



# Project Title:

# Thermal and energy Management for INcreased Driving range of an Electric minibus including improved user-centric Design and thermal comfort

Acronym: MINDED

Grant Agreement No.: **101138202** 

Topic: User-centric design and operation of EV for optimized energy efficiency

(2ZERO Partnership)

Topic identifier: HORIZON-CL5-2023-D5-01-01

Type of action: **Innovation Action (IA)** 

Deliverable No.	D6.1				
Deliverable Title	Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR) and commun	Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR) and communication plan			
Deliverable Date	2024-06	2024-06			
Deliverable Type	Report	Report			
Dissemination level	Public				
Written by	Mirza POPOVAC (AIT) 2024-06-05				
Checked by	Luis FIORE (TUDA)       2024-06-20         Dragan SIMIC (AIT)       2024-06-21				
Approved by	Thomas BÄUML (AIT) 2024-06-25				
Status	Version 0.1 Version 0.2 Version 0.9 Version 1.0	2024-06-05 2024-06-14 2024-06-21 2024-06-25			

This project has received funding from the European Union's HORIZON EUROPE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101138202. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the Consortium partners listed herein and does not necessarily represent the view of the European Commission or its services.





#### **Publishable Executive Summary**

The present deliverable entitled "Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR) and communication plan" defines the main guidelines and means of the strategy that the MINDED project will implement to make its results public as well as to promote project action and results.

The purpose of this deliverable is thereby to outline an inclusive activity aimed to maximize the communication and dissemination of the project, and to:

- define the general strategy of the communication and dissemination activities aiming at defining the
  purpose of communicating (why) results, news, and other relevant information, alongside with the
  communication guidelines (how) for all activities performed under the scope of the project.
- define a set of target audiences (who) with corresponding events and/or publications (where) to achieve successful dissemination of the project's results. Each type of audience will be reached via a preferential channel. Contained in this document are the major events, publications, conferences and social media platforms through which the MINDED consortium seeks to promote the project and its results.
- present the logo identity. Writing, references and disclaimer rules are also presented to ensure all communication messages are coherent and appropriately acknowledge the EU funding instruments.
- designate the guidelines, procedures and criteria that will be applied in order to plan, monitor, record and evaluate all dissemination and communication activities.
- present the guidelines for ensuring high quality in all publications and dissemination materials.

Through these means, the consortium intends to promote the concept and results of the MINDED project to selected stakeholders, such as the research and scientific community, industry, the EC and relevant research projects, the wider public and end users.

A preliminary exploitation strategy of the project results is also outlined, including IPR, to support the European economic growth and provide a solid base for new business opportunities.

These plans constitute an internal instrument that aim to provide a consistent framework for all activities needed to be made public and sustain the concepts, achievements, technical and knowledge results developed within the project, as well as to make specific use of them. It will be constantly evaluated and revised during the project duration.





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#### **Abbreviations and Nomenclature**

Table 1: List of Abbreviations and Nomenclature

Symbol or Shortname	Description		
HVAC	Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning		
CA	Consortium Agreement		
DoA	Descriptions of Actions		
EC	European Commission		
ER	Exploitable Results		
GA	Grant Agreement		
HE	Horizon Europe		
IP	Intellectual Property		
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights		
KPI	Key Performance Indicator		
SMS	Social Media Strategy		
WP	Workpackage		
ZE	Zero Emission		





#### 1 Introduction

The present deliverable is prepared in the context of Work Package 6 "Dissemination, communication, and exploitation" and is associated with Task 6.1 "Scientific dissemination" and Task 6.2 "Communication towards non-specialist stakeholders and public outreach activities". WP6 is a vertical component within the project work plan. It aims at supervising the integrity and consistency of all dissemination efforts for creating awareness on all the MINDED stakeholders, as well as investors, policy makers, scientific/research communities, and public.

The Dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan is the core document that (a) outlines the project's dissemination, exploitation, and communication activities and (b) enables a good coordination of these activities. Aim of the document is the definition of the means to be used for disseminating the results among the main identified stakeholders and the description the overall MINDED communication strategy.

This deliverable will identify the relevant target groups, suitable tools, and channels, as well as appropriate events to share the MINDED results with the scientific/technical community.

Scientific dissemination will take place by means of papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, with participation at relevant conferences and meetings events. Coordination of the scientific dissemination activities will also leverage the services offered by the EC (e.g., publication in the Open Research Europe and/or Common Dissemination Booster). The dissemination activities will strictly adhere to the Open Access policy in force in Horizon Europe.

The communication towards non-specialist stakeholders and public outreach will also be addressed. The communication plan will identify the non-specialist target groups and recipients, as well as the suitable communication tools and channels to address the public. The deliverable will also present:

- the generation of a project logo, visual identity, graphical elements, infographics, and project document templates;
- the publication of a project website, featuring all the relevant MINDED information, objectives, project structure, publications, and partner info;
- the implementation of a Social Media Strategy (SMS) addressing the public, geared on a synergetic use of LinkedIn and ResearchGate;
- the creation of communication material including: a project brochure, a project communication video, in-focus technical interviews with WP leaders;
- themed workshops with target groups to explain the best practice elements of the project along with critical elements that allow for successful commercialisation of electric vehicles.

This Dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan administers all activities with the aim to:

- outline the main objectives of the dissemination actions;
- identify the target audiences for each dissemination objective;
- define the tools and channels to be used and the activities required to reach targeted audience groups;
- identify the dissemination KPIs, useful to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities conducted.

#### 1.1 Goals and objectives

The main purpose of the dissemination and communication strategy is to formalise and plan all the activities that can make the project results public and that can promote and communicate MINDED activities and results. A preliminary strategy to make concrete use of the project results is also outlined, including IPR, to support the European economic growth and provide a solid base for new business opportunities.

