

6 months extension: communication to project partners

Dear project partners

With this communication, the Programme would like to inform you of an important decision taken in order to tackle the current difficulties you are facing because of the COVID-19 crisis.

The context

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting all aspects of life in Europe. The implementation of 2 Seas projects of course is no exception and issues are raised by many projects.

The JS has been collecting all cases flagged out by the projects and has been exploring solutions.

The situation evolves daily but at this stage, what seems to be clear is that the vast majority of projects will urgently need more time to implement their activities. You know that Programme rules allows to request project extensions only via major modifications, with the delays and administrative burden attached to it.

Applying ordinary means to deal with an extraordinary situation is not considered a wise approach. When analysing the situation, the JS came to the conclusion that we needed to think out of the box, in order to apply decisions that can tackle some of the issues raised by this extraordinary situation.

The Programme decision

The JS proposed a series of decisions to the Programme Monitoring Committee. With this email, we wish to communicate on the following Programme decision:

All running projects whose ending date is between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2022 will be automatically granted a top-down 6 months extension. You can find the list of projects at the end of this communication.

The proposal has been agreed by the Programme Monitoring Committee. It will allow you to absorb at least part of the delays you are facing because of the COVID-19 crisis.

We are fully aware that this might not be the solution to all problems. In many cases, you will need to revise some activities, reallocate tasks, make budget changes or even ask for an additional project extension. The JS will be available to discuss each project individual case via regular exchanges between the LP and the JS Lead and Reviewer officers assigned to the project. The automatic 6 months extension will give you the extra time to propose the appropriate solutions for your project.

How will the top-down 6 months extension work?

No action is required from the concerned projects. The JS will take care of the end date modification directly in your respective Application Forms and this without opening any major modification procedure.

The end date in your Application Form will be automatically extended by 6 months.

This measure is meant to help you tackle the current situation. If you believe that you do not need to use all the 6 months and you can close your project's implementation before the new end date, you are free to do so. You are not obliged to reschedule any activity if you do not wish/need to do it.

What about the other projects?

As said above, all running projects whose end date is between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2022 will be granted a top-down 6 months extension.

For all other projects:

- This extension does not apply to projects closed by the 31 March 2020.
- This extension does not apply to running projects with an end date between the 1 April and 30 September 2022:

Because of the current end date set at Programme level on the 30/09/2022, this last group of projects could not be granted a 6 months extension today. Only the difference between their current end date and the 30/09/2022 could be granted, which means less than 6 months.

We are currently exploring the possibility to extend the Programme period beyond 30/09/2022. There are pros and cons and some unavoidable constraints regarding this option. Furthermore, you might know that the current regulatory framework at EU level is being amended because of the crisis. These changes may have an impact on this point as well.

This is why, the Programme needs more time to further discuss this and other options. We will come back to you as soon as possible.

Rest assured that the 2 Seas Programme will do everything it can in order to help you to tackle the difficulties you are having because of the COVID-19 crisis.

Best regards

The JS team

Below the list of projects that will receive the automatic 6 months extension:

Project Number	Acronym	Priority	Specific Objective	Start Date	Current End Date
2S01-065	USAR	4	4.1	01/03/2016	30/04/2020
2S01-027	DERMA	1	1.2	01/09/2016	31/05/2020
2S01-008	ISE	1	1.1	01/04/2016	30/06/2020
2S01-038	BIOBOOST	4	4.2	01/11/2016	30/06/2020
2S02-024	SAIL	1	1.3	01/01/2017	30/06/2020
2S02-026	WRC	3	3.1	25/11/2016	30/06/2020
2S03-024	SUMARIS	4	4.1	13/07/2017	30/06/2020
2S01-016	Shine	2	2.1	01/09/2016	31/08/2020
2S02-022	SEAS 2 Grow	1	1.1	01/09/2016	31/08/2020
2S01-041	PACE	1	1.3	01/10/2016	30/09/2020
2S01-058	DWELL*	1	1.3	01/08/2016	31/10/2020
2S01-067	BISEPS	2	2.1	01/05/2016	31/10/2020
2S03-009	PECS	2	2.1	01/09/2017	20/12/2020
2S01-020	MET-CERTIFIED	2	2.1	01/09/2016	31/12/2020
2S01-059	IMODE	1	1.2	01/07/2016	31/12/2020
2S01-094	CARBON2VALUE	2	2.1	01/01/2017	31/12/2020
2S02-008	SCAPE	3	3.1	01/09/2016	31/12/2020
2S02-023	SPONGE 2020	3	3.1	01/07/2016	31/12/2020
2S02-029	Triple-A*	2	2.1	01/01/2017	31/12/2020
2S02-031	TRIPLE C (2)	3	3.1	01/09/2016	31/12/2020
2S03-051	QUALIFY	1	1.2	14/08/2017	31/12/2020
2S01-032	EDUCAT	1	1.2	01/09/2016	28/02/2021
2S03-042	Grassification	4	4.2	01/03/2018	28/02/2021
2S03-052	STAR2Cs	3	3.1	01/09/2017	28/02/2021
2S02-038	CASCADE	1	1.3	01/04/2017	31/03/2021
2S03-014	SLIC*	2	2.1	01/01/2018	01/06/2021
2S03-007	ENDURE	3	3.1	01/01/2018	30/06/2021
2S03-011	NEREUS	4	4.2	01/10/2017	30/06/2021
2S03-035	SIREE*	1	1.3	01/03/2018	30/06/2021
2S03-040	SCIFI	1	1.1	01/07/2017	30/06/2021
2S03-029	Bio4safe	4	4.1	01/08/2017	31/07/2021
2S03-008	SBS	1	1.3	01/09/2017	31/08/2021
2S03-022	TICC	1	1.3	01/09/2017	31/08/2021
2S04-004	SOLARISE	2	2.1	01/03/2018	30/09/2021
2S04-014	3DMed	1	1.2	01/10/2018	30/09/2021
2S03-046	Horti-blueC	4	4.2	02/02/2018	31/10/2021
2S03-019	E2C	1	1.2	01/07/2018	31/12/2021
2S05-048	NSCiti2S	3	3.1	03/09/2018	25/02/2022
2S05-017	ValgOrize	1	1.2	15/07/2018	31/03/2022

* SLIC, TRIPLE-A, SIREE, DWELL: as your project is currently under major modification, this extension will be applied only once the major modification is closed. Please contact your JS Lead Officer in order to understand how exactly this extension will be managed technically