attended at least one training we organised there.

1. <https://www.clientearth.org/a-project-to-assess-environmental-governance-in-european-countries/>
2. <https://www.clientearth.org/20-years-since-the-adoption-of-the-aarhus-convention/>
3. <https://www.clientearth.org/successful-kick-off-meeting-earl-project-hungary/>
4. <https://www.clientearth.org/slovakia-debates-about-local-issues-on-access-to-justice/>
5. <https://www.clientearth.org/aarhus20-and-the-first-hungarian-training-in-the-earl-project/>
6. <https://www.clientearth.org/means-to-improve-access-to-justice-in-environmental-cases-discussed-during-workshop-in-poland/>
7. <https://www.clientearth.org/clientearth-gathers-legal-experts-in-france-to-identify-priorities-on-access-to-justice/>
8. <https://www.clientearth.org/germany-discusses-access-to-justice-in-first-project-workshop-led-by-ufu-e-v/>
9. <https://www.clientearth.org/polands-breach-of-nature-laws-shows-importance-of-access-to-justice-for-environment/>
10. <https://www.clientearth.org/clientearth-organises-a-seminar-on-access-to-justice-for-the-polish-ombudsmans-lawyers/>
11. <https://www.clientearth.org/spain-discusses-issues-on-access-to-justice-during-first-national-workshop/>
12. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/justice-environment-organizes-5th-earl-training-in-hungary/>
13. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/poland-organises-5th-training-on-access-to-justice/>

14. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/spain-organizes-2nd-training-on-access-to-justice/>
15. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/last-training-on-access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe-at-the-warsaw-bar-association-in-poland/>
16. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/access-to-justice-seminars-in-germany-spain-and-belgium-june-2019/>
17. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/polish-seminars-on-access-to-justice-and-the-role-of-ngos-and-the-preliminary-ruling-procedure-in-the-field-of-environmental-protection/>
18. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/via-iuris-organises-seminars-for-judges-on-access-to-justice-in-environmental-matters/>
19. <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/access-to-justice-for-a-greener-europe/updates/okoburo-held-first-access-to-justice-training-in-vienna/>

We also had for the first time some first-tier media coverage of our project:

After the publication of our Handbook, the Times published an article entitled “warning over costly poor environmental laws” on 1 March 2019. Later, Anaïs Berthier was interviewed on the situation of access to justice in Europe in ENDS Europe on 13 November 2019. The Handbook was also featured in some French media focusing on environmental issues such as Actu Environnement (the editor of this media was very interested in access to justice and followed one of the workshops we organised in France) and Reporterre: <https://www.actu-environnement.com/ae/news/guide-justice-environnementale-Europe-33056.php4>

We also regularly advertised our workshops in their ‘agenda’ section, like in the link below: <https://www.actu-environnement.com/agenda/manif/acces-justice-contexte-qualite-lair-belgique-24314.php4>

Another environmental media – Reporterre – advertised a workshop we were organising in France: <https://reporterre.net/L-acces-a-la-justice-dans-le-contexte-de-la-qualite-de-l-air-seminaire-Paris-31-janvier>

Thanks to the project, we developed a network of journalists interested in access to justice issues at EU level and in France. They are working for media like Politico, Ends Europe, EurActiv, Actu Environnement or Reporterre. ClientEarth is often quoted in EU media about this issue.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: It is sometimes difficult to make journalists write on a project involving trainings for professionals. But the project helped us getting the attention of some journalists who would later ask us for more information on access to justice issues.

Comparison with time schedule: The action was following the originally planned time schedule.

Timetable on continuing action: Press releases have been issued within the project period according to the schedule and in case needed / in case seen fit by the project management team. There will be no regular continuation of this activity, however, we are positive that we will post news about major developments of access to justice in the European Union, using also the channels we built in this project.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: When talking to a journalist about another issue linked with another area of work, we always mention the LIFE project to increase awareness about it.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: We will keep on mentioning the results of the project to journalists after it is over to illustrate the necessity to train legal professionals on that issue.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Participation at the Aarhus Convention MOP in 2017	D1	31/07/2017	Completed	20/09/2017	Side event at the Aarhus Convention MOP	D1_EARL_1
Dissemination of information about the project begins	D1	31/10/2017	Completed	31/10/2017	A newly-created or existing project website (with the LIFE logo) / LIFE EARL A2J webpage	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/access-justice-greener-europe/">https://www.clientearth.org/access-justice-greener-europe/</a>
Launch of the project website	D1	31/10/2017	Completed	31/10/2017	A newly-created or existing project website (with the LIFE logo) / LIFE EARL A2J webpage  Twitter account	<a href="https://www.clientearth.org/access-justice-greener-europe/">https://www.clientearth.org/access-justice-greener-europe/</a>  <a href="https://www.fr.clientearth.org/accses-a-la-justice-pour-une-europe-plus-verte/">https://www.fr.clientearth.org/accses-a-la-justice-pour-une-europe-plus-verte/</a>  @A2JusticeCE
Releasing of press releases starts, informing on the progress of the project	D1	30/11/2017	Completed	31/01/2018	Press releases on the progress of the project published bimonthly / Press releases	links indicated above and below (under D2)
Network building and information sharing with other project begins	D1	31/12/2017	Completed	31/12/2017	Emails sent to projects LIFE15 GIE/DE/000795	

					LIFE Legal Actions – Legal Actions on Clean Air and LIFE15 G1E/PL/0 00758 – LIFE Justice for Nature	
	D1	31/12/20 19	Not complete d		Notice boards displayed	
	D1	30/60/20 20	Comple ted	31/03/20 21	A layman’s report	D1_EARL_2

## Action D2: Dissemination of project information aimed at transferring the results and lessons learnt to those stakeholders that could usefully benefit from the project's experience

Status of the action: Completed  
Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
Actual start date: 01/07/2017  
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: Members of the project were participating in international events as mentioned in D1.2. These were all reported internally and sometimes externally as a topic for an article to be published on the website in our news section. Reports with pictures and main lessons learnt from workshops or trainings happening in different countries were published on the main project website in English and disseminated via the newsletter and social media. Reports were also available in national language on affiliates' websites to reach national stakeholders. We have written 26 articles about events and trainings beneficiaries of the project participated in (below).