The strategy will set out the main tools for these purposes, and to provide guidelines on the overall approach among the partners. The first objective of this strategy is to engage the target audience, identify target groups and analyse their needs in terms of dissemination, by consolidating the network with the incorporation of





supporting experts and institutions. This means that dissemination and communication is not targeting only scientists but also the other groups that can learn from the results: authorities, industry, policymakers, sectors of interest, civil society.

The MINDED approach will aim at engaging the target groups in a 4-fold way:

- awareness: ensuring that the project, its scope, and its activities are well-known to potential future users and clients, industrial and scientific communities, and the public;
- understanding: diffusing the knowledge produced by the project to other actors and players;
- engagement: encouraging the active participation of external parties in project activities, providing fruitful feedback on project direction and findings;
- acting: transferring the technology produced by the project to other actors and players of the market, and allowing interested parties to validate the project results, as well as producing MINDED-inspired solutions.

The expected results of the MINDED approach are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Expected results of communication and dissemination approach

	Expected result	Target Engagement
1	Key stakeholders provide relevant feedbacks to the MINDED project on a regular basis	Through project workshops
2	Target audience network grows steadily throughout the project	Through online campaigns (e.g., newsletters and social networks) & beneficiary contact networks that will be ad hoc mobilised where applicable and useful
3	Comprehensive information about the project and its results available	Through the project website, dissemination tools and regular project updates

The impact of the activities will be measured considering:

- The participation of stakeholders in project workshops;
- The high number of followers on the projects' social media channels;
- Visits to the project website, views of press releases, material downloads, etc.;
- Specific KPIs for scientific dissemination (see section 3.3).

The dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan is intended to be a live document, which will continuously be enriched with the forthcoming project's achievements and contributions from partners. The following sections describe the activities that we plan to carry out to reach the abovementioned objectives.

#### 1.2 Reference to the deliverables of EMPOWER

As the project MINDED is closely related to the project EMPOWER and the coordination for both projects is in the hands of the same persons at the AIT, also similarities in the project management exist and synergies should be exploited, to reduce the project management efforts. Therefore, this deliverable of MINDED will be very similar to the related deliverable of EMPOWER and whole text passages will be copied from D8.1 "Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR), and communication plan" of EMPOWER to D6.1 "Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR), and communication plan" of MINDED.





#### 2 Dissemination and Communication strategies

#### 2.1 Objectives

To ensure that the MINDED results are made public, promoted, and communicated according to the expectations of all members of the consortium, strategic objectives for all dissemination and communication activities have been identified and are presented below. These objectives are:

- To ensure that target audiences are convinced that more results have been achieved than otherwise possible, as a result of European collaboration on the MINDED project;
- To demonstrate how the outcomes of the MINDED project are relevant to the everyday lives of a growing cohort of European citizens;
- To assure, where possible, that the results of the MINDED project influence policy makers and also decision makers in industry and the scientific community to ensure the long-term impact of the project;
- To ensure that all communication produced is engaging and interesting to the target audience.

In short, the main and general objectives are:

- building and strengthening the MINDED identity and consolidate its image in a well-known, visible and recognisable successful brand;
- influencing different targets: public opinion on one side, as well as decision and policy makers on the other side, involving audiences as institutions, authorities, providers, and planners.

#### 2.2 General guidelines

A set of basic rules need to be followed by each dissemination and communication action. The guidelines are presented below:

- To ensure that all legal, ethical and privacy criteria are being considered and met;
- To comply with the project's procedures, scope, objectives according to contractual documents;
- To respect the Grant Agreement (GA), Description of Action (DoA) and Consortium Agreement (CA);
- To guarantee the proper use of the funding for maximum efficiency, to demonstrate value for money for all dissemination and communication activities conducted;
- To use the official project material in presentations;
- To avoid publication of restricted and/or commercial data and to ensure that all the necessary procedures prior any publication have been followed;
- To make sure confidentiality is preserved;
- To create a responsive and adequate activity addressing the appropriate target audience;
- To avoid the repeated publication of the same work;
- To avoid publication of one's work without proper referencing;
- To guarantee proper referencing and archiving of all dissemination and communication material.

These rules serve as guidelines for all WP8 activities and should be verified before any outreach by the beneficiary responsible for the given outreach activity.

#### 2.3 The elementary actions

The communication and dissemination activities as well as the preparation of the entire plan, will follow the following steps:

- Gather the MINDED dissemination and communications needs;
- Identify the targets to be reached and their peculiar aspects;
- Coordinate the vision and the corporate image of the project in its complexity;
- Elaborate tailor-made key messages for targeted audiences pointing out positive values and the MINDED major points;





- Analyse the best strategies to enhance the campaign effectiveness;
- Define the sub-objectives;
- Identify media and channels to spread out the campaign and reach each segment and sub-segments;
- Identify more effective tools, to reach the MINDED dissemination and communication aims.

#### 2.4 The aim of dissemination and communication

The first question to clarify in this document is "Why MINDED wants to communicate?", to be able to drive all the following activities with a clear purpose in mind.

The multiple communication objectives are based on the strategic objectives and are summarised below:

- Convince the target audiences that the MINDED project is a powerful key-enabler for achieving scientific excellence, contributing to competitiveness and solving important societal challenges;
- Demonstrate how the outcomes of the MINDED project are relevant for a growing cohort of European stakeholders by creating jobs, introducing novel technologies, promoting a carbon free logistics and improving lives of European citizens;
- Where possible, make sure that the results of the MINDED project influence policy makers and decision makers in industry and the scientific community to ensure the long-term impact of the project.

#### 2.5 Dissemination and communication content

The answer to the question "What do the MINDED partners want to communicate?" is related to the objectives, progress, and derived results of MINDED.

Being strictly inherent to the partner that desires to communicate, the specific timeline of the project and the audience, the content of any communication and dissemination action is something that cannot be defined at this stage. Nonetheless, it is important to state that each beneficiary will seek to communicate as widely as possible the results achieved within the project.

