EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

CNECT.G – Data
G.1 – Data Policy and Innovation

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Subject: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)
Project: 101100807 — BeOpen
Project review (Article 25)
Project review report

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in connection with the above-mentioned review procedure for your grant.

Please find enclosed the draft review report. As you know it was drafted with the help of outside experts.

In our view, the project implementation is satisfactory.

To improve the implementation, we would recommend the following changes:

> All deliverables from this period have been accepted. Recommendations for improvements to be taken into account are included in the report but they do not require any amendment to the grant agreement.

⚠ Please also note that a positive assessment of the technical work does NOT automatically guarantee that the costs will be accepted. This will depend on a number of other factors (such as compliance with cost eligibility rules, etc) which will be assessed separately, based on the financial reporting assessment that will take place later on.

If you disagree, please provide us with your **observations** — within **30 days** after receiving this letter.

Please ensure that the other participants in your project (if any) are informed of this letter and are given the opportunity to contribute their observations.

For any questions, please contact us via your [Funding & Tenders Portal account](#) > My Project(s) > Actions > Manage Project > Process communications.

Yours faithfully,

Authorising Officer

Enclosures: Review report

GENERAL PROJECT REVIEW CONSOLIDATED REPORT

COVER PAGE

PROJECT	
Project number:	101100807
Project acronym:	BeOpen
Project name:	BeOpen an Open framework for boosting EU High ValueDatasets from Public Sector
Call:	DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02
Topic:	DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02-OPEN-AI
Type of action:	DIGITAL-SIMPLE
Service:	CNECT/G/01
Project starting date:	1/1/2023
Project duration:	30 months

PROJECT REVIEW	
Period covered:	from 1/1/2023 to 30/6/2024
Reporting period number:	1
Date of the latest version of DoA against which the assessment is performed:	20/6/2024
Date of meeting with consortium (if applicable):	18/9/2024 – 18/9/2024
Name of project officer:	Stefano BERTOLO
Name(s) of monitors:	- Orsola DE MARCO - ANTIA FERNANDEZ LOPEZ

1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

1. Overall assessment

⊙ The project has fully achieved its objectives and milestones/outputs/outcomes for the period.

◯ The project has achieved most of its objectives and milestones/outputs/outcomes for the period, with relatively minor deviations.

◯ The project has achieved some of its objectives and milestones/outputs/outcomes. However, corrective action will be required.

◯ The project has failed to achieve critical objectives and/or milestones/outputs/outcomes and/or is severely delayed.

2. General comments (executive summary)

The main objective of BEOPEN is to deliver an integrated framework specifically designed for public administrations. This framework includes technical tools, methodologies, and guidelines to enhance the quality, interoperability, and availability of High Value Datasets. The solution will offer public administrations a customisable and user-friendly "toolbox" for managing High Value Datasets, making them accessible via APIs or for bulk download.

During this reporting period, every Work Package (WP) in the project contributed to accomplishing the aforementioned goals. Throughout this period, all WPs were operational, resulting in the submission of 14 out of 14 planned deliverables, the Periodic Report and the successful achievement of 6 scheduled milestones. In the case of MS8, the mid-term event has taken place in M21 (3 months after the planning) in conjunction with the FIWARE Global Summit at which BeOpen played an active part.

The BeOpen consortium has successfully delivered all activities planned for the first 19 months of the project.

The main achievements reached are the development of the High Value Datasets technical framework, the development of the first draft of a draft framework to help users of the BeOpen platform trust each other to share and use the data provided, securing eight pilots in different countries with a diverse set of use cases and datasets, the development of a working prototype of the BeOpen platform taking into consideration the pilots requirements, wide dissemination of the project among relevant audiences of public authorities.

Allocation of resources utilised so far in the project has been commensurate with the work done.

No implementation issues or major deviations from the agreed project plan have been identified.

3. Recommendations

There is no corrective action needed in regards to the project plan.

