Baltic Engagement Centre for Combating Information Disorders

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR BECID2

The second round of BECID brings together five partner organisations: the University of Tartu (lead) and Delfi Meedia from Estonia, the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence (BCME) and Re:Baltica from Latvia, and Delfi UAB from Lithuania. As of the end of August 2025, the consortium includes 23 members across all organisations.

The Consortium Agreement was signed by all partners on 7 July 2025, with the project officially running from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2028.

BECID Project Management Processes

In line with the objectives of Work Package 1 (WP1), the project management framework establishes an efficient structure for coordinating project, financial, data, and risk management. Because the project's start date coincided with the beginning of the summer period, and the Consortium Agreement was signed retroactively, the effective launch phase was shorter than planned. With summer holidays also affecting availability, the first three months of the project effectively operated more like two.

As the lead partner and coordinator of all WP1 tasks, the University of Tartu has overseen the setup of expenditure tracking, activity planning, and financial management systems (T1.1; T1.3). This initial phase focused on ensuring that the necessary structures and processes were in place so that, after the summer, activities could move smoothly from planning into implementation. The design of the management framework relied heavily on close cooperation between consortium partners and on lessons learned from the previous funding round, which concluded on 31 May 2025.

The Project and Financial Managers were designated prior to the official project start and are as follows:

- **Principal Investigator (PI) – Prof. Marju Himma**

Responsible for coordinating the project's activities, ensuring that outputs meet agreed scientific standards and timelines. She also oversees risk assessment and develops contingency measures where needed.

- **Project Manager (PM) – Gretel Juhansoo**

Leads the operational side of the project, supervising day-to-day implementation, tracking progress against milestones, and managing risks and quality control. Her role focuses on ensuring that activities are delivered efficiently and with measurable impact.

- **Financial Manager (FM) – Regina Lapp**

Provides central financial oversight for the consortium. As not all partners have in-house administrative capacity, she ensures consistent financial reporting, compliance with funder requirements, and smooth budget management across organisations.

- **Communication Officer (CO) – Annette Nordmann**

Coordinates both internal and external communication. In addition to WP2, she supports other WPs by contributing to internal activities and providing communication or campaign expertise where needed, ensuring that outputs are practical, sustainable, and widely usable.

On 1 July, BECID2 held its online kick-off event, where all members reviewed the project outline in detail, discussed each task, and appointed task leads from the participating organisations. The meeting also served as the first Steering Committee session, bringing together all organisational leads alongside the PM, FM, and PI to present their initial plans and priorities for the new funding period, and tackle any issues or questions. After the meeting, a shared folder with all documents, including a recording of the meeting, and the Gantt chart with a list of established task leads was shared across the consortium.

An overview of the project's first steps was also shared on BECID2's website **becid.ut.ee**. The move of the project website from becid.eu (previously managed by Delfi UAB) to the University of Tartu domain was presented to the consortium. Additionally, the **semi-automated project tracking system** (*Figure 1*) developed in Notion, was presented to the consortium. Following approval by the University of Tartu's IT helpdesk for security compliance, the system has been in use since **14 August**.

Each partner organisation has been allocated one paid Plus-plan seat – appointed internally in line with Steering Committee decisions – while the University of Tartu holds two seats, designated for the Project Manager and Communication Officer.

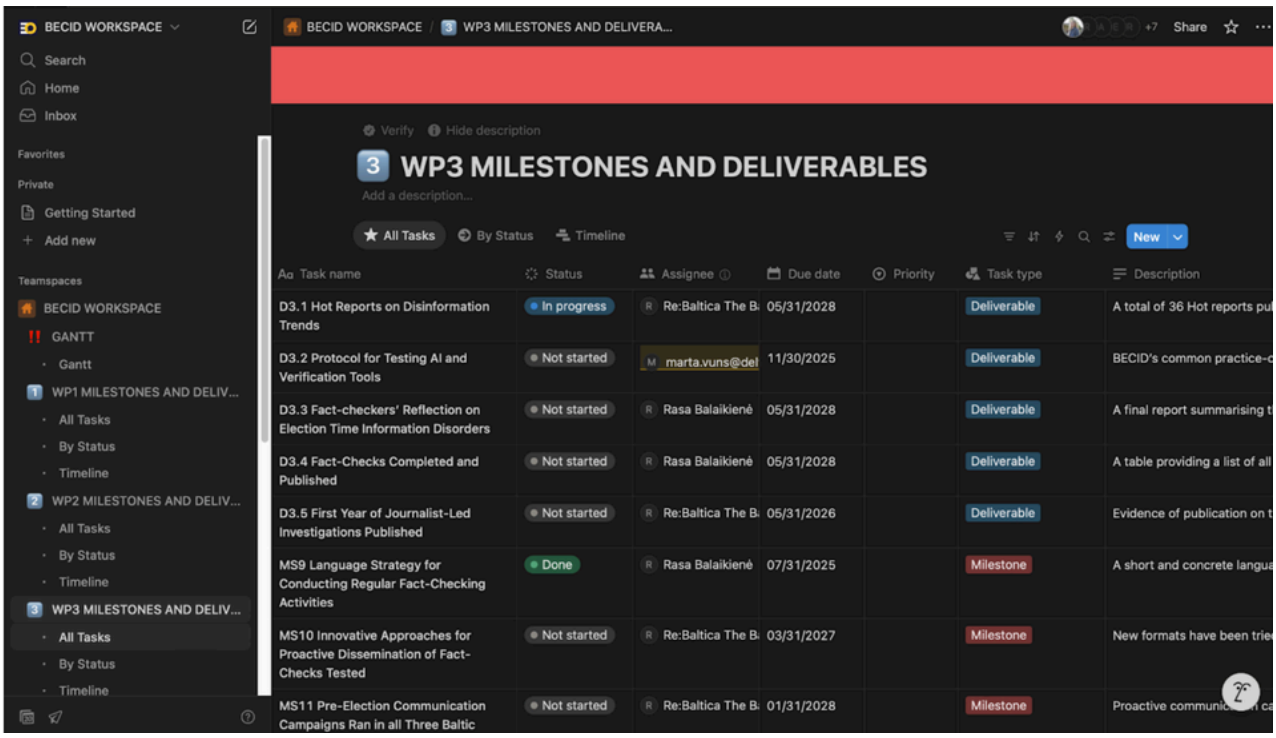


Figure 1. BECID2's semi-automated project tracking system.

The Management Committee is set to meet again on 18 September. Instead of monthly consortium meetings, initial WP sessions are used to define plans and budgets (with WP3 delivering the first milestone in July). Following lessons from the previous round, monthly meetings have been replaced by email overviews, while external updates are shared via the BECID website and Facebook page.