1. <https://www.clientearth.org/a-project-to-assess-environmental-governance-in-european-countries/>
2. <https://www.clientearth.org/20-years-since-the-adoption-of-the-aarhus-convention/>
3. <https://www.clientearth.org/successful-kick-off-meeting-earl-project-hungary/>
4. <https://www.clientearth.org/slovakia-debates-about-local-issues-on-access-to-justice/>
5. <https://www.clientearth.org/aarhus20-and-the-first-hungarian-training-in-the-earl-project/>
6. <https://www.clientearth.org/means-to-improve-access-to-justice-in-environmental-cases-discussed-during-workshop-in-poland/>
7. <https://www.clientearth.org/clientearth-gathers-legal-experts-in-france-to-identify-priorities-on-access-to-justice/>
8. <https://www.clientearth.org/germany-discusses-access-to-justice-in-first-project-workshop-led-by-ufu-e-v/>
9. <https://www.clientearth.org/polands-breach-of-nature-laws-shows-importance-of-access-to-justice-for-environment/>
10. <https://www.clientearth.org/clientearth-organises-a-seminar-on-access-to-justice-for-the-polish-ombudsmans-lawyers/>
11. <https://www.clientearth.org/spain-discusses-issues-on-access-to-justice-during-first-national-workshop/>

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: It was sometimes difficult to make journalists write on a project involving trainings for professionals. We were focusing on improving the database of professional legal media but that has been delayed.

Comparison with time schedule: The action was following the originally planned time schedule.

Timetable on continuing action: There were additional press releases issued within the project period according to the schedule and in case needed / in case seen fit by the project management team.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: When talking to a journalist about another issue linked with another area of work, we always mentioned the LIFE project to increase awareness about it.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: We will keep on mentioning the results of the project to journalists after it is over to illustrate the necessity to train legal professionals on that issue.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Issuing of the press releases detailing the original aims, achievements and lessons learned during the project	D2	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Press releases detailing the original aims, achievements and lessons learned during the project / Press releases	links indicated above
Preparation of reports and notes on international events participated by project team members	D2	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Reports and notes on international events participated by project team members / Reports and notes	D2_EAR L_1
Preparation of reports and notes on meetings with stakeholders on the achievements of the project	D2	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Reports and notes on meetings with stakeholders on the achievements of the project / Reports and notes	D2_EAR L_2 (see: C1_EARL_4)
	D2	31/01/2018	Completed	31/12/2019	Updated Replicability Plan	D2_EAR L_3
	D2	31/07/2017	Completed	31/12/2019	Project Sustainability Plan	D2_EAR L_4

## Action E1: Project management and coordination

Status of the action: Completed  
 Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
 Actual start date: 01/07/2017  
 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
 Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: Details of this action were presented above, under the 4. Administrative part.

- i) Project coordination skype meetings were held on a regular basis.
- ii) As regards internal reporting and coordination, the following changes were instituted in practice compared with the funding proposal
  - a. instead of bimonthly internal reports, monthly brief progress reports were prepared by the project team and were sent to the project monitor, and
  - b. instead of bimonthly internal reports, quarterly financial reports were prepared by each beneficiary and affiliate

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There were no problems or delays having an impact on other actions.

Comparison with time schedule: The action was completed in due time.

Timetable on continuing action: There will be no continuation of this action.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: There were no complementary actions to this action.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: There will be no continuation of this action.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Preparation of the project reports	E1	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Project reports (delivered and approved by the contracting authority)	E1_EARL_1
					brief monthly progress reports	E1_EARL_2
Preparation of the regular internal reports and notes of project coordination meetings	E1	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Regular internal reports and notes of project coordination meetings  project coordination skype meeting minutes/notes (for internal use only)	
Preparation of the After-LIFE Plan	E1	30/06/2020	Completed	31/03/2021	After-LIFE Plan	E1_EARL_3
Preparation of the audit report	E2	30/09/2020	No need to		Audit report	

			complet e			
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## Action E2: Project management on the national level

Status of the action: Completed  
 Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017  
 Actual start date: 01/07/2017  
 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020  
 Actual end date: 31/12/2020

Progress achieved under the action: Details of this action were presented above, under the 4. Administrative part.

Problems, delays, impact on other actions: There were no problems or delays having an impact on other actions.

Comparison with time schedule: The action was completed in due time.

Timetable on continuing action: There will be no continuation of this action.

Complementary actions outside LIFE: There were no complementary actions to this action.

Continuing the action after the end of the project: There will be no continuation of this action.

### Milestone table with deliverables

Name of Milestone	Number of Associated action	Deadline	Status	Date	Name of Deliverable	Name of Annex
Issuing and compilation of the series of circular letters with guidance on implementation matters	E2	30/06/2020	Completed	31/12/2020	Series of circular letters with guidance on implementation matters  i) Report on the kick-off day of the LIFE project organized by EASME and NEEMO and held in Brussels on 18-19/10/2017  ii) Internal financial manual and model timesheet  iii) A summary of the work to be carried out by affiliates  iv) Protocol for National Workshops  v) Protocol for National Trainings	E2_EARL_1

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi) Sample Training Agenda</li> <li>vii) Stakeholder analysis toolkit and instructions</li> <li>viii) Stakeholder Register template</li> <li>ix) Stakeholder Matrix template</li> <li>x) Personal meeting memo template</li> <li>xi) Event report</li> <li>xii) Memorandum of Understanding</li> <li>xiii) Contingency Plan</li> <li>xiv) GDPR data management rules</li> </ul>	
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## 6.2. Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented

### Overall difficulties

There were two, so-called overall difficulties that created challenges for the project implementation. All two were external to the project management and expert staff.

The first one was indeed the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the actions planned in the project (training sessions, discussions with stakeholders, participation at events and forums, and most importantly, the closing conference) were planned to be built on personal presence. All these had to be cancelled and transformed into an online encounter, thereby requiring more time, more energy and a different mindset for their organization.

The second one was the change of attitude of the respective Member State judiciary in some countries. The approach of the members of the judiciary, including Judicial Academies, was relatively supportive at the time of the start of the project. However, we experienced that there was a shift in this approach, a gradual but traceable policy change that moved from this open attitude to a more closed, more opposing mindset. This has not happened due to our project, however, it had an impact on our project as well. Most remarkably it was visible in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

### Organisational difficulties

The time allocated per activity in the project description did not always meet the actual time need of the respective activity. Some activities turned out to require much longer time than expected (Action B2.1 - Handbook) but in the meantime, we also accomplished other activities using a smaller amount of time. Therefore, we were facing some slight differences regarding the way we allocated our time to the activities but in the end it counterbalanced.