#### 2.6 Relevant stakeholders

The MINDED communication and dissemination strategy aims to reach several categories and the message will be adapted regarding the audience. The main identified categories are:

- Stakeholders & practitioners;
- Scientific community;
- European Commission;
- Public;
- MINDED ecosystem;
- E-VOLVE cluster.

Over the course of the project and based on feedback of our communication, the categories could be refined to better adapt communication if needed.

Table 3 identifies the communication means expected to have better impact with respect to the targeted stakeholders.





Table 3: Targeted stakeholders

Stakeholder	Communication Means		
Practitioners & stakeholders	Workshops, booths, printed communication, MINDED community building		
Scientific community Scientific articles, journals and posters, scientific conferences			
European commission	Printed communication		
Public Web site and online presence, printed media, multimedia conten			
Ecosystem	Workshops and printed communication		
E-VOLVE cluster	Joint activities, online presence		

# 2.7 Approach for dissemination and communication

The MINDED Dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan will ensure its effectiveness by appropriately tailoring the communicated messages and the associated communication channels according to the specific target groups, defining objectives and quantifiable indicators, and continuously monitoring the results, introducing amendments and adjustments if required.

A wide range of traditional and innovative communication channels ensures that the messages will be communicated to each target group according to its peculiar values, beliefs, interests and needs.

The dissemination approach is measurable and traceable because KPIs are used to track the dissemination progress. The overall process followed towards development of a detailed dissemination & communication strategy has been to:

- Identify the audience groups;
- Consider the needs of the audience groups;
- Develop specially calibrated per case message that clearly addresses the needs of each target audience group;
- Assess and improve the dissemination activities. MINDED focused on the following types of dissemination;
- Scientific Dissemination by spreading directly and presenting the aim of the project;
- Dissemination and Communication towards non-specialist stakeholders and public outreach: this includes web-based actions (by creating the project web site) as wells as event participation (by monitoring and participating to the most important events related to the purposes of MINDED).

#### 2.8 Dissemination and communication activities

A variety of means and activities are scheduled to make the concepts and the results of MINDED public as well as to inform multiple audience, promote and communicate activities and results:

- Events Participation:
  - o Project specific workshop(s) organisation;
  - o Conferences and Workshops participation;
  - o Fair trades/Exhibitions participation.
- Web Dissemination:
  - o Creating the web site and the social media channels.
- Paper dissemination:
  - o Creating brochures, posters, and leaflets.
- Media Dissemination:
  - o Writing, editing and spreading press releases.
- Scientific Dissemination:
  - o Scientific papers and publications;





- o Posters, others.
- Collaboration activities:
  - o Clustering with related research projects.

A matrix of the dissemination mechanisms/activities used in MINDED, related with the respective objectives and targeted groups is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Dissemination mechanisms

Dissemination mechanisms Objective		Targeted Stakeholders	Timeline				
<b>Events' Based Dissemination:</b>	Events' Based Dissemination:						
Project specific workshop(s) organization	Consultation, brainstorming, discussion, and validation of MINDED draft results	<ul> <li>EC and relevant research projects</li> <li>Researchers and academic communities</li> <li>Industry</li> </ul>	As appropriate, based on project phases and results				
<ul> <li>Awareness creation</li> <li>Engagement of a wider academic &amp; industrial community</li> <li>Methodology         Presentation/Validation         Networking and Collaboration with the relevant stakeholders/oth Projects     </li> </ul>		All stakeholders	Constantly				
Fair trades/Exhibitions participation/ Demonstration activities	<ul> <li>Awareness creation</li> <li>Engagement of a wider industrial community</li> <li>MINDED solution Demonstration</li> </ul>	• Industry	As appropriate, based on project phases and results				
Project specific workshop(s) organization	Consultation, brainstorming, discussion, and validation of MINDED draft results	<ul> <li>EC and relevant research projects</li> <li>Researchers and academic communities</li> <li>Industry</li> </ul>	As appropriate, based on project phases and results				
Web - Based Dissemination:							
Project website	<ul><li> Information and knowledge diffusion</li><li> Results presentation</li></ul>	All stakeholders     (especially the public)	Constantly				
Social Media package	<ul><li>Awareness creation</li><li>Knowledge diffusion</li><li>Results presentation</li></ul>	All stakeholders     (especially the public)	Constantly				
e-Bulletin	<ul><li> Information and knowledge diffusion</li><li> Results presentation</li></ul>	All stakeholders	Periodically based on project developments				
Publishing on external platforms	<ul><li>Awareness creation</li><li>Knowledge diffusion</li><li>Results presentation</li><li>Collaboration</li></ul>	All stakeholders (depending on the platform)	Constantly, as appropriate				
Infographics  Infographics  Results presentation		All stakeholders     (especially the public)	As appropriate, based on project outcomes				





	Awareness creation					
Videos	Information and	All stakeholders	As appropriate			
Videos	knowledge diffusion	(especially the public)	As appropriate			
	Results presentation					
Paper - Based Dissemination:						
Printed dissemination material (brochures, stickers)	<ul><li>Awareness creation</li><li>Knowledge diffusion</li><li>Results presentation</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Public (especially</li> <li>Industry/enterprises,</li> <li>Researchers and Academic communities)</li> </ul>	As appropriate, based on project developments and results			
<b>Publications:</b>						
Scientific papers <sup>1</sup> and publications	Knowledge diffusion to the relevant scientific community     Results presentation	Researchers and     Academic communities     Other research projects	As appropriate, based on project phases and results			
Press releases		All stakeholders (especially the public)	Periodically based on project developments and results			
Collaboration Activities:						
Collaboration with other initiatives/projects	<ul> <li>Information and knowledge exchange</li> <li>Alignment of activities among the relevant projects</li> <li>Collaboration in dissemination activities</li> </ul>	EC and relevant research projects	As appropriate			

#### 3 Scientific dissemination strategy

The involvement of the scientific community is a duty. First, there is the principle to disseminate the products of the research among the Research Community; for this purpose, the chosen dissemination level for many project deliverables is "public". This choice is intended to promote the cooperation and implementation of the project results by external experts with the aim of being able to follow the research development more quickly. Another relevant step is to spread the research products to scholars and academics in general to enforce the interest among students and research teams. Furthermore, scientific publications will be developed by the consortium and the access will be open.

