

# Call for Request for Services

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**Name of Project: Agile EDU**

**Programme: Erasmus+, Forward-Looking Projects**

15 March 2023



## 1. Background

The digitalisation of education has gone through a massive increase during the Covid-19 pandemic, one which exposed the unpreparedness of different actors (school heads, teachers, parents, students themselves, etc) in meeting the challenges associated with this development.

There are several dimensions in the increasing amount of digital data collected and processed in schools, each with different questions. Below are some examples.

- Pedagogical use. How can student data be used and interpreted for assessment and learning? What are the competences needed by teachers to use student learning data purposefully?
- Trust and safety. Which actions are needed to keep data safe against security breaches?
- Equity and inclusion. How to ensure equal access and equitable use?
- Data exchange and comparisons. How to use those data to monitor developments at country, regional, local, and school levels?
- Ethical use. Should parents be able to see everything a student has done online? What rules should govern the use of artificial intelligence in schools?

These are the sort of questions which the Agile-EDU project aims at addressing, with a view to to identify the key success factors for supporting the implementation, at scale, of digital education ecosystems that enables an inclusive and high-quality digital education as envisioned by the EC Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027.

Agile-EDU is a new 3-year project starting in January 2023. The project is coordinated by European Schoolnet and includes a mix of partners representing public authorities, local authorities, universities, and civil society: University College Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Oslo (Norway), Portuguese Ministry of Education (Portugal), Foundation Empieza por Educar (Spain), and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (Sweden). The French and Slovenian ministries of education are associated partners.

Agile-EDU will address questions like the above ones in two strands, combining (1) evidence from research on learning in digital education ecosystems, through case studies and 'learning stories'; with (2) evidence from policy and practice through a structured dialogue involving the main stakeholders concerned. These Dialogue Labs will bring together teachers, policy makers, education leaders, students, parents, EdTech suppliers and publishers to discuss the purposeful and ethical use of data in learning and assessment and share views on how to establish high quality and inclusive digital education, and on its extent and desirability.

Planned outputs include (1) learning stories showcasing good practices; (2) more detailed case studies exploring the evolution of digital education practices and lessons learned by actors in digital education; (3) a teacher professional development resource pack that includes the content necessary to run a

MOOC, and the run of MOOC ; and (4) a final report providing forward-looking guidelines and recommendations for practitioners.

## 2. Evaluation Services to be supplied

The request is for the external evaluation of the Agile EDU project. The External Evaluator will guarantee the objectivity and neutrality of the project's quality assurance model and will undertake the main quality assurance activity.

The assessment to be conducted by the External Evaluator will seek to evaluate, for instance:

- The management and the coordination of the project including the involvement and implication of partners in all the project's work;
- The effectiveness and efficiency of the structures that have been put into place to manage the project (Steering Group, General Assembly, Scientific and Advisory Board, the Work Packages and Work Package Leadership);
- The quality of the support documents that have been produced to aid the work of the project and that of the partners;
- The effectiveness of the feedback loops (eg feedback from experts through validation workshops, translation reviews by partners, etc) and surveys that have been carried out by the project;
- The development of the actionable knowledge base (case studies, learning stories), including the protocol for building the knowledge base through interviews and focus groups;
- The implementation and effectiveness of the expert validation workshops;
- The implementation and effectiveness of the Dialogue Labs, including the production of supports such as the Dialogue Labs Guidelines;
- The co-construction of the recommendations to be relevant to different types of education systems (centralised, decentralised at local and school level);
- The co-construction and co-delivery of the MOOC and other activities of the brokering phase;
- The dissemination and exploitation plans for the project and how far the results and outputs can lead to systemic change.

It is important to understand that this assessment is a process evaluation and **does not** include any evaluation of the scientific validity/quality of project outputs.

A Quality Plan will be produced shortly after this Request is signed (M4). In addition, two interim quality reports will be produced each year, i.e. in M12 and M24, and a final report in M36.

The External Evaluator will be responsible for producing the Quality Plan as well as the three quality reports. Project partners will have an important input into the quality control of the outputs and results of the project along with the Scientific and Advisory Board.

The External Evaluator will report to the Project Manager (Alex Kirchberger).

### 3. Conditions

In order to reply to this call, the applicants should express their interest via email, providing the following information and details:

A Curriculum Vitae in English, including :

- Information on the expert's background and relevant experience

Offer, including :

- Proposed methodology
- Delivery Schedule and timeline
- Any data protection issues (if relevant)
- Cost for services (the price should include a detailed breakdown of costs per daily rate and the total number of days foreseen for the work)

The offer from the external evaluator in response to the call for services must be submitted to Alex Kirchberger ([alex.kirchberger@eun.org](mailto:alex.kirchberger@eun.org)) at the latest by March 31 2023 by 17.00 CET.

Offers received after this time and date will be rejected. EUN is not responsible for any failure to receive offers because of ICT problems whether at its location, that of the External Evaluators or caused by the fault of the ICT service supplier.

### 4. Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be automatically excluded for selection and from an award if it falls within one of the situations listed below:

- a) They are subject to a conflict of interest.
- b) They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
- c) They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata.
- d) They have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established.
- e) They have made false declarations in supplying information required by any public organisation as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or grant award procedure or fail to supply this information.
- f) They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which can be justified.

## 5. Timeframe and deadline for request for services

The deadline for receipt of applications is 17.00 CET on 31 March 2023 by email to Alex Kirchberger ([alex.kirchberger@eun.org](mailto:alex.kirchberger@eun.org)).

## 6. Addendum 29 March 2023 (questions received from some candidates)

Q: Some parts of the evaluation could probably be done off-site, like individual interviews with the project team, collaborating partners, steering groups etc.

And some parts require on-site visits to take part in the project development. My question is: how often do you expect the evaluator to be on-site, and in which country will the meetings take place?

A: Most of the evaluation can be done online indeed, through interviews, surveys, etc. The external evaluator is expected to participate in one face-to-face meeting per year (two days/1 night per year), to be held in Brussels. The candidate's offer must be inclusive of travel and accommodation costs.

Q: Do you want the evaluator to take an active part in the feedback loops and dialogue labs or to afterwards analyse the result from the documentation of these activities?

A: We expect the evaluator to formulate concrete recommendations and suggestions for improving project processes and activities, including feedback loops and Dialogue Labs, in the interim quality assurance reports. We do not expect the evaluator to take an active part in the processes themselves, nor do we expect the evaluator to assess the scientific quality of project activities.

Q: What is the amount that has been put in the budget of the project under subcontracting for the External Evaluation?

A: We have a budget of around 15,000 EUR-24,000 EUR.

Q: How will the offers be evaluated and the winning offer selected?

A: The offers will be evaluated against the tasks listed in the call for services, and the winning offer will be selected based on the best value for money.



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