Milestone MS20
Awarding of mobility and training grants
30.9.2023 Version Final

Dissemination level: Public

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Project acronym PREDIS	Project title PRE-DISposal management of radioactive waste		Grant agreement No. 945098	
Milestone MS20	Milestone title Awarding mobility and training grants		Version 1.0	
Type Report	Dissemination level Public		Due date M37	
Lead partner ÚJV Řež, a.s.			WP No. 3	
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Abstract

This deliverable provides an overview about the process of awarding training and mobility grants within the PREDIS project, until August 2023.

Mobility grants are processed using the online PREDIS mobility portal. Mobility funding applications consists of the applicants' CV, motivation letter, a detailed budget, description of proposed activity and a letter of support from the host institution in the case of an internship. The following types of mobility measures are supported: visits, internships, courses/training and conferences/workshops.

Until August 2022, 23 mobilities had been awarded, including two long-term visits of Ukrainian partners. In the period August 2022 to August 2023, an additional number of 20 mobilities have been awarded.

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) was set to 20 PREDIS mobilities, so this target has been achieved.

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1   Introduction

The **PREDIS** project develops and increases the Technological Readiness Level (TRL) of treatment and conditioning methodologies for radioactive wastes for which no adequate or industrially mature solutions are currently available, including metallic materials, liquid organic waste and solid organic waste. The **PREDIS** project also develops innovations in cemented waste handling and pre-disposal storage by testing and evaluating. The **PREDIS** project targets the development and implementation of activities for pre-disposal treatment of radioactive waste streams other than nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

The technical Work Packages align with priorities formulated within the EURAD Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) Theme 2 (https://www.ejp-eurad.eu/), within the EURAD Roadmap and with those priorities identified by the PREDIS project's industrial End Users Group (EUG). PREDIS will produce tools guiding decision-making on the added value of the developed technologies and their impact on the design, safety and economics of waste management and disposal.

PREDIS liaised with the **EURAD** EJP (European Joint Program on Radioactive Waste Management) to be complimentary to areas of the reference founding documents of the EURAD EJP (vision, roadmap, governance and implementation mechanisms), and the organisation of training courses and mobility training schemes to enhance sharing and preservation of knowledge.

The PREDIS Mobility Programme was established to help achieve these objectives. This deliverable (Milestone 23) provides an overview of the process of awarding training and mobility grants within the PREDIS project, up to August 2023. It also addresses the quality of the performed mobility´s.

2   PREDIS Mobility programme

The PREDIS project has a special interest in setting up and implementing training and mobility programmes to allow newcomers and new generations to acquire the level of knowledge needed to develop their professional careers in the different subjects related to the pre-disposal of radioactive waste. The PREDIS knowledge management work package is tasked to implement the mobility programme through the specific task 3.4.

The Mobility Programme is developed and implemented according to the specific needs and requests from the PREDIS partners. The Mobility Programme focuses on:

- Mapping of mobility needs and targeting pre-disposal activities within the waste generator's community and the PREDIS research and development (RD&D) Work Packages (WP).
- Launching a priority list on mobility needs and opportunities, based on mapping within potential users and hosting institutions (Deliverable 3.6, original at Month 9 and updated at Month 24).
- Targeting young professionals associated with PREDIS partner's organisations.
- Implementation of the Mobility Programme (Deliverable 3.7) by means of:

  1. Providing access and assistance to short or long-term internships (suggested time frame of 1 to 6 weeks) at organisations specialising in pre-disposal waste management RD&D.
  2. Providing access to organisations with tools/codes that are needed to advance the work in the PREDIS project RD&D Work Packages.
  3. Providing funding for attending conferences and workshops in the field of pre-disposal waste management.

- Evaluation of mobility effectiveness, based on the following criteria

Thus, the Mobility Programme will also support short stays in other institutions to develop specific research of interest for both the sending and hosting organisations, the one sending the grantee and the one receiving it, as well as attendance at training courses or conferences related to the aims of the PREDIS project, if the knowledge management budget allows it.

