

D1.1.2 Quality Assurance & Risk Management Plan v1.0

DURAARK

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Executive Summary

In this report, we present the first version of the Quality Assurance & Risk Management Plan (QA&RM), which details the procedures (including templates) for quality assurance in project communication, collaboration, and deliverables. The report also elaborates on identified risks and contingency plans. Future versions of the QA&RM plan will update risk management procedures accordingly during the course of the project.



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1 Introduction

The main objective of this deliverable is two-fold. First, to define and establish the necessary procedures for quality assurance throughout the course of DURAARK, such that these will provide a high level of confidence that the deliverables satisfy the highest standards. Concerning quality assurance of the final outcomes, support will be provided to the work groups, at all stages of the development of the project, in compliance to the international quality standards. Quality assurance procedures must address both the process and the product. A Quality Assurance plan involves the definition and establishment of the necessary procedures for quality assurance work, working groups, communication and deliverables throughout the project (e.g. set-up a review process for internal documents and reports and ensure that both the final project report and regular progress reports are drafted and finalized on time and in line with the schedule and requirements of the description of work). Additionally, the QA plan will address the final DURAARK products and services developed within the project.

The second main objective of this document is to document a list of potential problems/risks together with their contingency plans. The early identification of these potential risks to the project will help us to elaborate appropriate solutions and adjustments in time.

It should be stressed that the QA&RM plan complements existing agreements, such as the ones defined in the DURAARK description of work (DoW), Consortium Agreement and Grant Agreement.

Furthermore, a systematic approach will be adopted for monitoring resource spending against project budget, achievements against schedule and critical success factors.

Note that the procedures described in this deliverable are based on best practices for project and quality management as the ones described in [1] and [2].

In the rest of this document, we first elaborate on the QA procedures focus on defining the deliverable quality standards and evaluation process. We then document the initial risk management plan.



2 Deliverable Quality Standards and Evaluation Process

We present in this section, a jointly agreed criteria and procedures for DURAARK deliverables such that the highest level of quality will be guaranteed. We detail the quality standards of deliverables and their acceptance criteria; the standardization of the deliverables on the basis of the above criteria; in-house measures that will ensure that the project is developing in such a way that the above criteria will be satisfied; definition of the quality-sensitive parameters and their monitoring procedures; the control mechanisms internal and/or external of the deliverables; the corrective mechanisms.

A deliverable in a project generally aims to provide information concerning the work outcomes, the general progress and procedures and intermediate or final results. Each and every deliverable should thus be carefully drafted with rich content, a clear structure and a professional presentation. All project deliverables together should comprise a set of informative material with continuity and clear interfacing, and be free of information overlaps or gaps. Deliverables inform the follow-up activities within the project, enable cross-WP collaboration and represent important tangible outcomes for dissemination activities.

It is therefore important to ensure standardization in the presentation and structure of the deliverables and adopt common standards for the development of their contents. At the same time, it is important that the information is provided in a timely fashion relative to the particular phase of the project's development, in order to allow for the smooth development of subsequent work and deliverables that depend on previously provided information.

In summary, the four basic quality criteria to assess:

- 1. Scientific and technical soundness,
- 2. Scope and relevance,
- 3. Readability,
- 4. Appearance and structure.

The proposed QA procedure will particularly address the aspects of the aforementioned concepts.



2.1 Quality Criteria

The responsibility for the content of each deliverable is always with the author(s), in particular the deliverable lead as defined in the DoW. Nevertheless, the deliverables should always meet a set of requirements, based on the three aspects for quality of information namely: correctness, completeness, depth, appearance and structure, and punctuality.

These requirements result in a set of quality criteria for project deliverables, which are detailed below.

Correctness. Information provided in the deliverable, must be evidence-based. This means that all factual information used in the deliverables should be supported by relevant and up-to-date references. Further, summaries of the information and extrapolations from the information should be written in a clear and unambiguous fashion so that misinterpretation is avoided.

Completeness. Information must address all aspects related to the purpose for which the information is produced. On the other hand, a redundancy of information must be avoided, as it may obscure the clarity of the deliverables.