#### 3.1 Scientific Journals and Conferences

Publications in scientific journals and conferences relevant to the research and innovation activities will target the scientific communities directly or indirectly in the scope of MINDED. They reinforce the project image and brand, cross-fertilise MINDED concepts and solutions with state-of-the-art techniques, foster cross-project cooperation and provide a fundamental verification of soundness of project results by means of peer review.

For results approved for dissemination, MINDED fully endorses open science practices. MINDED strictly adheres to the Open Access publication policy of Horizon Europe by publishing scientific articles such that they are immediately free of charge to end-users for any purpose ("Gold Open Access"). To ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications, each partner, who is planning to publish an article on a journal or at a peer-reviewed conference, should ensure in advance that the selected journal/conference is compliant with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> according to instructions provided for publication in open sources journal

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the EC rules on open access. After this verification, the partner should follow the internal approval process and:

- Contact the leader of WP6 (Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation) and notify them about the plans for publishing an article about the MINDED project;
- Check the journal's policy on open access on www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/ or a similar project website (e.g., journal website);
- If open access is not granted by the journal, check whether other options are available (e.g., fee payment, license agreement or addendum) and, if not, refrain from publication;
- If open access is permitted, the partner can proceed with the publication (sending a copy of the publication to the consortium 45 days before publication for internal approval).

To facilitate the work of the partners, Table 5 gives a useful, non-exhaustive list of journals that guarantee open access of the articles published.

Table 5: List of potential Journals for scientific publication

Journals
IEEE Transaction on Industry Application
IEEE Transaction on Industrial Electronics
IEEE Transaction on Vehicular Technology
IEEE Industry Applications Magazine
SAE Alternative Powertrains
SAE International Journal on Engines
SAE International Journal of Passenger Cars - Electronic and Electrical Systems
SAE International Journal of Sustainable Transportation, Energy, Environment, & Policy
Elsevier eTransportation

#### 3.2 Participation in industry events and selected conferences

Complementary means such as organising and/or participating in popular industry events, thematic fora & panels, workshops, roundtables and conference sessions, poster presentations and specialised demonstrations will also be utilised. Table 6 reports a non-exhaustive list of potential events that is continuously updated according to partners' suggestions and already existing event calendars such as the Newsroom Calendar coordinated by the European Union (<a href="https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/week\_en">https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/week\_en</a>).

Table 6: List of potential conferences and industrial events

Journals
TRA2026
EUCAR Conferences
EARPA forum
EEVC
EVS
Aachen Colloquium "Automobile and Engine Technology"
PCIM





EPE
IEEE sectorial conferences
Int. Conf. on Advances in Engineering, Science and Management
Events organized by SAE Europe
Coiltech
SAE WXC 2024, 2025, 2026
ICE 2025

For ease of use, a calendar listing of the potential events will be added to the project-internal SharePoint – the internal collaboration platform and kept up to date. The following Table 7 will assist in keeping track of all the events.

Table 7: Tracking event table

Type of	Name of	Date	Location	Initial	Participation	Project	Outcomes
event	event			interest	to event	presence	
Seminar /					Doutman(a) who	Stand/booth,	Project synergies,
fair /				Partner	Partner(s) who	presentation,	new stakeholders,
workshop /				name	went to the	roll-up, poster	papers published,
other					event	session	etc.

#### 3.3 Measuring and evaluating – KPIs

The reach and impact of MINDED scientific dissemination activities will be assessed qualitatively and quantitatively and closely monitored using participation statistics, search metrics and other established indicators of media use.

A set of KPIs has been defined to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of dissemination activities carried out, and the measurements are listed according to the activity in Table 8. The list of KPIs can be modified, deleted or new ones added if seen necessary to maximise their effectiveness.

Table 8: Scientific dissemination KPIs

Dissemination activities	KPI
Technical publication	$\square$ N° of articles published in the technical literature and dedicated journals or magazines $\square$ N° of scientific papers published in international conferences and dedicated journals $\square$ Estimated numbers of readers of the article
Events, congress, exhibition, and workshops	$\hfill \square$ $N^\circ$ of conferences and industrial events attended by MINDED partners $\hfill \square$ Estimated number of media releases

#### 4 Communication towards non -specialist stakeholders and public outreach

The communication plan will identify the non-specialist target groups and recipients, as well as the suitable communication tools and channels to address the public. All dissemination materials refer to the project name, the project's website, and Horizon Europe with associated graphic elements in line with the European Commission's guidelines.

# 4.1 Project identity and logo

The core of the project's visual identity is its logo, which effectively captures the essence and key themes of the project. The message that the MINDED logo brings across is the minibus speeding towards its electric drive solutions. The logo has been generated using multiple iterations, and below we present the technical





description of the logo (Figure 1) and its final version in the long (with project name) and the short (without project name) versions (Figure 2). Additionally, the projects' colour palette is shown in Figure 3.

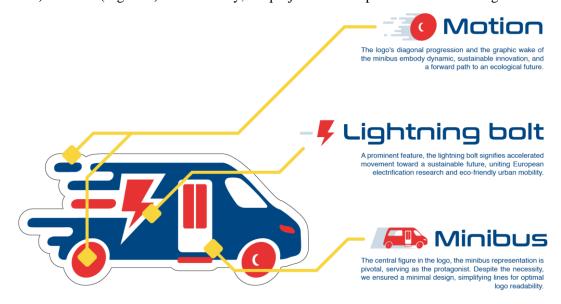


Figure 1: Technical description of the MINDED logo



Figure 2: MINDED project logos with and without project name





# **Color Palette**



Figure 3: Color palette of the MINDED project

#### 4.2 Online presence

A dynamic and interactive website, together with social media accounts — particularly LinkedIn (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/minded-project">https://www.linkedin.com/company/minded-project</a>) — will be created, maintained, and regularly updated to boost the information flow to all entities with an interest in the project. These online means (see Table 9) will also be used to disseminate relevant information to targeted parties.