3   Mobility Programme information and links

The mobility programme scheme is described in D3.6 "Priority list and mobility format" and all rules and procedures are described in PREDIS mobility manual (PREDIS mobility GUIDE) while more information is present on the PREDIS webpage https://predis-h2020.eu/mobility-and-training-programme/. A dedicated page was developed for the PREDIS Mobility programme https://pro.evalato.com/3346 - see Fig.1. A direct link to the application portal can be found at the bottom of the page – see Fig 2.

The application portal has been developed in EVALATO (an award management software) in collaboration with EURAD WP13.
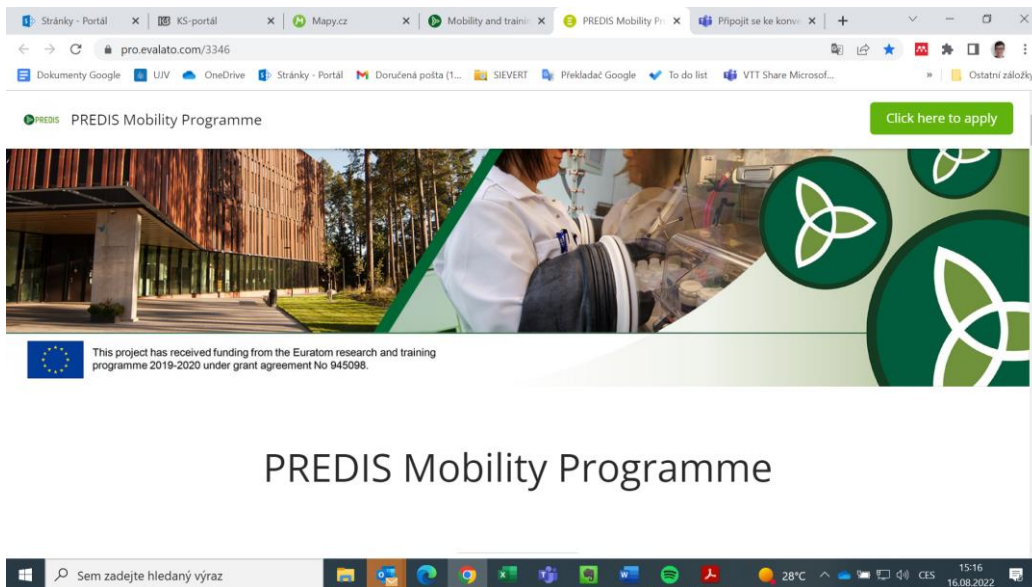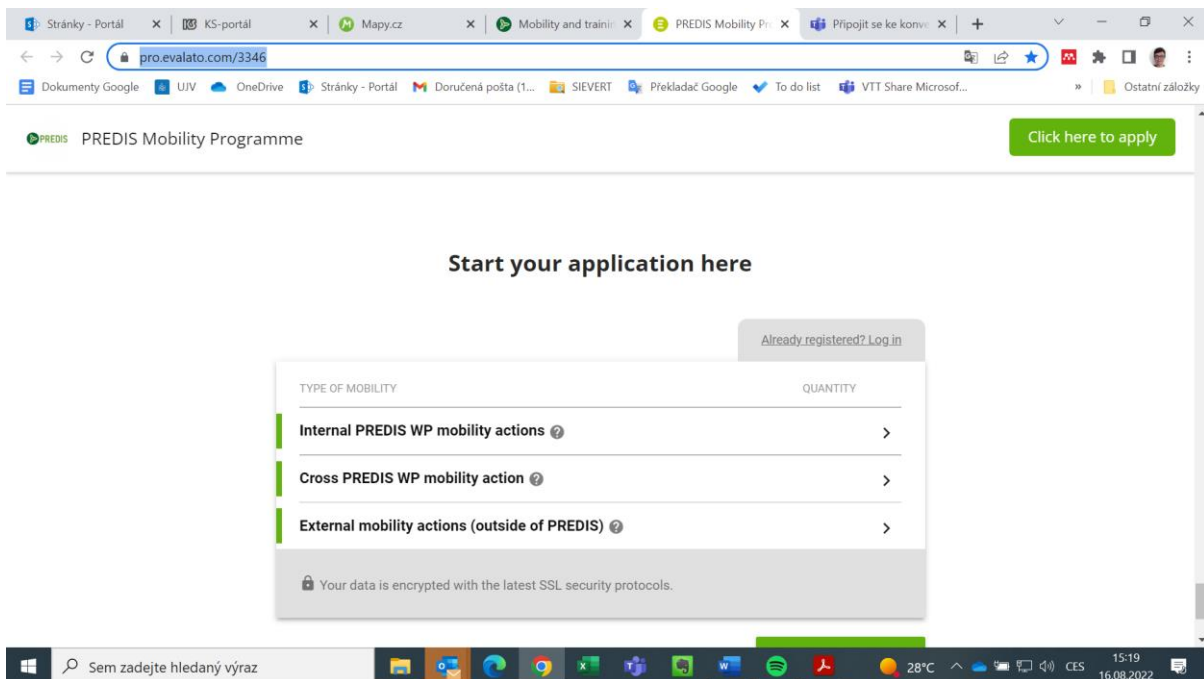