As part of the pilots implementation, we suggest that the partners involved in the tasks take note of challenges and blockers experienced by the organisations publishing data via the BeOpen platform and report details about these in the relevant deliverables. Given the complexity and nuance of data sharing in each use case, these insights would be very valuable for the wider data-sharing ecosystem, as well as policy makers involved in growing the European data economy.

Reviewers suggest focusing on impact activities and providing a list of realistic KPIs with their baseline. To achieve more impact, the project could also consider contributing open data to other available data spaces in Europe.

The project clearly demonstrates the ability to develop an ecosystem of solutions and services for people with technical skills. It is important to consider that the skills and competencies to improve the competitiveness and benefits for society need to be broad.

Most KPIs are based on surveys. We recommend the consortium considers the risk of poor uptake of respondents, which would lead to a non representative sample to draw significant insights from.

The difference between the BeOpen proposed work and previously developed solutions such as SOPTTED is not clear. We recommend highlighting how the different solutions differ from the unique value the BeOpen delivers.

2. OBJECTIVES AND IMPACT

1. Are the objectives of the project still relevant?
⊙ Yes ○ No ○ Partially ○ Not applicable
The overall objectives of the project are still relevant. The progress in each WP has contributed to some specific objectives: progress in WP2 has contributed to OBJ1, OBJ3, and OBJ4; WP3 has contributed to OBJ2, OBJ4, and OBJ5; WP4 has contributed to OBJ5; and finally WP5 has contributed to OBJ2. Key KPIs and impact will be mainly measurable later in the project. There was no concern or evidence that these won't be achieved, at this stage. The approached methodology underlying the BeOpen platform and its trust framework are relevant. We suggest putting emphasis on how trust can and is built between data publishers, data users, citizens, BeOpen stakeholders and the audiences the project ought to reach as different players might interact with the trust framework in different ways. A detailed analysis of these nuanced dynamics and transactions will be a valuable insight for wider dissemination.
2. Does (or will) the work carried out contribute to the expected impacts described in the DoA?
⊙ Yes ○ No ○ Partially ○ Not applicable
The primary goal of the BeOpen project is to deliver an integrated framework specifically designed for public administrations. The work carried out in the reporting period has set the foundations to achieve the expected impact, with contributions from all consortium partners as planned. Some KPIs in the pilots do not yet include appropriately defined evaluation metrics - such as "increase by 70% on present download rate", or "reducing investment costs up to 30%" and user interfaces and usability aspects of the framework (and the pipeline) from the PAs are not always sufficiently addressed. The consortium reassured the expert panel that these aspects will be clarified in the upcoming relevant deliverables, which is well noted.
3. Does (or will) the work carried out contribute towards European policy objectives and strategies and have an impact on policy making?
⊙ Yes ○ No ○ Partially ○ Not applicable
When completed, the work carried out in the project, in particular through pilot implementation and the analysis of the role that the BeOpen platform plays in supporting the growth of the European data economy, can credibly have an impact on EU policies. It would be useful to present insights derived from the implementation of the trust framework to policy makers, including the impact of this on the availability, volume, quality and usability of HVDs held by the public sector actors.

3. PROGRESS, WORK PLAN AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Is the progress reported in line with objectives and work plan as specified in the DoA? If there are significant deviations, please comment.

◉ Yes
○ No
○ Partially
○ Not applicable

The work performed during the reporting period is aligned with the project objectives. All significant changes have been included in the amendment AMD-101100807-10.

In agreement with the European Commission Project Officer, the schedule for deliverable D4.2 was adjusted and reported in the amendment.
Deliverables due up to month 18 of the project were for the most part submitted on time, with some minor deviations communicated to the PO.

While significant effort will be required in the second half of the project to deliver all eight different and in some cases complex pilots, the consortium demonstrated to have a well-thought through plan of execution they will follow to achieve the desired outcomes.