The project required to hire new staff at ClientEarth (1 project coordinator, 1 communications officer, 1 lawyer in Poland). This process was time consuming. In addition, the project started in July 2017 which was not the best time to launch a hiring process. The first project coordinator (Kristina Gasparovicova) was hired 5 months after the start of the project; the communications officer (Diane Vandemet) was hired 4 months after the start of the project; and the outreach lawyer in Poland (Kamila Drzewicka) was hired 7 months after the start of the project. The project coordinator left the organisation in August 2018 (31/08/2018) and was replaced in September 2018 (05/09/2018) by a new project coordinator (Capucine Pineau). The latter left the organisation in March 2021. The lawyer in Poland changed team in September 2018 and had to be replaced. The new lawyer (Malgorzata Kwiedacz-Palosz) started in January 2019. At the affiliates of the Coordinating Beneficiary, there were also changes in the staff (e.g. reorganization of responsibilities at UFU (Germany), departure of the Executive Director from EELC (Estonia), departure and return of staff member at Ökobüro (Austria). However, these did not significantly influence the implementation of the project at these affiliates, but the recruitment difficulties were partly explaining the delay with some deliverables.

While there was a project kick-off meeting in July 2017 held via skype between the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiary, the actual project activities only started on 1 October 2017. This 3-month delay was attributed to the following reasons:

July 2017: holiday month for many project partners and the availability of experts is usually low

August 2017: holiday month for most of the project partners and the availability of experts is usually low

September 2017: the Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention was held in the middle of September 2017 in Montenegro, which required intensive preparation for the event before and also follow-up activities after the event, therefore the human capacities at the beneficiaries and the affiliates were used for this activity

The delay thus accumulated is gradually eliminated in the respective project activities, as shown on the timeline of the project. At some actions, this delay was either non-existent or successfully eliminated.

The project was supposed to end on 30 June 2020, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as mentioned in the foregoing, this timeline was not possible to keep within the altered circumstances. This also necessitated the amendment of the grant contract to include the extended deadline of 31 December 2020.

#### Financial difficulties

The associated beneficiary ClientEarth figured out during the project’s implementation that some costs were not budgeted (for instance, the Action D1 had no budget planned to cover the travel costs nor the external assistance needed to develop the project website). However, as there were also underspent budget items for other activities, their budgets balanced at the end.

#### Structural difficulties:

ClientEarth had to submit an amendment to the Grant Agreement, in order to add two affiliates, subsidiaries of CE UK (“CE Belgium” and “CE Poland”). In fact, the work allocated to ClientEarth in the proposed workplan was always intended to take place in all three offices. But because ClientEarth sees itself as a single cross-border organisation, only CE UK was registered as a partner to the project, on behalf of the other offices. (For a more detailed explanation, please refer to our letter sent with the amendment request.) This modification of the partnership structure of the beneficiary ClientEarth had no effect on the workflows or expected outcomes of the project, neither on the overall budget.

### 6.3.Evaluation of Project Implementation

Please evaluate the following aspects of the project:

Action	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
Action A1	<p>Objectives: Have an overview of the target audience and stakeholders and their needs and expectations.</p> <p>Expected results: Have contacts to rely on for other activities and to</p>	Yes	Successful: We used our contacts to draft the legal analysis (B1), to review our toolkits (B2.2) and to organise our training sessions, also we relied on the inputs during the stakeholder workshops in order to frame the content of our training sessions to meet the expectations and

	have input on what to focus on during project implementation.		needs of the target audience.
Action A2	<p>Objectives: Have an efficient communication strategy.</p> <p>Expected results: Disseminate project outputs efficiently.</p>	Yes	<p>Successful: The English language project site was accessed 10681 times. The national language sites were altogether accessed 7224 times. 764 people subscribed to receiving the newsletter, and 185 opened the newsletters on average, which means a 24% opening rate (approaching industrial opening rate of 25.35%). 393 (social) media outputs (including Facebook posts, tweets, PRs, website articles, Facebook streams, news on partners sites, etc.) were issued, reaching approximately 168000 people.</p>
Action B1	<p>Objectives: Have a comprehensive analysis of the national legal frameworks on access to Justice in Environmental matters.</p> <p>Expected results: The analysis feeds into the other deliverables including the toolkits and the participatory platform.</p>	Yes	<p>Successful: The analyses were used to draft the other deliverables and formed the basis for the training sessions.</p>
Action B2.1	<p>Objectives: Realise a comprehensive Handbook/Guide on access to justice in environmental matters.</p>	Yes	<p>Successful: The EU Guide on Access to Justice was completed and published, and was accessed by 1859 stakeholders. Its updated version was published in March 2021 therefore there</p>

<p>Action B2.2</p>	<p>Expected results: Raise awareness of legal professionals.</p> <p>Objectives: Realise practical national toolkits on access to justice in environmental matters.</p> <p>Expected results: Raise awareness and facilitate access to justice.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>are no available data yet on its access.</p> <p>Successful: The eight national toolkits were completed and published, and were accessed by 1117 stakeholders during the project period.</p>
<p>Action B2.3</p>	<p>Objectives: Launch a participatory platform.</p> <p>Expected results: Facilitate access to justice.</p>	<p>Partly</p>	<p>Successful: The interactive platforms developed for three Member States (Estonia, Hungary, Poland) were accessed by 263 stakeholders. But no one used the ‘ask a lawyer’ function of the digital platform.</p>
<p>Action B3</p>	<p>Objectives: Organise trainings and webinars.</p> <p>Expected results: Raise awareness and facilitate access to justice.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Successful: 169 people attended the national workshops, 1257 people participated in the 48 training sessions in nine Member States, whilst 664 people took part in the webinars.</p>
<p>Action B4</p>	<p>Objectives: Launch a monthly Newsletter on access to justice in environmental matters.</p> <p>Expected results: Raise awareness.</p> <p>Objectives: Create a database of public interest lawyers specialised in</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Successful: 764 people subscribed to the newsletter of the project, and on average, 24% of them opened them, which is above the industrial opening rate.</p> <p>Successful: A public-interest lawyer database was established with 117 lawyers active in the field of environmental law from 15</p>

	<p>environmental matters.</p> <p>Expected results: Facilitate access to justice.</p>		<p>countries. The database was accessed by 2982 people until the end of the project.</p>
Action C1 & C2	<p>Objectives: Monitor the project impact.</p> <p>Expected results: Get analytics to evaluate the impacts of the project.</p>	Yes	Successful:
Action D1 & D2	<p>Objectives: Communicate and disseminate the project and its results.</p> <p>Expected results: Broaden the impact of the project.</p>	Yes	<p>Successful: The English language project site was accessed 10681 times. The national language sites were altogether accessed 7224 times. 764 people subscribed to receiving the newsletter, and 185 opened the newsletters on average, which means a 24% opening rate (approaching industrial opening rate of 25.35% ). 393 (social) media outputs (including Facebook posts, tweets, PRs, website articles, Facebook streams, news on partners sites, etc.) were issued, reaching approximately 168000 people.</p>
Action E1 & E2	<p>Objectives: Manage and coordinate the project.</p> <p>Expected results: Implement the project's tasks in a timely manner.</p>	Yes	<p>Successful: Although project implementation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, eventually it was properly implemented within the extended project period.</p>