Figure 1: PREDIS Mobility programme webpage.

Figure 2: PREDIS Mobility application portal entrance (see also https://pro.evalato.com/3346).

4 Mobility application process

4.1 Mobility application scheme

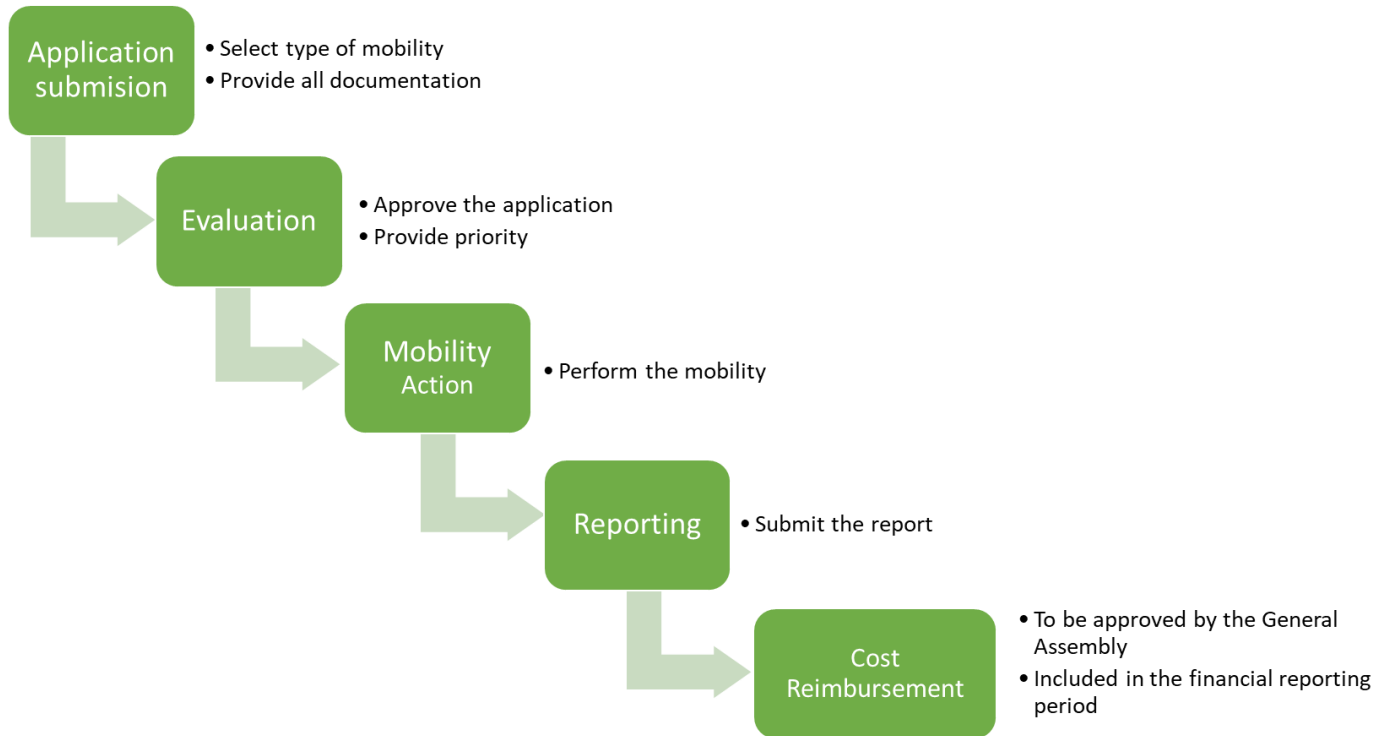The PREDIS Mobility Programme is based on the following application scheme (Fig. 3)