Relevance. Information used in the deliverable should be focused on the key issues and be written in a way that takes into consideration its target audience.

Depth. All information used should be provided to the depth needed for the purpose of the deliverable.

Adherence to uniform appearance and structure. Although deliverables will be authored by different partners within DURAARK, it is important that deliverables are prepared with uniform appearance and structure, so that they appear as originating from a single initiative. It is therefore necessary to observe a common set of standards that specifies the structure, organization of content, layout and appearance of project deliverables. Within DURAARK project, a template (with appropriate instructions) was made available to all partners in the consortium and this will form the basis for achieving a uniform deliverable appearance and structure.

Punctuality. The information must be provided in relation to the particular phase of the project's development and according to the project plan as defined in the DoW.

The above criteria shall be observed by authors when drafting any project deliverable. They also form the basic standard against which deliverables will be evaluated during the project's internal evaluation procedures.



Note that **scientific work** documented in the deliverable should be a compilation of peer-reviewed publications in high-quality conferences or journals. The deliverable should provide an overview and summary of the relevant scientific publications produced, clearly stating the main contributions, the outcome of the experimental results, and conclusions in connection to the project and in the scope of the deliverable.

The deliverable must include the corresponding references to the scientific papers produced, and if applicable, can also include the manuscripts as annex.

2.2 Quality Indicators

The set of criteria mentioned above will need to be transformed into a set of parameters that can be measured and clearly identified within any deliverable undergoing evaluation. Such parameters will comprise a set of the project's *Quality Indicators* (QI). It is furthermore necessary to adopt a ranking system, which will be used to demonstrate the significance and seriousness of the non-conformities identified in the text, during the review. Annex I of this deliverable provides a set of QIs captured in DURAARK's *Deliverable Review Form*.

Deadlines of deliverables are strict. Therefore, it is important to rank the significance of requested changes, so as to prioritize further work. The significance ranking will guide not only the focus on the work that needs to be done by the authors, but also steer the discussion in meetings between reviewers and authors to the most significant issues that need to be done before moving on to less important changes, as documented in the *Deliverable Review Form*.

The scale of the significance ranking is as follows:

[+++] high priority [++] medium priority [+] low priority

2.3 Quality Assurance of Work plan

This section addresses issues related to the performance of the consortium progress and the way the project planning and monitoring is performed, e.g., Work Packages, Tasks, Internal Progress Reports.

The project work plan is divided into Work Packages (WP) and each WP, further into tasks, which have internal or formal technical deliverables. The project work planning is overall presented in the DoW as a GANTT chart. The work planning includes:



- the WP and respective tasks,
- the duration, start and end dates for each action and the WP as whole,
- the respective deliverables: formal (that means the deliverables mentioned in Annex I of the Grant Agreement) and internal.
- the Leader of each WP and the man months allocated by each partner in each WP.

While the project work plan is a part of the contractual obligations of all partners, adherence to the DoW is mandatory for all beneficiaries. Any modification — change (which does not affect the overall course of the project) in the work plan needs approval by the project coordinator, who in turn will request approval from the Project Officer in case of actual deviations from the work plan. The Project Consortium is collectively responsible for the successful implementation of the project work plan.

Each WP Leader is responsible for: (a) resolving day-to-day administrative, technical and resource problems within his/her work package (being responsible for all the tasks included in the work package), (b) allocating the required human resources (in any case the responsibility of the elaboration of all tasks rests with the WP leader), (c) disseminating information relating to all aspects of the work to the other work package leaders for ensuring smooth coordination of work package activities, and (d) reporting to the upper levels of the project's management.

The role and responsibilities of each partner are described in detail in the Grant Agreement while participation in specific tasks and deliverables is defined in the DoW and decided during the meetings and related official communication. All partners should take all the necessary measures and provide all necessary resources for the timely and smooth elaboration of the project, as stated in DURAARK's Consortium Agreement.

2.4 Project Meetings

The DURAARK project general strategy for general assemblies and consortium board gatherings is described and agreed upon in the Consortium Agreement. LUH, the project coordinator is responsible for the preparation of minutes for all project meetings. The meeting minutes are sent to all partners for approval.