As regards project results, the following observations can be made:

Some of them are immediately visible, such as the number of persons reached by the project actions like training sessions or webinars. Also, similar are the online products and outputs of

the project that can be accessed and the number of access incidents can be counted as results. However, deeper attitude changes and indirectly, changes in the legal practice are results that are foreseen, can be expected but will only become apparent after a certain time period. This can even be months or years in the context of legal cases in environmental matters, or the use of legal knowledge in such cases. The amendment of the project – extension of the project deadline and shifting from personal meetings to online meetings – certainly assisted the attainment of the above results, because the online accessibility of our training sessions made it possible for more people to learn new knowledge than originally planned, based on personal encounter. The dissemination activities were quite effective: A vast amount of communication activities was carried out throughout the project period. An international (in English) and national languages project websites were developed and frequently accessed by stakeholders. The English language project site was accessed 10681 times until the end of the project, mostly from the UK (55%), followed by Belgium (8.5%) and France (4%). The national language sites were altogether accessed 7224 times, among which the French and Spanish websites reached 2392 and 2371 visitors respectively, while the Hungarian, Polish and Estonian sites were visited by 1664, 586 and 211 people, respectively. All national project websites were visited frequently from the UK, especially the Polish one, where 72% of the visitors were from the UK. According to the project coordinator, frequent visits to national sites from the UK can be attributed to the fact that the ClientEarth office with the project lead is situated in the UK. Within the framework of the project, a monthly newsletter was issued informing subscribers about project results and activities as well as about other news related to access to justice. By the end of the project, 764 people subscribed to receiving the newsletter, and 185 opened the newsletters on average, which means a 24% opening rate (approaching industrial opening rate of 25.35%). During the project period, 393 (social) media outputs (including Facebook posts, tweets, PRs, website articles, Facebook streams, news on partners sites, etc.) were issued, reaching approximately 168000 people.

As regards the policy impact, the project had moderate achievements which supported legislation (national and EU, see below). The main barriers were not created by external factors (apart from the fact that achieving policy impact requires a long planning process and a well timed series of actions) but rather that the project did not specifically aim at achieving policy changes. If we compare the achievement of the EU added value of the project with what was foreseen in the funding proposal, we can see the following:

The project directly contributed to the specific objectives outlined in Article 12 (a to d) of the Life Regulation. The long-term aim of this project was to make a significant contribution to better compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental legislation (Art.12(c)). The specific objectives of this project (see form B1) directly related to the specific objectives outlined in Art. 12(a): to promote awareness raising and understanding of access to justice in environmental matters among those key to tackling the relevant issues.

The theory of change for this project was that by raising the awareness and capacity of the legal profession, the project would have a strong indirect effect on other stakeholders e.g. environmental NGOs who, by having a better access to legal remedies, can better ensure the enforcement of EU environmental laws. Increased awareness of the public administrative bodies should also lead to a more inclusive approach towards NGOs and civil society in general with regards to access to justice and encourage them to consult public interest lawyers, NGOs and civil society stakeholders, to take into account their concerns and to engage in a sustainable and fruitful dialogue. Thus the project should also promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement in the long run (Art. 12(d)).



All of the relevant activities were carried out with the objective to facilitate knowledge sharing on best practices in the field from the jurisdiction of each specific country where the project was carried out but also from others and other fields that could be replicated in the environmental field. Implementation of these practices will contribute to the maximisation of the benefits of a correctly implemented environmental legislation and increase the legal certainty across the EU (Art. 12(c)).

The project led to more communication and knowledge sharing between each category of the target audience such as public interest lawyers working in NGOs and the ones working in private law firms (Art. 12(d)). This increased the optimisation of the use of the existing legal power and capacity leading to more strategic cases being brought. The project therefore also contributed to bridging the gap between the different actors of the legal community.

Due to the horizontal, cross-cutting nature of the access to justice in environmental matters, which is the core focus of this project, there were clear synergies with specific objectives of other EU policies. Firstly, effective access to justice is a fundamental human right, also enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Art 47), thus the project directly contributed to ensuring the achievement of this objective. Secondly, given the interconnectedness of environmental issues, this project had synergies with numerous EU policies, including on:

Agriculture, fisheries and food;

Industry sectors, enterprise policies, SME's, Single Market, free movement, competitiveness, competition;

Climate action;

Energy and natural resource issues; and

Justice, home affairs and citizens' rights.

Raising awareness of access to justice rights in the field of environment enabled members of the target audience to implement these rights in cases where the public authorities lack the resources, capacity or willingness to ensure proper implementation of EU environmental law and policies.

Identification and analysis of stakeholders (e.g. Action A1 and Action B2.3) including those based in Member States beyond the scope of the project assisted with scoping out of potential Member States where there may be interest in a similar project, and where replicability of the project / actions could successfully take place. The conference (Action B4) also gave us the opportunity to approach stakeholders from Member States, countries and professional fields beyond the scope of this project and start advising them on how to replicate the project in other jurisdictions, countries or fields.

## 6.4. Analysis of benefits

### 1. Environmental benefits

#### a. Direct / quantitative environmental benefits:

- i. LIFE Environmental Governance & Information: e.g. reductions of the use of pesticides within a group of targeted stakeholders, measured changes of attitude of important stakeholders.

The project was strongly of an awareness raising and knowledge transfer character. For this reason, there has not been direct, quantitative environmental benefits identified in the original project proposal. Most of the quantifiable changes stem from changes of attitudes of important stakeholders which was measured via questionnaires. While it is premature to draw conclusions on the environmental benefits of the project, we can say that if there are any, those will materialize only indirectly, via the attitude change that is achieved by awareness raising. The following will be the benefits of the project as by the 3-year post project analysis of the impacts:

- Change in attitudes: the number of individuals in the target audience who better understand the importance of ensuring proper access to justice will be 81% of the total target audience; the number of individuals in the target audience who consider proper access to justice more important than before will be 72% of the total target audience; the number of individuals in the target audience whose willingness to work for proper access to justice will have increased with 63%
  - Change in practices: the increase in the share of legal cases where the public has had effective access to justice will be 15%
  - Change in implementation practice of access to (environmental) justice: the number of initiatives, complaints, cases brought by members of the public, number of court decisions, environmental conflicts brought to legal recourse will increase with 15%
- b. Qualitative environmental benefits
- i. LIFE Environmental Governance & Information: e.g. the continued effect of the strategy followed on key stakeholders, expected transfer of the methodology implemented to other countries or policy areas, future impact on EU environmental policy and legislation.