Figure 3: PREDIS mobility application scheme.

Mobility scheme applications need to be submitted through the PREDIS Mobility portal, built in cooperation with EURAD WP13 using the EVALATO tool.

The applicants can apply for a mobility grant between July 2021 and May 2024, or for as long as funds are available. The Mobility portal is usually opened for applications 1 month at a time. In the following month, the applications are evaluated. In special case (due to General Assembly meeting, specific training etc.), the Mobility portal can stay open longer to accept submissions. Besides filling out an application form, applicants are asked to submit additional supporting documents:

- **Curriculum Vitae** (max 1.5 pages, references including);
- **Motivation letter** (how will this action improve the candidate's knowledge, skills and competitiveness; max 1 page);
- **Letter of support of the supervisor / WP leader**; In case of internship, a letter shall also be provided from the receiving institution and mentor, clearly expressing the value of the proposed mobility action; max. 1 page per letter;
- **Detailed budget** covering all expected costs (in an Excel template);
- **Description of the proposed activity** (max 1.5 pages).

Each applicant can only submit **one application within an application period. In case an application is refused, it is possible to re-submit a revised application.**

The PREDIS Mobility Evaluation Committee evaluates the applications. The decision about the grant will be made within 1 month after the application deadline. The PREDIS General Assembly makes the final decision

or gives a decision mandate to the Mobility Evaluation Committee, retrospectively, if needed. However, the final approval of the budget transfer, made by the GA and EC, is still required.

4.2 How are applications evaluated?

The evaluation procedure is described in the Mobility manual (PREDIS Mobility programme page: https://pro.evalato.com/3346) and in Deliverable 3.6 "Priority list and mobility format".

4.3 How is the financing made?

The financing proceeds as follows:

- PREDIS Partner (person) applies for a Mobility grant;
- The application is evaluated;
- Mobility Evaluation Committee informs the applicant of approval/refusal, and of the awarded amount;
- Increase of the awarded grant is made to the partner organisation's budget via the official amendment to the EC, approximately once a year;
- Funding is approved by the PREDIS General Assembly;
- Mobility grantee performs the mobility action;
- Mobility grantee completes the Mobility action report (see Mobility Manual and D3.6);
- PREDIS Partner reports the actual incurred costs, irrelevant of the budgeted costs, in their next EC periodic report as WP3 cost via the 'partner individual financial statement' submitted by each Partner, claimed as all other costs associated to PREDIS. The costs have to have incurred during the project reporting period.
- There is no extra payment to cover specifically the mobility costs, but the reimbursement of actual costs is included in the regular Interim or Final Payment to partners, subject to EC approval of Periodic Reports, including the Periodic Financial Reports.

5 PREDIS mobility status up to August 2022

Preparation of the PREDIS mobility programme started in February 2021. The Mobility manual and D3.6 "Priority list and mobility format" that forms the basic rules for mobility application and evaluation were published in May 2021. Thereafter, the PREDIS mobility application system was developed in the EVALATO environment and went live on September 1, 2021, including the PREDIS mobility page (https://pro.evalato.com/3346). The 1st PREDIS mobility has been submitted on September 16, 2021 (internship in WP4). Until August 19, 2022, 25 applications have been submitted. 24 were approved, 1 is still awaiting approval. Two mobilities could not take place due to either medical reasons or travelling hindrances.