2.5 Progress Monitoring

Semester reports. Every 6 months a progress report will be prepared by each project partner to summarize the work progress and costs incurred in the reporting period. Based on the individual progress reports the Project Coordinator will elaborate the respective "Six-month Periodic Report" for the whole project and will send them to the European Commission.

The reports will be incorporated into annual reports to the European Commission (that is in month 12, 24, and 36).

Internal progress reports will be communicated through informal email exchanges from each project partner to the Project Manager every 3 months.

2.6 Deliverable Production Process

Project deliverables must be submitted in due time and must meet the quality criteria described earlier. Project schedules are generally tight; as a result, should a final deliverable review result in major revisions, it would most probably result in a delayed submission. In order to minimize this possibility, the production process of every deliverable is performed in three distinct stages. Each stage is followed by a review and a approval is required before the next stage is undertaken, as follows:

- 1. Production of an outline
- 2. Review of the outline
- 3. Production of the first draft
- 4. Review of the first draft
- 5. Production of the final deliverable
- 6. Review of the final deliverable

In this way, potential problems are detected at an early stage and the possibility of having to perform drastic changes in the written deliverable is minimized. In addition, exchange of opinions on the outline, stimulates contact between the authors and the reviewers and promotes a better and more efficient cooperation.



2.7 Deliverable Evaluation Process

The proposed deliverable evaluation process called "the review-procedure" will be executed in parallel to the deliverable's production process. This evaluation-procedure forms the key mechanism for monitoring compliance with the quality criteria. The degree of compliance is characterized by assessing the indicators which relate to the defects or points that require amendments in the text. The quality indicators are documented in DURAARK's review form, which is included as as annex to this deliverable (Annex I). These indicators are identified, together with their significance rank, during deliverable evaluation.

Nomination of Reviewers

One to three reviewers – according to the nature of the deliverable in question – are defined by the consortium during regular meetings; they are selected on the basis of their expertise and experience on the subject treated in the deliverable. Reviewers are meant to not have been involved personally in the deliverable production. Reviewers are contacted by the author in due time and their availability is confirmed.

The Review Procedure

All deliverables have to be submitted and quality-controlled in time.

All deliverables have to be submitted internally, 1 month before the official submission deadline. Coordination, production and assurance of timeliness of deliverables is the responsibility of each WP leader.

Each WP leader should suggest possible reviewers for the WP deliverables, as specified in the previous section. LUH as coordinator will appoint the reviewers. The assigned internal reviewer then has one week for the review.

Two weeks remain for the final changes; the scientific and technical management committee has to decide that the quality of the deliverable is sufficient and ready for submission. T_0 is the last day of the month in which the deliverable is due.

- 1. $(T_0 4 \text{ weeks})$: WP Leader or Technical Manager nominates Reviewer and sends deliverable review form to main Author of the Deliverable
- 2. $(T_0 3 \text{ weeks})$: Author of the Deliverable sends the final draft to Reviewer & WP Leader and uploads the document to the wiki



- 3. $(T_0 2 \text{ weeks})$: First reviews available on the wiki
- 4. $(T_0 4 \text{ days})$: End of cycle of corrections and further reviews (if necessary)
- 5. $(T_0 2 \text{ days})$ Final version uploaded on the wiki by WP leader after final quality check
- 6. T_0 Deliverable submitted to the Commission

Format and Naming: For the draft and review phase, the format suggested is either Microsoft Word Format (.doc), OpenDocument Format (.odf), or Portable Document Format (.pdf).

For the *final version* a PDF document is required for the official submission, as well as the document sources (.doc, .odf, or .tex (\LaTeX) and required images including any other input file or resources necessary to produce the final version of the PDF document. Both, the final version of the deliverable in PDF and the required sources, should be made available on the wiki by the WP leader after the final quality check, and not later than (T_0 - 2 days).

The naming convention is as follows:

- For the draft phase: "duraark_dx_draft_vy.{doc, odf, pdf}"
- For the review phase: "duraark_dx_review_vy.{doc, odf, pdf}"
- For the final version: "duraark_dx.pdf"

where x and y are the deliverable number and version number, respectively.