As regards the judiciary and the bodies responsible for the management of the judiciary, and the public authorities, the proposed future impact study will therefore consist of collecting decisions, positions and potential rulings from the public authorities and the courts adopted where access to justice processes have been maximised / Aarhus Convention rights properly used which will provide an indication/case studies of the potential impacts of this project. We will analyse them in order to assess their impact with regard to ensuring better implementation of environmental law, and assessing to what extent they may have an effect on the environment where the local population live, on their quality of life and on the local economy (e.g. reduction of public health related costs due to pollution of air, water and soil; reduction of environmental protection costs by safeguarding biodiversity; protection of the right to exercise some economic activities). We will also approach public interest lawyers and survey them on their impressions whether the project has improved their capacities, their workload and whether local clients of such lawyers have shown more trust in their services after the project was completed. Finally, we will carry out surveys in the secondary or indirect target audiences, to be addressed to local eNGOs and members of local population on the social, environmental and economic impacts that the actions carried out may have. We will seek to know whether they feel empowered with regard to participating in the decision-making process in environmental matters and use legal remedies if needed; whether reaching to public interest lawyers would become an option for those for which it was not the case before; whether they feel that protection of their environment will be better guaranteed thanks to our actions. We hope to achieve a lasting impact on the key stakeholders and to influence their mindset and inner decision-making structure towards granting more access to justice by transferring knowledge and attitude within the project activities. While the project is primarily a success, the transfer of the methodology implemented to other countries or policy areas is expected in the future. Finally, since the awareness raising

and knowledge exchange component of the project was successful, we can expect that it will have an impact on EU environmental policy and legislation as well, which in turn develop into a direction where a broad access is granted to justice in environmental matters.

2. Economic benefits (e.g. cost savings and/or business opportunities with new technology etc., regional development, cost reductions or revenues in other sectors); state the number of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs created, showing a breakdown in qualified/non-qualified staff.

This was a communications and awareness raising project aimed at improving implementation and enforcement of EU law via promoting access to justice. Therefore the direct and tangible impacts of the project actions on the local population and economy are not directly visible within the timescale of the project. For this reason, we have to approach the target audiences of the project to uncover its lasting and societal impacts. There is no FTE job creation foreseen in this project.

3. Social benefits (e.g. positive effects on employment, health, ethnic integration, equality and other socio-economic impact etc.).

We will assess after the end of the project to what extent better access to justice and an increased knowledge of the topic in the target audience as well as an increased number of legal cases started may have an effect on the environment where the local population lives, on their quality of life and on the local economy (e.g. via the reduction of public health related costs due to lower level pollution of air, water and soil; reduction of environmental protection costs by safeguarding biodiversity; protection of the right to exercise some economic activities).

4. Replicability, transferability, cooperation: Potential for technical and commercial application (transferability, economic feasibility - bankability, limiting factors, suitability for additional funding from other streams e.g. structural funds, EIB financial instruments, venture capitals, pension funds, responsible investors) including cost-effectiveness compared to other solutions, benefits for stakeholders, drivers and obstacles for transfer, market conditions, pressure from the public, potential degree of geographical dispersion, specific target group information, high project visibility (eye-catchers), potential for replication in same and other sectors at the local and EU levels, etc. State the project's likelihood of replication (high/low/zero), and if its replication is market-driven or policy-dependant. Specification of potential market/replication vehicles. Possibilities for complementarity with existing market players and/or other solutions/projects (bundling).

Our EARL project has a high potential for replicability and transferability:

Through the different activities, we built new partnerships with various stakeholders (universities, law clinic, NGOs, public interest lawyers) that have shown a great interest in our project and are willing to co-organise events and trainings with us. These could potentially be involved in the replicability/transferability of the project either in the same domain or in another field of environmental law.

The project is replicable in other countries. All our deliverables are tools that we can easily replicate to cover other national legislative frameworks, especially the toolkits, digital platform and the database.

The transferability of the project to new topics is also an option that would be relevant. The deliverables' template we developed can easily be adapted to other areas of environmental law or more specific areas related to access to justice or issues that are specific to certain jurisdictions where raising awareness is a necessity. Thanks to a significant number of events organised in each of the 9 countries we have a broad overview of the way access to justice rights are implemented. That will allow us to set up a strategy if needed to address some of the deficiencies identified in the access to justice field and envisage other relevant actions that should be carried out.

Those replicability and transferability's opportunities are not policy dependent but highly rely on new funding.

5. Best Practice lessons: briefly describe the best practice measures used and if any changes in the strategy employed could lead to possible adjustment of the best practices.

We believe that the best practice presented by the project is the joint application of legal research, legal education and cooperation of activist lawyers. The scientific underpinning of the project is really strong and that is manifested in the preparation of the handbook on access to justice (the Guide). This gives credibility to the project and partners, therefore key stakeholders, including the representatives of the judiciary regarded the project as valuable and interesting. Upon this foundation, activist lawyer messages were conveyed to key audiences during training sessions and the combination of these factors resulted in our understanding in a deeper acceptance and buy-in of critical progressive messages about the importance of broad access to justice in environmental matters in a highly selective target audience.

6. Innovation and demonstration value: Describe the level of innovation, demonstration value added by EU funding at the national and international levels (including technology, processes, methods & tools, nature management methods, models for stakeholder involvement, land stewardship models, organisational & co-operational aspects).

The project buildt largely on traditional tools, such as legal research, publication, training sessions. However, there were four quasi innovative tools applied in the project: the webinars, the toolkits, the first online database of public interest lawyers specialised in environment throughout 8 (and eventually 15) European countries, and the online digital platforms. The first is a relatively new tool to reach an undefined number of audience across borders, therefore its use complemented the personal meetings and training sessions and gave the chance of participation to those who were not able to physically join a meeting. In fact, the same can be said about the online conference and all the online training sessions, that were although necessitated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately resulted in more people being able to attend (and in fact attending) training events than in case of personal presence. The second was not any innovative idea, but combined it with the fourth, where the applied online technology facilitated client/lawyer interaction and helped members of the public get specialized legal advice and assistance in specific (environmental) cases without the need for the clients to meet the lawyers in person, was somewhat novel. Finally, the third tool combined the search function of Find-A-Lawyer websites with the specific area of interest (environmental legal expertise and strong focus on empowering the civil society).