Publicly available information that will be used for this purpose includes:

- information on the project, its objectives, its challenges and the main results and achievements;
- information about the consortium members and all organisations involved;
- project news (e.g., announcement of project events);
- public deliverables of the project;
- publications, conference proceedings and journal articles;
- links to websites of interest to the project (complementary research, other national and European initiatives relevant to the project).

Additionally, a repository has been created for sharing internal information between the consortium partners and for archiving the project documents.

Table 9: Online communication plan

Object	Targeted community	Key Performance Indicator	KPI Target Value	Reach level
Project website	General public, local/regional/national authorities, EC, News Agencies, industrial companies, SMEs, scientific/research community;	Number of visitors, number of returning visits, stay-on-page time, other CEO metrics;	15k+ visitors over the project life;	International
LinkedIn	General public, local/regional/national authorities, EC, News Agencies, industrial companies, SMEs, scientific/research community;	Number of subscribers, interactions (e.g. likes, reposts, comments);	500+ followers;	International
Multimedia content	General public, local/regional/national authorities, EC, News Agencies, industrial companies, SMEs, scientific/research community;	Number of videos produced;	One project video, 3 animated project mini- clips, 7 in-focus technical interviews with WP leaders;	International





Newsletter (optional)	Local/regional/national authorities, EC, News Agencies, industrial companies, SMEs, scientific/research community	Number of newsletters, number of subscribers	1 newsletter per year – potentially a joint newsletter as part of a project cluster;	International
Print asset	Local/regional/national authorities, EC, News Agencies, industrial companies, SMEs, scientific/research community	Number of stakeholders reached	1 brochure, stickers (e.g., with project logo and website URL or QR code, to stick on	International

#### 4.2.1 Project website

The MINDED website will be set up and maintained during the project implementation and at last two years after MINDED completion. The website will provide:

- 1. General information about the project;
- 2. All the updates on the project;
- 3. Information about the partners and their role in the project;
- 4. All the documents and deliverable produced during the project.

The MINDED website is under development at the domain <a href="https://www.minded-project.eu/">https://www.minded-project.eu/</a>. After launching, for the ease of users' navigation, it will be regularly updated following the project's development. It will also allow interested parties to get in touch with the project coordinators.

#### 4.2.2 Social media package

MINDED will employ selected social media to reach its audience. The focus will be on LinkedIn, as from previous experience this appears the most effective online tool for reaching most of the target audience.

MINDED social media channel will be continuously fed with news on the project, updates, as to interact with followers and stakeholder with the aim of engaging a wide discussion about the targeted themes. The members of the project consortium will also be encouraged to leverage the social media of their own organisations (companies, research institutes, etc.) to amplify the messaging of the project.

The selection and use of appropriate hashtags to bring the project to the attention is relevant. Therefore, the hashtags will be selected very carefully.

#### 4.2.3 External platforms

Significant project developments and articles introducing MINDED will be also published in external portals, including EC platforms.

#### 4.2.4 Infographics

The project will create infographics depicting the project's aims and results (according to progress achieved). The infographics aim at conveying stories and messages easily to the wide public.

#### 4.3 Events – Participation

The MINDED messages will be physically distributed in a large set of events. The kind of messages will be adapted with regards to the targeted audiences and their interest on the MINDED project. For example, in public events a poster could be proposed, while in a scientific or technical event a flyer or newsletter is more appropriate. On the other hand, in scientific conferences the research results derived from the project should be disserted.

MINDED partners will be proactive in providing information about the potential benefits of the solution during its development phase. Relevant articles and publications will be prepared for all key stakeholder communities. Articles and publications will be produced for journals and targeted specialist media by all partners. A wide





variety of communication channels will be used to maximize coverage; press releases (Table 10) will be issued following the latest requirements of the EC.

Table 10: Press releases

Object	Targeted community	Key Performance Indicator	KPI Target Value	Reach level
Press releases	Industrial companies, SMEs, general public	Number of press releases issued	One press release per year	National

#### 4.4 Communication activity plan

#### 4.4.1 Scheduling and management

Active communication action will start at the beginning of the project and will continue during its entire life. To prepare the communication at the right time, a calendar of important moment and step of the project as well as events and attendance has been created ad will be updated collaboratively with the consortium.

After the end of the project, the website will be maintained as a static webpage. A specific brochure will be prepared at the end of the project to support the consortium members in continuing the promotion of their results and the common results of MINDED after the end of the project.

The major activities scheduled for the project duration are summarized in Table 11:

Table 11: Communication scheduling

Туре	Description	Timeline	Status
Logo	The logo has been designed and will be used in all documents and publications of the project	M1	Completed
Website	The online presence of MINDED	M6	Almost Completed
LinkedIn Account	A LinkedIn Account has been created for engaging various stakeholders in project-based discussions	M2	Completed
MINDED deliverable template	Template for the project deliverables created	M3	Completed
MINDED presentation template	Template to be used for the project presentations created	M5	Completed
Project brochure – Designing of a brochure for promoting the pro- initial version various events		M5	To be started
Press Releases	Press Releases produced accompanied by the logo in printable resolution and 1-2 characteristic project photos		Ongoing
Publications	A significant number of publications are expected both in conferences and in journals	M5 – M48	Continuous
Events' participation	Participation to events (i.e. conferences, workshops, trade fairs& exhibitions) in order to raise awareness about MINDED and disseminate the project's results	M1 – M48	Continuous
Workshop organization	Organization of workshop(s)	First M9 - M24 Second M25 – M48	Pending
Mailing lists and e-Bulletin			Continuous

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Infographics	Ographics  Creating infographics depicting the project's concepts (during the first year of the project) and results (during the more advanced project's phase when strong results are already available)		Ongoing, first infographic (draft) created
Images  Producing and collecting images from the project's events and meetings to be used for project dissemination/communication		M1 – M48	Continuous
Videos	Producing of video(s) presenting the work done in the project	M6 – M48	Continuous

The communication management during the life of the project will be organised with a set of ordered actions presented below: (1) Initialisation, (2) Execution, (3) Monitoring & Reviewing, (4) Reporting and (5) Closing. A loop will be organised between step 2 and step 4.