It will be useful to see details of the pilots' impact specifically related to the use of the technology and the BeOpen platform, as well as the societal benefits derived from the technology or interviews.

2. Is the contribution of all participants in line with the work committed in the DoA?

◉ Yes
○ No
○ Partially
○ Not applicable

All consortium partners have contributed to the work committed in the DoA as expected. Good collaboration between them has been showcased.

3. Has the project been efficiently and effectively managed?

◉ Yes
○ No
○ Partially
○ Not applicable

The project has been competently managed by the coordinator following the plan outlined in D1.1 Project Management Handbook. Collaboration between partners in delivering the work and producing the deliverables has been effective, with two partners reviewing each deliverable before its submission.

4. Are the critical implementation risks and mitigation actions described in the DoA (if any) still relevant?

◉ Yes
○ No
○ Partially
○ Not applicable

Critical risks have been taken into consideration. The risk register updated on a regular basis as new risks emerged. It is advisable to consider the risks associated with surveys conducted during the last months of the project and the impact that a lack of time to include corrective actions might have on their ability to derive valuable insights.

6. Have the participants disseminated and communicated project activities and results as planned in the DoA? Do they include a reference to EU funding?

◉ Yes
○ No

○ Partially
○ Not applicable

Participants have communicated and disseminated the project activities widely and appropriately. Reference to EU funding is present and referenced in all communication assets. Significant efforts have been undertaken to promote the project at events, in person and online, taking advantage of existing events attended by relevant audiences of public administrations.

KPIs for dissemination and communication activities are well matched with DoA, overdelivering on the set targets, which is noted positively.

7. Is the project implementation in line with the ethics and security requirements (if any)? (if applicable)

⊙ Yes
○ No
○ Partially
○ Not applicable

Ethics and security requirements have been taken into account. Detailed Data Processing Principles and Approach to Data Ethics within the BeOpen project are included in D1.5 - Data Protection and Ethics.

4. RESOURCES AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION (N/A FOR LUMP SUM AND UNIT GRANTS)

1. Were the resources used as described in the DoA and were they necessary to achieve the project objectives? If there are deviations from planned budget, have they been satisfactorily explained? Have they been used in a manner consistent with the principle of sound financial management (in particular economy, efficiency and effectiveness)?

◉ Yes
○ No
○ Partially
○ Not applicable

Resources used in the reporting period are aligned with the DoA and commensurate to the milestone achieved.

Expert opinion on deliverables

Deliverable number	Deliverable name	Status	Comments
D1.1	Project management handbook	Accepted	
D1.2	Technical Management Plan	Accepted	
D1.3	Data Management Plan & IPR management	Accepted	
D1.4	DPO & Ethics Board	Accepted	
D1.5	Data Protection & Ethics	Accepted	
D2.1	BeOpen technical framework design and technical specifications (First version)	Accepted	
D2.2	BeOpen technical framework - demonstrator (First release)	Accepted	
D2.3	BeOpen trust framework report	Accepted	
D3.1	Pilot requirements and HVDs	Accepted	
D4.1	Validation methodology and KPIs definition	Accepted	
D5.1	Communication and Dissemination Plan	Accepted	
D5.2	BeOpen website	Accepted	
D5.3	Awareness Report (First version)	Accepted	
D5.7	Awareness Report (Intermediate version)	Accepted	

Expert opinion on milestones

Milestone number	Milestone name	Achieved	Comments
MS1	Project start-up	Yes	Everything is OK.
MS2	BeOpen framework delivered ready for deployment	Yes	Everything is OK.
MS4	Pilot requirements collected and HVDs identified	Yes	Everything is OK.
MS6	Validation methodology ready	Yes	Everything is OK.
MS7	BeOpen website is public	Yes	Everything is OK.
MS8	Mid-Term event	Yes	Event took place and the outcome was summarised in D5.7
MS9	Project Review 1	Yes	Project review for reporting period 1 took place.