7. Policy implications: Indicate any important achieved targets contributing to the future implementation, design or take-up of regional, national or European legislation. Please highlight any potential unintended impacts, bottlenecks or barriers to the implementation

of your project due to regional, national or European legislation including recommended actions further to actions already taken to overcome these barriers.

In 2019, there was a public consultation of the European Commission about the proposal of the Aarhus Regulation's amendment. Here, the members of the consortium participated by submitting an opinion, which was widely supported by the network created by the project. It was additionally pointed out that ClientEarth was also advocating for more access to justice in the EU Climate Law, in which the project and its extensive network also implied significant support. Due to the project, a cooperation with a French MEP was built, which also aided direct collaboration with the European Green Party. Through this collaboration, the project partner could directly feed into EU policy by drafting amendments and providing legal advice. Direct input to national legislation could also be experienced in France. Here, recommendations were compiled in relation to access to justice in environmental matters by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Environment with the assistance of one project partner on which a specific training was also held. Direct feedback was additionally provided to high level decision makers in the French Ministry of Justice to take a stronger position about upscaling the Aarhus Convention at the EU level. Impact in terms of amending policy implementation may also be expected, which we discussed in the above sections.

## 7. Key Project-level Indicators

Assess the project's progress towards achieving the Key Project-level Indicator (KPI) targets. If this report is the first report prepared during the project implementation, please ensure that you have finalised the inclusion of data into the KPI database webtool <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eproposalWeb/kpi/module>.

In the case of the Mid-term report, justify any anticipated significant deviations from the targets set initially, and comment on targets already met or exceeded.

In the KPI database webtool, we have set the following indicators and we have made the below progress in achieving them in the preceding project implementation period.

Indicator type	Indicator	Progress
Biogeographical regions	Other	N/A
Territorial extents	8 countries	The project was implemented in the 8 countries foreseen in the proposal and additionally, in Belgium.
Communication, dissemination, awareness raising EU NUTS	8 countries	The project was implemented in the 8 countries foreseen in the proposal and additionally, in Belgium.
Interrelationship with other EU policy areas	Fisheries and foods Climate action Environment, consumers and health Justice, home affairs and citizens' rights	The project had a major focus on improving environmental governance through improving access to justice in environmental matters. This has implications on fisheries, foods, climate action, environment, health, justice and citizens' rights. The full potential will be seen only after a certain time following the project actions' (training sessions') completion.
Societal outputs and outcomes	Governance Information and awareness raising to the general public Capacity building	The project was improving environmental governance by improving access to justice in environmental matters. The main project action for achieving this was a series of training sessions to professionals and NGOs on access to justice. The project conveyed information on access to justice in environmental

		<p>matters to the general public in the form of specific information on related news and English as well as national language publications on how to access justice in environmental matters.</p> <p>The project raised the capacities of professionals dealing with environmental access to justice via analyses on national legislation and case law, via a handbook on EU and international level rules and jurisprudence of access to justice, as well as via national language toolkits.</p>
Economic outputs and outcomes	Jobs Contribution to economic growth	28 positions in ten countries: AT, BE, DE, EE, GE, HU, PL, SK, SP, UK
Project area/length	8 countries	The project was implemented in the 8 countries foreseen in the proposal and additionally, in Belgium.
Humans (to be) influenced by the project	8000	6221 who accessed project materials, but the vast communication activities of the project reached approximately 1 million, out of which definitely more than the rest to achieve 8000 were influenced.
Duty holders covered	100	127 NGOs were informed by project materials.
Supervisory/enforcement bodies involved	50	The project reached 385 persons from Inspectorates/Agencies, such as AT=13, EE=77, FR+BE=11, GE=6, HU=165, PL=113.
Involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders in project activities	100	There were 127 NGOs informed by project materials and there were 127 NGOs trained such as AT=15, EE=35, FR+BE=11, GE=19, HU=27, PL=20.

Website (mandatory)	6400	There were 6221 who accessed project materials, however, project related sites were visited almost by 18000 times.
Other tools for reaching/raising awareness of the general public	Publications/reports 10 Print media 100 Other media (video/broadcast) 12 Hotline/information centre 1 Events/exhibitions 60 Displayed information (poster, information boards) 30	There were 60 training occasions, 48 trainings and 12 webinars held. 100 printed copies of the guide were produced and distributed. 8 toolkits, 1 guide and 1 updated version of the guide were prepared and published. 12 webinars were held. The 8 displayed information target was not met due to the COVID-19. 8 roll-up banners stood up during the training sessions. Three interactive platforms (EE, HU, PL), Twitter page of CE and a project website were set up.
Surveys carried out regarding awareness of the environmental/climate problem addressed (only mandatory for information and awareness projects)	4800	1257 training participants were surveyed.
Networking (mandatory)	Professionals 120	The project has already networked with 120 professionals through the project kick-off workshops and the 2 training sessions. 285 participants were at the online closing conference.
Professional training or education	Professionals 1000	There were 2090 participants at workshops, training sessions, webinars.
Jobs	8	28 positions were set up in ten countries: AT, BE, DE, EE, GE, HU, PL, SK, SP, UK.
Running cost/operating costs during the project and expected in case of continuation/replication/transfer after the project period	1131459 EUR	1131459 EUR was the overall budget of the project.



Operating expenses expected in case of continuation/replication/transfer after the project period	500000 EUR	No continuation project is foreseen.
Future funding	500000 EUR	No continuation project is foreseen.
Entry into new geographic areas	Belgium Croatia Czechia	3 training sessions were held in Belgium. No continuation project is foreseen in Croatia. No continuation project is foreseen in Czechia.