Note that deliverables of type **prototype** are to be internally released 4 weeks ahead of the above specified deadlines.



3 Risk Management Plan

In this section we describe the initial risk management plan for DURAARK.

3.1 General Risk Management Strategy

The identification and assessment of significant risks and the development of contingency plans for the case in which the risk occurs, is a primordial part of any project with the ambition and size of DURAARK. We plan to continuously:

- identify the risks of any nature that might occur in the project,
- assess the likely severity of each risk and its potential impact on the project,
- assess the potential probability of the risk,
- identify the measures that may be necessary, if relevant, to offset or prevent the occurrence of that risk,
- identify the measures that may be necessary, if relevant, to minimize the impact of the risk should it nevertheless occur.

To this end, we have established a general risk management strategy with the following components:

- A set of internal QA processes for the project's outcome documented in the deliverables (Section 2).
- A stratified structure for the assessment of risk at different levels, as detailed below:
 - (i) **Project level** by coordinator and technical manager
 - (ii) **WP level** by WP leaders
 - (iii) **Deliverable level** by deliverable leader and authors
- An **Advisory Board** of experts in the field, whose primary role will be the one of external quality assessors for the activities undertaken in DURAARK.



3.2 DURAARK Advisory Board

The DURAARK advisory board has been established to ensure the highest scientific standards across all targeted disciplines and scientific areas. The advisory board members will be invited to DURAARK gatherings, monitor project progress, advice the consortium and coordinator and provide feedback and valuable direction for the project towards helping in steering the project towards most innovative and compelling results. The current members of the advisory board are:

- Ines Zalduendo, Harvard University, US
- Andreas Rauber, TU Vienna, Austria
- Thomas Liebich, buildingSMART, MUC, DE
- Harald Sack, Hasso Plattner Institute, Germany

4 Identified Risks

In Table 1, we report important risks that have already been collected and assessed, together with actions to be taken for preventing and dealing with them. The accuracy of identified risks will be reviewed quarterly and the plan will be improved and completed accordingly.



#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution	
1	Unforeseen technical	Impact: Medium;	In case this risk occurs, the part-	
	problems may not be	Probability:	ners are committed to invest a	
	resolved with the as-	Medium. Since	certain amount of additional own	
	signed resources	the DURAARK work	resources, since most of the ad-	
		plan contains various	dressed topics are also of high	
		demanding research	personal interest for them as re-	
		challenges, this risk	searchers. In case this is not suf-	
		has to be considered.	ficient, the situation will be as-	
		The risk is not too	sessed by the governing board of	
		high, since the consor-	the project, in collaboration with	
		tium members bring	the involved WP leaders to de-	
		the required experi-	cide about adequate re-planning	
		ence and expertise to	actions that reassure the overall	
		judge the viability of	project result.	
		the research topics		
		within the planned		
		project resources.		
2	Technology planned in	Impact: High;	The consortium will perform reg-	
	DURAARK becomes	Probability:	ular technology watch activities	
	available from a third	Medium. This is	in all relevant areas to ensure	
	party	a general risk for a	that the DURAARK team is	
		three years research	aware, when this risk shows up.	
		project; the prob-	If competing technology becomes	
		ability is not too	available, this will be evalu-	
		high. Even related	ated. Where appropriate, such	
		efforts exist or may	technology will be incorporated,	
		appear, DURAARK	exploited and extended in the	
		is quite unique in	project.	
		the addressed fields		
		and combinations of		
		objectives.		

#	Risk	Risk Description		Risk Assessm	ent	Contingency Solution	
3	Lack	of	consensus	Impact:	High;	Within the implementation plan	
	within	cons	sortium	Probability:	Low.	management procedures have	
				The good coll	labora-	been established for enabling	
				tion climate a	nd the	effective decision making. The	
				mutual underst	anding	project coordinator and the	
				of the partners make		members of the governing board	
				this very impro	bable.	have the necessary skills to re-	
						solve such conflicts by adequate	
						negotiation as well as the means	
						required to avoid a blocking of	
						the project by a management	
						decision.	

