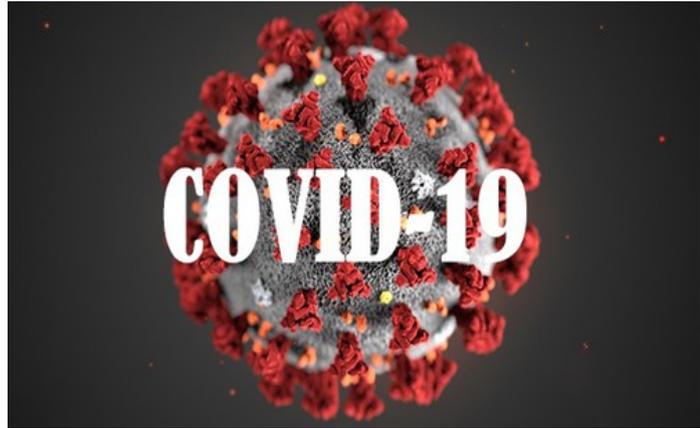


Effects of COVID19 on project progress & consortium meeting moved

The COVID19 pandemic has hit everybody by surprise. In late January consortium members were still actively discussing meeting each other to start the integration of their technologies, and planning was in progress for a big consortium meeting to initiate the preparations for the big



WP9 DEMOs. All this initially came to a halt when partner organisations installed travel restrictions and some organisations even shut down completely for a while. Many researchers were not able to visit their labs and important parts coming from Asia to complete first technical prototypes suddenly had long delivery delays. Amazingly and to the credit of all partner organisations, COVID19 did not stop the SECREDAS project in its tracks. Even from home, people were putting together makeshift demonstrators and, in some cases for example, they sent each other samples (components, boards etc.) so that other partners could move forward with their work. Some delays of 1-3 months in the submission of deliverables are still expected. These are mainly due to partners presenting their input or review of deliverables later.

In all, from a technical point of view, the SECREDAS project has been able to continue its work more or less in line with original planning. The only work package that has suffered serious effects from the pandemic, is work package 11 (dissemination and exploitation). This is caused by the fact that all planned external events, such as workshops and trade fair participations in which demonstrators could be presented, were cancelled with currently no change in sight. Whether the negative effects of COVID19 on project progress can remain limited, remains to be seen.

Year 3 is the year in which most developed technologies need to be completed and integrated to form solutions that can be tested in the live WP9 DEMOs. These DEMOs cannot be done virtual. Year 3 is also the year in which all partners should start to use the DEMO results for their own exploitation activities, and for this they need the DEMOs to take place. The Project Office is working closely with the work package 9 leader and the WP9 DEMO owners to plan the DEMOs and ensure maximum effort on capturing and promoting the results. But it remains a dynamic process...

Please note that the consortium meeting of 19 April has been cancelled. The meeting is moved to a full-virtual meeting on 12 +15 May.