The specific UA case shown in Figures 4 and 5 represents two long-term (6 month) mobility grants for Ukrainian partners, enabling them to spent dedicated time in PREDIS partners institutions, after their home institutions were closed due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Figure 4 represents the types of mobility action applications within the PREDIS mobility programme, submitted until August 2022.
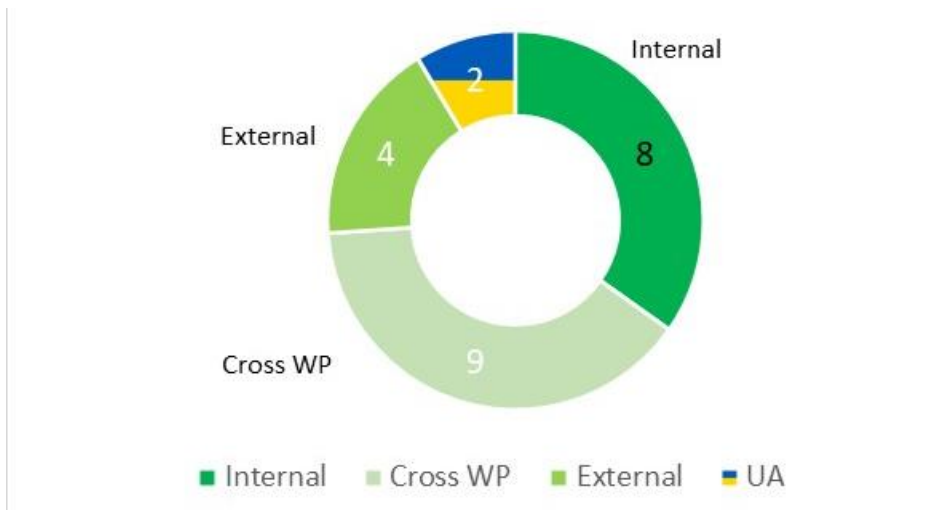
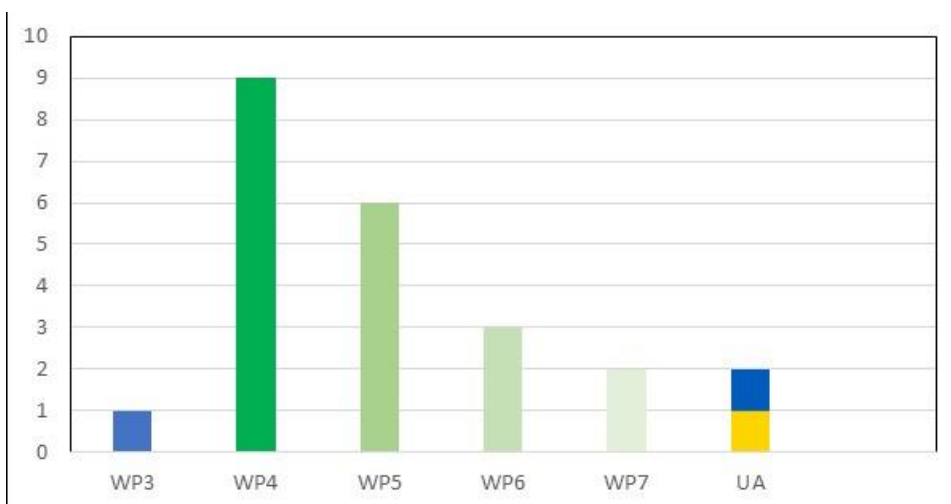*Figure 4: PREDIS mobility types, with data until August 2022.*

Figure 5: PREDIS mobility grants divided per work package, submitted until August 2022.

The most attended mobility actions were the following:

PREDIS Annual meeting	Espoo, Finland	April 25-28, 2022	2 mobilities
Visit of NNL persons to	SUBATECH, Avignon France	June 16-19, 2022	2 mobilities (4 planned)
NUWCEM conference	Avignon, France	May 4-6 2022	2 mobilities
LLW/ILW management course	UJV Rež, Czech Republic	Sept. 8-9, 2022	8 mobilities