#### **Initialisation**

This step consists mainly in issuing this document, defining the communication strategy and goals, appointing the responsible management team, and designing the basic documents.

#### Prepare basic material

At the beginning of the project, a project leaflet (introductory brochure) and a flyer will be issued to ensure efficient communication prior to the first results of the project. Furthermore, the poster will be ready for communicating MINDED activities inside conferences and public events.

Potential communication and dissemination targets will be kept in a calendar that will be created and maintained, containing publication deadlines, national and international conference dates, exhibitions and other events.

#### **Execution**

Once the full communication strategy is defined with the targeted audiences, events, locations and dates, the execution will follow the plan:

- 1. Prepare communication content;
- 2. Prepare communication support;
- 3. Validate through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board;
- 4. Diffuse the communication and, if possible, obtain feedback;
- 5. After the communication act, archive the communication for traceability and potential reuse.

#### **Monitoring & Reviewing**

This step includes monitoring and analysing the communication activities performed during specified periods to ensure that the MINDED partners will reach their communication goals at the end of the project. The different indicators will be computed and analysed regarding the targets of the communication activities within the specified period.

In case that a difficulty is identified that prevents the consortium to reach the desired target that is set in the communication plan, then the communication plan will be updated appropriately to increase the effort on this failing dimension. Moreover, it should be noted that the lists of communication targets (people and events) will be reviewed and updated periodically to include the most recent and worth attending events/conferences (e.g., identify the dates on the conferences for the following year or add new relevant conferences).

#### Reporting

The last step in the loop of the communication process is reporting. In this step, a report shall be created with all the information from the previous monitoring phases. This reporting has two targets: the consortium itself and European Commission. For each reporting period, it is expected that the provided reviews regarding the

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MINDED dissemination and communication strategy and process will be used to revise the strategy for the next reporting period.

#### 4.4.2 Communication basic rules

#### Writing rules

- Use British English;
- In case the communication is done in a foreign language, always add an English abstract;
- Always use MINDED with capitalized letters;
- All documents have to contain all the partner logos.

#### References and disclaimer rules

- Follow communication guides;
- Cite European project: "This project has received funding from the European Union HE Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under the Grant Agreement No. 101138202";
- All dissemination materials will include the European Union emblem. For publications in journals and
  articles in the press, the HE logo as well as the emblem of the European Union can't be included.
  However, the reference of the funding received from the European Union will be integrated in the
  acknowledgement;
- Insert the following disclaimer in each document: "The contents of this document and the view expressed in the publication are the sole responsibility of the author and under no circumstances can be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union".

#### 5 Exploitation strategy

Making concrete use of the project results is a key aspect to deliver the benefits and ultimate impact of the MINDED Innovation Action. Throughout the project a detailed plan for the exploitation of the project results will be developed, to support the European economic growth and provide a solid base for new business opportunities. This plan is geared on: (1) valorisation of the common elements across the business strategies of the involved partners, and (2) IPR management.

This deliverable focuses on delivering a preliminary exploitation strategy, whereas the final exploitation strategy for the technology will be finalized later in D6.2 and D6.3 and will describe the targeted market(s), the estimated market size in Europe and overseas, the user and customer needs, and will demonstrate how the MINDED technology will match these in a cost-effective manner, enhancing the competitive advantage of the future EU industry of the mini-bus industry.

#### 5.1 Preliminary exploitation plan

A complete exploitation strategy should describe the targeted market(s), the estimated market size in Europe and overseas, the user and customer needs, and demonstrate how the MINDED technology will match these in a cost-effective manner, enhancing the competitive advantage of the future EU industry. However, many inputs required for this analysis can be estimated with an adequate accuracy only at a later stage of the project. Therefore, in this deliverable a preliminary plan is designed to identify MINDED main exploitation routes.

In 2021 **9 % of the passenger transport on land in the European Union was made by buses and coaches.** With 487.5 billion passenger-kilometres per year<sup>2</sup>, **transport by bus is therefore the most widely used form of public transport in the EU<sup>3</sup>**. Different classes of buses exist, serving different kinds of missions.

**D6.1:** Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR) and communication plan (PU)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> ACEA Fact Sheet: Buses, Nov. 2022, https://www.acea.auto/fact/fact-sheet-buses/, last retrieved 2023-04-03

<sup>3 &</sup>lt;u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/15216629/15589759/KS-07-22-523-EN-N.pdf</u>, last retrieved 2023-04-03

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Minibuses, like the IVECO eDaily Minibus used as demonstrator in MINDED, serve many different mission profiles like fixed route transit buses, shuttle bus services for airport, hotels and fairs, tourist travel buses or share taxis. It can be said that minibuses are used from city traffic to long distance operation for a large field of mission profiles which is also reflected in the sales figures.

The development of the European Total Industry Volume (TIV) of the bus sector, including the minibus sector with a market share of approx. 30 %, showed a stable increase in the last years<sup>4</sup> with record sales in 2019. In 2020 the market collapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in lower demand for means of passenger transportation. Starting with 2023 the overall bus market is expected to recover according to IVECOs internal market analysis. Beginning national initiatives to reduce transport induced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, like banning shorthaul flights in favour of train or bus commutes<sup>5</sup>, is expected to further increase the TIV of the bus sector.

The EU has set itself the goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and of cutting net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % compared to 1990 levels by 2030, which means, that the share of zero-emission vehicles must drastically increase in the next years, which represents a major opportunity for developments in the MINDED project.