## 8. Comments on the financial report

### Special remarks:

1. Affiliate EELC and affiliate IIDMA has concluded the contract amendments with their staff, where the hourly rate for LIFE EARL project was specified. Therefore, in their calculation of hourly rates in the respective individual financial statements total hours of work is equal to hours worked on the LIFE EARL project to have the proper calculation of hourly rate which meets the hourly rate in the amendments.
2. According to Memorandum of understanding concluded between J&E and CE both pre-financing payments to CE were equal to 30% of total budgeted costs. However the second pre-financing payment of EC was higher than 30%, therefore the difference is reported in consolidated financial statement with minus sign on J&E final payment amount and will be paid to CE as the final payment.
3. Because Mr Kiss was staff of J&E as well as of affiliate EMLA, we were not sure in 2018 how he should mark his hours in the timesheets. Therefore he wrote also EMLA hours in J&E timesheet, but the main timesheet for his EMLA hours was EMLA timesheet. J&E timesheet regarding EMLA hours is considered only as a supporting documentation. From 2019 on the J&E hours were marked in J&E timesheet and EMLA hours marked in EMLA timesheet.
4. Due to covid crisis in 2020, we were forced to reorganize the structure of the events plans and this had an impact also on the costs structure, therefore the travel budget was not spent and some of these costs were allocated to other direct costs categories so we were able to provide an online events.
5. Affiliate EELC was in 2020 in state of personnel changes at the posts of the director and legal experts, therefore for two 2020 autumn events was hired a legal expert Kart Vaarmari, who previously worked for EELC and has a very good knowledge of the content as well as she is recognized as an European legal expert in environmental law. However she was not employed but only hired for these two events and her costs were therefore reported under external costs category, which was not foreseen in the budget proposal.
6. When preparing the budget proposal we were not acquainted with the final evaluation of project impacts therefore we didn't calculate the external costs for the evaluator. At the final report these costs were reported in the external costs category.

### 8.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement in €*	Costs incurred within the reporting period in €	% **
1. Personnel	945 061	910 206,90	96,3%

2.	Travel and subsistence	52 283	8 663,66	16,57%
3.	External assistance	25 000	27 916,91	111,66%
4.	Durables goods: total <u>non-depreciated cost</u>	0		
	- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>	0		
	- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	0		
	- <i>Prototype sub-tot.</i>	0		
5.	Consumables	2 390	2 746,4	114,91%
6.	Other costs	40 709	46 792,44	114,94%
7.	Overheads	<b>66 016</b>	<b>64 329,52</b>	97,44%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 131 459</b>	<b>1 060 655,82</b>	93,74%

\*) If the EASME has officially approved a budget modification through an amendment, indicate the breakdown of the revised budget. Otherwise this should be the budget in the original grant agreement.

\*\*\*) Calculate the percentages by budget lines: e.g. the % of the budgeted personnel costs that were actually incurred

As declared in the table, there were no major shifts in the budget categories and the project is in line with approved budget.

## 8.2. Accounting system

Coordinating beneficiary is using system Money S3 which is in accordance with Czech accounting standards and acts.

LIFE EARL project has its own separate action number under which can be clearly found costs related to this project. The action number is 005. Also the accounting system allows to distinguish between cost categories, for example personnel costs have number L01, travel costs L02 etc.

Costs under 2000 EUR are approved by the financial manager, who checks if the cost are in the line with budget, are relevant and not excessive and if there was a search for the best offer. Costs over 2000 are approved by treasurer and costs over 5000 are approved by the Executive Committee.

J&E uses manually completed timesheets, where all the projects and their actions have their own lines to be able to clearly distinguish between activities and project. Each timesheet needs to be signed and dated by the staff member 5 working days after the respective month ends. Then the timesheet is delivered by the staff member to his/her supervisor who is obliged to sign and date within 5 working days.

Until end of 2019 ClientEarth was using the accounting system called SAGE. Every expenditure/transaction recorded in SAGE was identified by programme group, project number (called fund number) and sometimes extra reference number. For EU Life project the references to identify the project specific expenditures in SAGE are: programme group – 40 (EU Environmental Democracy), project fund – 112 (EU Life) and ex. references: “EU Life”, which was used to identify matching funding under different project fund than EU life fund 112.

From Jan 2020 ClientEarth switched its accounting system from SAGE to Access Dimensions. The above references to programme group (40), project fund (112) and extra

reference to identify project matching funding (“EU Life”) were preserved in the new system.

In addition to the above references ClientEarth also codes its expenditures using the nominal codes which group and track ClientEarth expenditure by the specific cost category (Chart of Accounts), i.e. in the current Access Dimension system the cost of the legal consultancy is captured under nominal 7100, speakers’s travel and expenses under nominal 7481, etc.

In addition to its accounting system (SAGE until Dec 2019 or Access Dimension from Jan 2020) ClientEarth is using an Electronic Document Management System called “INVU Series 6”, which manages paperless document exchange system and communications, allows for rapid file scanning and importing, documents tracking, sharing and retrieving. Until end of 2019 ClientEarth also used different manual documents logs and trackers to track documents by its type, reference number, date and locations as well as approval. These trackers were also maintained in electronic document management system INVU, i.e. a purchase tracker for Brussels (Invu377971) or Warsaw (Invu377970), a tracker for pre-approved invoices with a contract (Invu62147) or a travel request trackers (BRUSSELS - Invu377989, WARSAW - Invu377990). These trackers would allow finance department identify all supporting document associated with the invoice submitted for payment, including verification whether or not the expenditure was approved prior to being incurred.

Preceding the full introduction to Access Dimension system, in 2019 ClientEarth also introduced its web based component, a FocalPoint system which allows for seamless, real-time procure to pay process with budget control. The FocalPoint system was first introduced to manage and improve the Purchase Requisitions and Purchase Invoices approval workflow and replacing some of the function of the manual trackers held in the INVU system. It also allowed for documents management and storage, such as Contract Approval forms or Invoices. In case of cost approval by contract CE first fills an internal approval form that has to be approved and signed by: CE head of HR + head of programme / head of budget + LIFE project lead. This internal approval form explains CE choice of the selection procedure and of the expert itself. Then CE signs the contract with the expert. In case of purchases CE fills a purchase tracker that has to be approved by CE finance team when the expense is more than 200EUR for travel / more than 50EUR for other purchase. ClientEarth uses manually completed monthly timesheets, signed by the staff and its line manager within the 5 first days of the following month. The timesheets show each Action and sub-action of the LIFE project in a separate line so that CE can distinguish the time actually spent on each task.

In EELC costs under 150 EUR are approved by EELC legal assistant, everything else is approved by the Executive Committee, who checks if the costs are in the line with budget, are relevant and not excessive. EELC salaries are paid out by EELC accountant, and which are approved previously by a member of the Executive Committee.

EELC uses manually completed timesheets, where all the projects and their actions have their own lines to be able to clearly distinguish between activities and project.

Each timesheet needs to be signed and dated by the staff member 5 working days after the respective month ends. Then the timesheet is delivered by the staff member to a member of the Executive Committee who is obliged to control, sign and date it.

The accountant of EMLA uses a double accounting system and applies a software called RLB, created by a company called RLB-60 (<https://www.rlb.hu/index.php>).

The project costs are identified in the accounting system with a code name called EARL and all items can be retrieved belonging to the project using the software's filter function. Invoices belonging to the EARL project are managed separately; these are paper based invoices or electronic invoices printed out.