6 PREDIS mobility status between September 2022 – August 2023

The Mobility manual was updated in December 2022. Within period September 2022 – August 2023, 22 applications have been submitted. 21 were approved, but one approved application was cancelled by the applicant and one application was received from applicant outside the PREDIS.
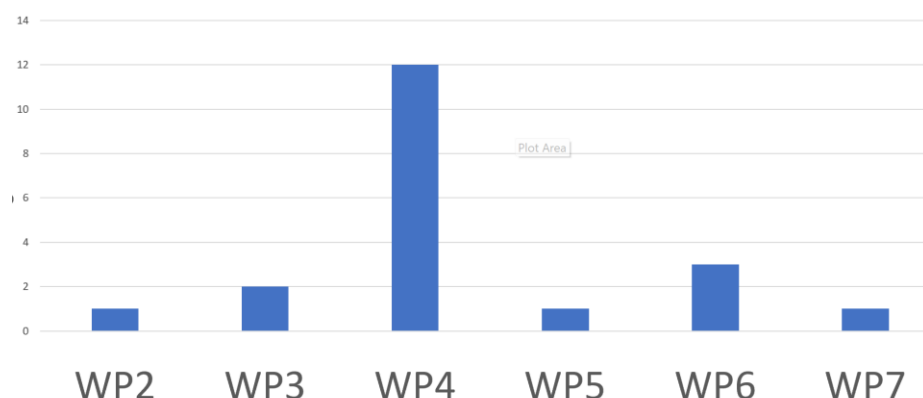
Figure 6: PREDIS mobility grants divided per work packages, for the period September 2022 - August 2023.

The mobility applications were distributed between PREDIS work packages as shown in Figure 6. Approved mobility applications in reported period September 2022 – August 2023 were divided between 19 internal mobility applications and 1 external application. The most attended mobility actions were:

PREDIS training: Radioactive Waste Management operations, from retrieval to conditioning	Orano facility, La Hague, France	20th - 23rd November 2023	5 mobilities
EURAD-PREDIS Summer School on Waste Acceptance Criteria	Řež, Czech Republic	4th – 8th September 2023	6 mobilities
PREDIS annual meeting workshops	Mechelen, Belgium	23rd – 26th May 2023	4 mobilities

7 Application records

All application documents (CV, motivation letter, letter of support, mobility description and budget) are uploaded to EVALATO application system for each application. During the process of evaluation, all the documents are downloaded by the responsible person to a specific folder, each dedicated to one single application. Mobility report submission are also kept in those folders as evidence of mobility execution.

Each application stores following information:

- Name, institution, email;
- Mobility anticipated;
- Application type
- °Work package;
- Date of submission;
- Evaluation procedure
  - names of evaluators;
  - scores of evaluation;
  - evaluation results;
- Budget total amount;

- Date of General assembly acceptance;,
- Date of mobility execution;
- Mobility report submission date.

All documents and records are uploaded after mobility report submission to the PREDIS TEAMS folder. Those documents are archived.

8 Quality of performed mobilities

Not only the total number of mobility´s is important (reaching the set KPI), but also the quality of the individual mobility action need to be appraised. Such an appraisal is needed to assess the added value of the mobility towards the project as such, research related to the grantees WP and the grantees carrier development. It might be useful for prioritisation of future mobility´s needs. WP3 is trying to identify 3-4 main criteria's to assess the quality of the mobility. The input to the assessment will come from questions posed to the grantees' supervisor, after when the mobility ended. The added value of the performed mobility will be given through success scores. The procedure is not yet fully developed, but it will be progressed together with EURAD WP13.

9 Funds allocated

The preliminary budget for mobilities was 100 k€ and was accepted by the PREDIS management team. A total amount of 70 118 Euro has been allocated to 23 mobility applications until August 2022. During the reporting period, September 2022 – August 2023, another 39 659.47 was allocated for approved mobilities.

10 Related documents

Havlová V., Valls A., Carbol P., Oksa M., Holt E., Belmans N. (2021): Priority list and mobility formats, depending on the priorities identified and approved within PREDIS. PREDIS Deliverable D3.6, May 2021, https://predis-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PREDIS_D3.6-Priority-list-and-mobility-formats-FINAL_2021-05-31.pdf

Havlová V., Valls A., Carbol P., Oksa M., Tohoonen N. (2022): Mobility manual. PREDIS EU document (version 5.0).