Based on IVECO's market share of 20 % in the total bus segment<sup>6</sup> and the fact that, according to IVECO, around 24 % of all their buses are minibuses, an estimation of the zero-emission minibus sales numbers development was made which shows that in 2028, at the time of market entry of the MINDED concept, around 2,300 zero-emission minibuses (based on the IVECO eDaily minibus) could be sold, rising to around 3,000 units per year in 2035.

As the MINDED concept is designed in a modular and flexible way, it can be re-used, transferred, and integrated into other vehicle types as well. Considering that also other vehicle categories of the bus segments are developed by IVECO, it is estimated that the innovations of MINDED can be fully integrated also in IVECO's intercity buses and coaches. The transfer to these segments is easily possible because the passengers in these categories all have fixed seats, which can be equipped with the developed HMI and infrared heating panels.

This enables a market potential for the developments in MINDED summing up to a total sales potential of vehicles with the MINDED technology of roughly 3,000 units per year at the time of market entry in 2028 up to 7,000-9,000 units per year from 2035 onwards (see Figure 4).

This generates impact on the total fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the transport sector. Assuming a mean Diesel consumption of 9 litres /100 km<sup>7</sup> for the minibus and 26 litres/100 km<sup>8</sup> for the intercity bus and coach, this accumulates to about 0.7 bn litres of Diesel that could be saved in the years 2028 to 2035. The accumulated saved CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be estimated to roughly 2.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e in the same time frame.

All these numbers could be even increased considering that the concept studied in MINDED, which includes the introduction of the HMI system, the overall vehicle operating strategy, and especially the innovative oil-free e-compressor, together with the control strategy to improve the efficiency of the system with heat pump mode, are transferable also to other battery electric vehicle segments (cars and medium/heavy commercial electric vehicles market) which would significantly increase the overall sales and licensing potential.

**D6.1:** Dissemination, exploitation (including IPR) and communication plan (PU)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> CNH Industrial Investors Day Presentation, Auburn Hills, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Pierre Lahutte, <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y956j72t">https://tinyurl.com/y956j72t</a>, last retrieved 2023-03-30

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https://theicct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/race-to-zero-ze-hdv-eu-dec21.pdf, last retrieved 2023-03-30

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340888943\_Carbon\_footprint\_prediction\_of\_vehicle\_usage\_in\_Turkey, last retrieved 2023-03-30

<sup>8 &</sup>lt;u>https://jv-technoton.com/cases/eco-driving-quality-system-for-city-and-intercity-buses/</u>, last retrieved 2023-04-03

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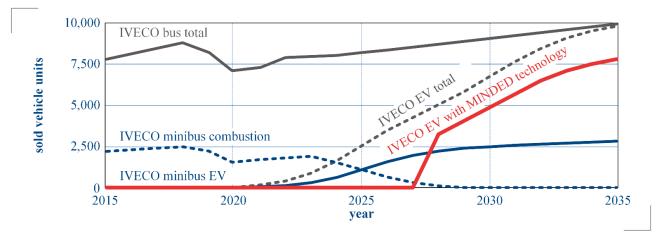


Figure 4: Estimation of IVECOs total sold bus units, their minibus combustion and EV share, and the sales potential of vehicles with the MINDED concept.

The preliminary exploitation plan, the exploitable results (ER) of the project partners and the "road-to-market" of MINDED are summarised in Figure 5 and Table 12.

Another <u>exploitation route is through licensing MINDED IPR to third parties</u> (e.g. the HVI or developed protocols). In the consortium agreement IPR are handled and all the related points are clarified. Related possible patent applications will be reviewed by the rights distribution will be organised in line with the "Consortium Agreement". For research partners, the main exploitation scenario will be <u>consultancy and research contracts</u>.

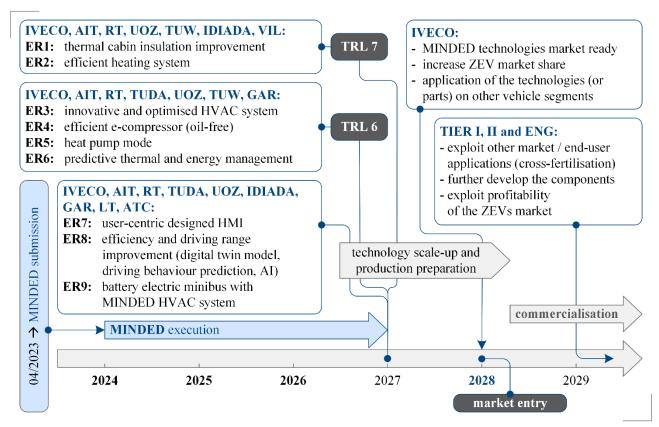


Figure 5: Preliminary exploitation plan, "road-to-market" timeline and exploitable results (ER) per MINDED partner (from the proposal).

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Table 12: MINDED Exploitable Results

#	Title	Description
ER1	Thermal cabin insulation improvement	Up to 60 % of the introduced thermal energy in the passenger compartment is escaping through leaks. One of the aims of the MINDED project is to realise a (part of the) vehicle interior with improved thermal insulation properties
ER2	Efficient heating system	An innovative radiation heating concept based on electrical resistive thin heater layers will be developed and integrated into the demonstrator vehicle to reduce the energy demand while keeping a high comfort level for the driver and all passengers.
ER3	Innovative and optimized HVAC system	The electrical centrifugal compressor and its higher cooling capacity enables to design and optimise the HVAC system with 50% higher cooling power available, and to study alternative cooling technology concepts
ER4	Efficient e-compressor	The e-compressor concept in MINDED is a completely oil-free design with 10-20% higher efficiency, which boosts the compressor performance since there is no need to compress oil during the cooling/heating cycle.
ER5	Heat pump mode	Heat pump mode for the cabin heating with HVAC system is considered for a real-world range increase of 20 %
ER6	Predictive thermal and energy management	The thermal management, based on a predictive control strategy which considers both ambient characteristics (temperature, solar irradiation) and the driving profile (velocity, disturbances), aims to provide the temperature control for optimal operation of the battery to maximise the driving range and minimise battery degradation
ER7	User-centric designed HMI	An intuitive display-based (e.g., touch-based) user interface is provided for the control of the heating system.
ER8	Efficiency and driving range improvement	In the holistic thermal and energy management strategy, the thermal losses of single components will be used for heating up the others, 20% increase in the driving range is targeted.
ER9	Battery electric minibus with MINDED HVAC system	The main MINED objective is to be reached by (1) a re-designed heating system, (2) an optimized HVAC system layout and component sizing, and (3) a digital-twin-model-based development and design of vehicle subsystems and control algorithms.