#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution		
4	Quality Assurance	Impact: High;	In case this risk occurs, the rea-		
	& Risk Management	Probability: Low.	son for a failure of the methodol-		
	failed	The quality assurance	ogy needs to be identified. The		
		and risk manage-	situation will be assessed by the		
		ment methodology is	governing board of the project,		
		based on established	in collaboration with the involved		
		methodologies that	WP leaders, to decide about ad-		
		have been successfully	equate actions that assure the		
		used in many Euro-	overall project result.		
		pean projects in the			
		past years. The reg-			
		ular reviewing of the			
		quality of the results			
		and potential risks,			
		allows identifying			
		any possible prob-			
		lems/risks at an early			
		stage so that solutions			
		can be elaborated in			
		time. In addition, the			
		consortium partners			
		are very interested			
		and committed to the			
		project. That reduces			
		the risk of low quality			
		results and failures of			
		the risk management.			

#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution		
5	Project Partner leaves	Impact: High;	In case a partner leaves the con-		
	the consortium	Probability: Low.	sortium, the missing contribu-		
		All consortium part-	tions from this partner are as-		
		ners are very inter-	sessed. Further steps depend		
		ested and committed	on the result of this assessment.		
		to the project results	Typically, some of the missing		
		(although from differ-	contributions can be assigned to		
		ent perspectives due	other partners and/or a new part-		
		to the various roles	ner with adequate competences		
		in the project). This	has to be identified. The con-		
		makes the probability	sortium members have a sufficien		
		of one partner leaving	professional network to identify		
		the consortium very	an adequate new partner. The		
		low.	occurrence of this risk in each		
			case requires a local re-planning		
			of the project. As a further re-		
			sult of the assessment and the		
			planned transfer of tasks, IPR is-		
			sues might have to be settled (if		
			not yet covered by the general		
			agreements in the project). Fur-		
			thermore, the transfer of tasks		
			might also have implications on		
			the budget.		

#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution		
6	Technology developed	Impact: Medium;	A separate integration WP has		
	by different partners	Probability: Low.	been foreseen for the system spec-		
	cannot be integrated	A certain degree of	ification, to handle integration		
		separate development	and to raise awareness for the		
		is required due to the	need of integration. A mid-		
		variety in technology	project integration stage is fore-		
		and approaches and	seen, where the different devel-		
		in order to increase	oped technologies come together		
		productivity; this	already in an early phase of the		
		holds the risk that de-	project. Furthermore, integrated		
		veloped technologies	prototypes have been planned,		
		do not fit together, where the developed technologies			
		when they are inte- are integrated and delivered, t			
		grated into a common	to a common identify arising incompatibilitie		
		middleware.	eware. early within the project and to		
		enable technology adaptation t			
		overcome the integration prob			
			lems.		

#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution
7	Research directions	Impact: Medium;	In DURAARK, WP 2 has been
	and challenges do not	Probability:	proposed to better drive and align
	align with envisioned	Medium. DURAARK	the research directions in the
	applications	involves research in	project with the application re-
		several challenging	quirements. Together with the
		and important re-	development of an early proto-
		search areas. The	type and evaluation methods in
		results of this re-	WP 7, this will ensure that the re-
		search should serve	search achievements are fully ex-
		and be demonstrated	ploited to enable and facilitate
		through two use case	the foreseen application scenar-
		scenarios. However,	ios.
		practical application	
		needs and require-	
		ments are not always	
		easily and sufficiently	
		communicated to	
		research and technical	
		partners, and vice	
		versa research results	
		are not always fully	
		exploited.	

#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution		
8	Lack of sufficient data	Impact: Medium;	Should a need for additional		
	for experimentation	Probability: Low.	data arise, DURAARK will con-		
	with technologies pro-	DURAARK partners	sider and exploit publicly avail-		
	duced in DURAARK	already provide a	able data pools and, in addition,		
		substantial amount of	reach out to related organizations		
		relevant data for the	and research projects to broaden		
		project; which will be	the outreach and enable scientific		
		expanded throughout	collaboration on shared datasets.		
		the project. In ad-			
		dition, a dedicated			
		task (T7.1) aims at			
		gathering use cases			
		as well as data to be			
		used throughout the			
		project.			