Physically, a stamp bearing the marking LIFE-A2J-EARL in red ink is immediately stamped on the invoices once the invoice is generated or acquired by EMLA.

Costs are approved by the director of EMLA in case these costs do not involve remuneration of work done by the director of EMLA.

In the latter case, the resident of EMLA approves the costs.

In case of expenditures exceeding EUR 3,000, the Board of Trustees of EMLA is to be consulted and its approval is to be had.

Time recording is done via using timesheets.

The timesheet is an excel based electronic tool, used in other projects as well where Justice and Environment is a coordinating beneficiary and EMLA is an affiliate or project partner implementing specific activities.

Employees and contractors who do not work at least 2 FTE days per month in a yearly average do not record their work in a timesheet.

The time spent on the project is registered on a weekly basis in the excel based timesheet system created by the coordinating beneficiary.

The timesheet is submitted with a monthly frequency to the financial manager of the project.

The approval of the time registration is done by the supervising manager.

IIDMA's accounting system is in accordance with the Spanish legislation. In particular, with the General Accounting Plan to Non-Profit Organizations (Royal Decree 1491/2011 of 24 October). Costs and incomes are registered on an accrual basis, and in accordance with other generally accepted accounting principles.

LIFE EARL project has its own separate code under which the costs and incomes related to the project are placed. The code is "A2J". The accounting system distinguishes between cost categories, such as personnel or travel costs.

Before any expenditure is made, at least three quotations from different suppliers are requested. The Director of IIDMA makes sure the expenditure is line with the budget, not excessive and appropriate. After that, she selects the best offer and approves the expenditure.

IIDMA uses manually completed timesheets, where staff allocates the hours dedicated to the project activities. The template used is the recommended LIFE's model timesheet.

Staff registers the hours worked on the project, usually weekly. At the end of the month, staff signs the completed timesheet, which is then delivered to IIDMA's Director. She approves and signs them within ten days.

ÖKOBÜRO's accounting system is based on double-entry accounting with balancing, accounting itself is outsourced by KRW Allconsult Steuerberatung company.

Until 2020 the cost accounting was not project-related, but according to areas (law, sustainability, environmental movement, etc.). EARL is thus recorded in the area "law" and the project manager kept an internal system of costs where he/she could sort out the costs of the project.

From the year 2020 each project has its own cost center within OEKOBÜRO'S accounting system. Expenses and income are booked there.

Regards the personal resources allocated to the ÖB projects: each project at ÖB has its own cost center. The time spent for our projects is visible in the ÖB Stundenlisten (timesheet). So each employee tracks with his/her Stundenlisten the time spent for the EARL Project. Until 2020 project cost allocation was done manually by comparison of the project managers expenditure lists with the bookings of the accounting system.

All costs need to be approved by the managing director, who checks if the costs are in the line with budget, necessary and not excessive, etc. Costs over 50,000 need to be approved by the executive committee.

ÖKOBÜRO uses manually completed monthly timesheets, where all the projects have their own lines. Each timesheet needs to be signed and dated by the concerned staff member by the 5th of the following month at the latest. Subsequently, for approval of the timesheet the managing director needs to sign and date the timesheet as well.

UfU Works with the accounting software VERBUCH - from Tutor Soft Company, which is an acknowledged accounting system for NGOs in Germany.

Each type of costs has its own cost centre - (Kostenstelle) this is the overview of cost centres:

11110	Income
11120	Personnel Lütkemeyer
11121	Personnel Stracke
11130	Material costs/ events
11140	travel costs

The project manager and the financial manager work according the budget plan of the project, there is a 4 eyes principle with the financial manager.

UfU works with manual time recording sheets, where all projects one person is working on are recorded. These must be handed in, no later than 1 month after the working day. For better oversight the time recording for this project sums up all other projects and accounts for the working hours dedicated to the EARL project, the timesheets are to be presented to the team leader and signed by her/ him no later than one month after the start of a new month.

VIA IURIS is using accounting software "Omega" ([www.kros.sk](http://www.kros.sk)) which is in accordance with Slovak accounting standards and acts.

LIFE EARL project has its own separate project code under which can be clearly found costs related to this project. The project code is "LIFE-".

Costs are approved by the executive director, who checks if the cost are in the line with budget, are relevant and not excessive and if there was a search for the best offer.

VIA IURIS uses manually completed timesheets, where all the projects and their actions have their own lines to be able to clearly distinguish between activities and project. Each timesheet needs to be signed and dated by the staff member no later than 3 working days after the respective month ends. Then the timesheet is delivered by the staff member to his/her supervisor who is obliged to sign and date within 5 working days.

All invoices that are part of LIFE EARL costs are stamped with a stamp containing the number and name of the project. In rare cases when the stamp was not available, the invoice has handwritten number and name of the project.

### 8.3.Partnership arrangements (if relevant)

For every three month all associated beneficiaries and affiliates are called on to fill the interim reporting table based on the official reporting consolidated table, where the coordinating beneficiary has an overview on spending per each budget category and can

react flexibly if there should be a sign of possible problem. Together with the internal reporting table all beneficiaries send timesheets of staff and copies of all invoices for the relevant period.

Based on this internal reporting the official midterm report was prepared, individuals by each beneficiary on its own and the consolidated report was prepared by coordinating beneficiary.

#### 8.4. Certificate on the financial statement

Not applicable.

#### 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, it is **recommended to fill in the following additional table**. Please provide estimates of % of person-days spent compared to the budgeted numbers<sup>18</sup>. This table will allow you and the EASME to monitor the actual absorption of budgeted time and will highlight any major deviations that should then be explained. When compiling the information you may refer to the number of days referred to into Form R2 of the proposal:

Action type	Budgeted person-days	Estimated % of person-days spent
All projects when applicable Action A: Preparatory actions	370	100%
NAT and CLIMA projects Action B: Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payment for payment rights		
ENV projects Action B: Implementation actions		
GIE projects Action B: Core actions	1978	125%
NAT projects Action C – Concrete conservation actions		
CLIMA projects Action C: Implementation actions		
ENV and GIE projects Action C: Monitoring of the impact of the project action	115	50% Part of this budget line was reallocated to external cost category
NAT and CLIMA projects Action D: Monitoring and impact assessment		
ENV and GIE projects Action D: Public awareness/communication and dissemination of results	440	105%
NAT and CLIMA projects		

<sup>18</sup> As we are only requesting estimations, those figures are not meant to be used for the financial reporting.

Action E: Communication and Dissemination of results		
ENV and GIE projects Action E: Project management	893	90%
NAT and CLIMA projects Action F: Project management (and progress)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	3 796	96%