# 5.2 IPR Management

IPR are central to the exploitation of the MINDED results, and their proper management will be a major factor for the competitive strength of the project. The coordinator as IPR manager will assist the consortium supporting IP protection and creation throughout the project's lifetime. The IPR manager will: (1) map the consortium background IPR, also reported in the consortium agreement, (2) monitor the IPR as they develop during the project activities, reporting an update IPR status at the interim reporting periods; (3) identify potential for new IP and patents, supporting, where needed, the inventors in the patent application process; and (4) report a final IPR status in the final project report. The IPR management activities are an integral part of the MINDED exploitation activities and will be finalized and reported in D6.2, D6.3 and D6.4.

For each result generated in MINDED, a decision will be made whether it either needs to be protected for exploitation or is suitable for dissemination. This will take place as part of the continuous monitoring and reporting and will be implemented by an IPR manager assigned by the coordinator. Project generated knowledge of commercial interest must be safeguarded and protected for exploitation by the owner(s).

IPR will be handled in line with general EC policies regarding ownership, exploitation rights, confidentiality, commercial utilisation of results, availability of the information, deliverables etc. to other EU funded projects and disclaiming rules. The primary approach for IP management in MINDED will be to maximise knowledge exchange and its project results impact. The existing and background IP brought by project partners will be available for use but will remain the property of the original owner. Foreground IP developed during the project





will, in principle, be owned by the partner(s) who developed it. If the protection of foreground IP increases the scale of potential exploitation (e.g. fostering additional private investments), the IP will be protected. However, if the consortium considers that the publication of the foreground will enhance potential exploitation, the IP will be made freely available to all those interested in exploring it.

These decisions will be made based on a careful quantitative and qualitative analysis. When an evident decision is not possible, the option will be to publish the information through free-access sources. The decision to publish IP will be made by the MINDED consortium, and the strategy for exploitation of the results will vary on a case-by-case basis, ranging from free access to licensing. Ownership agreements will be set up as necessary to proceed with future commercialisation. Analysis of background and foreground IP will be sought throughout the project. MINDED will generate a constant flux of foreground IP from project partners, and each partner's contribution to the foreground IP will be recorded.

This will take place based on the confidentiality, access rights and background IP defined in the Consortium Agreement (based on the DESCA model), signed by each partner, and the ongoing IPR management. Fair and reasonable conditions for exploitation will be adopted with a view to enabling rapid and broad exploitation of the results.

#### 6 Conclusions

This deliverable presented the MINDED dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan, an internal instrument to provide a consistent framework for all activities needed to make public, promote and sustain the concepts, achievements, as well as technical and knowledge results developed within the project.

The consortium recognizes that dissemination and communication activities are an essential and pervasive activity throughout the project's life and integrated within all its work packages. Therefore, the present Plan illustrated in clear terms the rationale behind the strategy and clarified all dimensions and tools necessary to communicate the core messages and results of the project in a very effective and comprehensive way.

Various activities will be realized throughout the project's lifetime to enable MINDED achieve its purposes. Promotion of the project online and via participation to the events, organization of the workshops, several scientific disseminations in journals and conferences, high-quality promotional material as well as collaboration with other projects and initiatives constitute some of the main actions towards the aforementioned purposes. To measure the achieved impact of the proposed strategy and plan several indicators have been recognized and reported.

The dissemination strategy reported in this deliverable is intended to be a guide on how to increase awareness, interest, and acceptance of the MINDED project's outcomes within the target audience. The present Plan will act as a handbook for every project partner to perform their dissemination activities as it will list all stakeholders, communication channels, dissemination activities and corresponding key performance indicators. It also addresses to the European Commission that will be requested to assist in the realization of this plan if needed. The MINDED Consortium recommends a periodic review of this document to ensure it includes up-to-date contents and opportunities for disseminating project information and results. In addition, as strategies are evaluated, updates should be made as needed.

A preliminary exploitation strategy of the project results is also outlined, including IPR, to support the European economic growth and provide a solid base for new business opportunities. The final exploitation strategy for the technology will be finalized later in D6.2 and D6.3 and will describe the targeted market(s), the estimated market size in Europe and overseas, the user and customer needs, and will demonstrate how the MINDED technology will match these in a cost-effective manner, enhancing the competitive advantage of the future EU industry.

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## 7 Acknowledgment

# European Union's HORIZON EUROPE research and innovation programme

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#### **Project Partners:**

The author(s) would like to thank the partners in the project for their valuable comments on previous drafts and for performing the review.

Participant No*	Participant short name	Participant organisation name	Country
1 Coordinator	AIT	AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	Austria
2	IVECO	IVECO S.p.A	Italy
3	RT	Rimac Technology	Croatia
4	TUDA	Technical University of Darmstadt	Germany
5	UOZ	University of Zagreb	Croatia
6	TUW	Technical University of Vienna	Austria
7	IDIADA	IDIADA Automotive Technology S.A.	Spain
8	VIL	Villinger GmbH	Austria
9	GAR	Garrett Motion Czech Republic s.r.o.	Czechia
10	LT	Lead Tech SRL	Italy
11	ATC	TU Wien Automotive Test Center GmbH	Austria