#	Risk Description	Risk Assessment	Contingency Solution
9	Digital preservation	Impact: Low; Prob-	The consortium will perform reg-
	community recom-	ability: Medium.	ular technology and community
	mends other format as	Various players in	watch activities to ensure that
	best-practice archival	the digital preser-	the DURAARK team is aware,
	standard for 3D	vation community	when this risk shows up. If other
	objects.	publish best-practise	archival standards for 3D objects
		recommendations	should come into existence, a for-
		for archival formats.	mat comparison and migration
		While the risk is a	option will be dealt with, as a
		general one for a three	part of the sample preservation
		years research project,	planning for 3D objects in WP6.
		the probability is not	
		too high, as very few	
		institutions currently	
		deal with long-term	
		storage of 3D objects.	
		Furthermore, the	
		open file standards	
		IFC and IFD are	
		well established in	
		the building and	
		construction industry.	

Table 1: Important risks identified and assessed.

5 Conclusion

The quality specification and initial risk management plan for DURAARK has been established and will serve as a reference for the consortium during the execution of the project.



References

- [1] I. O. for Standardization. ISO 10006: Quality Management Guidelines to Quality in Project Management. ISO, 2003.
- [2] PMI. A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide), 5th Edition. Project Management Institute, 2013.

Annex I: DURAARK Deliverable Review Form



Deliverable Review Form

Please complete all sections on following pages:

Part I Responsibilities and Deadlines (by WP Leader)

Part II Nomination of Reviewer (by WP Leader)

Part III Assessment & Comments (by Reviewer)

Part IV Follow-up Actions (by main Author of Deliverable / WP Leader)

Part V Final version Accepted by (WP Leader and Project Coordinator)

Part I- Responsibilities & Deadlines

Turt Tresponding of Education	
Deliverable name	
Deliverable number	
Lead participant (institution short name)	
Other participants (institution short names)	
Deliverable Author Name(s)	
Reviewer Name	
WP Leader Name	
Month Due	
Deliverable Due date (= T0)	

#	Action	Deadline	Deadline date (1300 CET)	Actual date sent	Sent by (name)
1	WP Leader or Technical Manager nominates Reviewer sends deliverable review form to main Author of the Deliverable (Parts I & II)	T0 - 4 weeks			
2	Author of the Deliverable sends final draft to Reviewer \& WP Leader and uploads the document to the wiki	T0 - 3 weeks			
3	First reviews available on wiki (Part III)	T0 - 2 weeks			
4	End of cycle of corrections and further reviews (if necessary) (Part IV)	T0 - 4 days			
5	Final version uploaded on the wiki by WP leader after final quality check (Part V)	T0 - 2 days			
6	Deliverable submitted to the Commission	ТО			

Part II –Nomination of Reviewer (to be completed by Work Package Leader - i.e. after reviewer's agreement to participate is obtained)

A	Summary of the Purpose of the Deliverable	
В	Nominated Reviewer	
С	Justification for choice of Reviewer	

Part III – Reviewer Assessment

QI #	Quality Indicator	1	2	3	4	priority
	Check as appropriate	Excellent	Minor modifications	Minor modifications	Significant modifications	[+++] high [++] medium [+] low
	Example	No changes	Spelling, grammar	Content revision	Section rewrite	+++
1	Overall quality					
2	Appropriateness for audience					
3a	Research question and motivation clearly expressed					
3b	Methods of investigation					
3c	Conclusions, contributions, implications, future work					
3d	References – completeness					
4a	Presentation – spelling, grammar					
4b	Quality – tables, figures, graphics, TOC					
Prototype Deliverables						
5a	Installation					
5b	Description					

Detailed Comments

Point No:	Elaborate on your rating above (if applicable) [add rows as necessary]	[+++] high [++] medium [+] low

Part IV - Follow-up Actions

- 1	Action taken [add rows as necessary]	Date	Name

Part V: Final version accepted by:

	Name	Date
WP Leader		
QA Coordinator		