External Evaluation Strategy Proposal

ALIEN Project

Active Learning in Engineering Education

Program: Erasmus+

Action: Capacity Building for Higher Education

EACEA Agency

30 JUNE 2018

Melhoria Contínua

Melhoria Contínua (MC) is a consultancy company, working in the design, development, test and evaluation of innovative initiatives leading to economic and social improvement.

MC is offering services in the area of project management and controlling and in project validation and evaluation. MC is also active in the development of learning programs namely involving new methodologies and technologies.

In the framework of integrated projects financed by National and European funds, MC did participate assuming different roles within its competencies for different project development activities and in the promotion of dissemination activities (ex: projects approved in the Adapt PIC/EU, SOCLEO Agency, FP – RTD, and EACEA).

Recent MC experience includes working in the context of different programs such are ERASMUS+, H2020 and others at regional e local level.

MC did offer, in particular, a contribution to a set of external evaluated projects that achieved very good levels of final evaluation by EACEA such are: PREMIO, ENTER, SELEAG, CTCES, LAFEC, or EMIC.

Located in Porto, North Portugal, MC has relations with various Universities and Companies in the region and participated within partnerships with Local Authorities, with company associations and with specialized companies looking for national or international developing initiatives.

The consultant of MC proposed for this project is Eduardo Luís Cardoso who will coordinate the External Evaluation. He will be supported by Ana Meireles and by Ana Reis as appropriated. Key CVs are attached.

Eduardo Luís Cardoso – CV

• PhD in Innovation in Education Systems in the School of Engineering, University of Minho (2005). Master Degree in Electronic and Computer Science (1992) and BSc in Chemical Engineering (1986) from the Faculty of Engineering of University of Porto

• Professor of Higher Education in the area of Project Management, e-Learning, Information Technologies and Communication, and Research Methods, with experience in national universities (Catholic University of Portugal, University of Porto, ...) and international (St. Joseph University, Macau - China, UCP in Mozambique), classroom-based and e-learning.

• Coordinates the UCP-Porto Entrepreneurship Program, involving dimensions as Awareness, Training, Management and Promotion of new businesses through a multi sectorial Incubator: bio -industries, cultural and creative industries, and social economy.

External Evaluation

• 2012-2015, External Evaluator of the ICTWays network in the LLP program – Comenius (528103 - LLP -1-2012-1- PT- COMENIUS - CNW).

• 2011-2014, External Evaluator of the SEGAN network in the LLP program - KA3 (519332 - LLP -1-2011-1- PT- KA3 - KA3NW).

• 2009-2011, External Evaluator of the SELEAG project in the LLP program – Comenius (503900 - LLP - PT- COMENIUS -CMP).

• 2009-2010, External Evaluator of the CTCES project in the LLP program – Erasmus.

• 2008-2009, External Evaluator of the ENTER project in the LLP program - Leonardo.

• 2008-2009, External Evaluator of the PREMIO project in the LLP program - ERASMUS.

• 2006 - 2007, External Evaluator of the LAFEC project in the LLP program - Leonardo.

•2005 - 2007, External Evaluator of the RHXXI project in the EQUAL initiative.
• 2003 - External Evaluator in the SOCLEO Office - Technical Assistance of the Socrates and Leonardo Programs.

• 2000 - 2006, External Consultant to the Ministry of Education in the Office of Educational Assessment.

Other functions of coordination research, development and innovation projects

• 1999 - Researcher in the area of Innovation, Technology Enhanced Learning, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship.

•1986 - Coordinator or Partner of several European projects in the area of Innovation in Education in different programs such as: FP RTD, Erasmus, Leonardo, Comenius, Tempus, COST, Adapt, Equal, Socrates, Overture.

• 1997 - 2007 Coordinator of the Center of Competences in ICT in Education, of the Ministry of Education at Porto.

• 2001 - 2003, Scientific Coordinator of the project "Tools for Distributed Learning" pass the IST - Program Technologies for the Information Society of the 5th Framework Program for Research.

Ana Meireles - CV

PhD in Psychology. Porto University - Education and Psychology Faculty (2005).

Specialist and Trainer in: Individual and Organizational Assessment of Competences.

Higher Education Teacher and Researcher in the areas of: Learning, Personal and Social Development and Research Methodologies.

Consultant in: Human Resources Development, External Project Evaluation, Project Team Building and Motivation, Leadership.

External Evaluation Objectives

An external evaluation process should aim to provide data and results that contribute to the success of the project, providing an outside perspective of its activities and development.

The external evaluation should take place in parallel with the normal schedule of project activities, to provide comments and recommendations for improvements or corrections. As such, it should be part of a more global quality management, establishing procedures, resources and criteria for monitoring and (internal and external) evaluation of the progress of the project and including an intermediate and final report in the light of the assumptions set out in the initial proposal and under the contract.

The aim of the ALIEN (Active Learning in Engineering) project is to improve the quality of higher education by providing more motivating, stimulating and effective learning contexts that prepare students for their professional life by allowing them to actively develop the required competences.

ALIEN will design, implement and validate an Active Learning context based on PBL (Project/Problem) methodologies addressing real-life issues related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts. The methodology will be supported by a VLE integrating a set of digital tools that will allow students to experiment, collaborate and communicate in an extended and multinational learning community that will also include other stakeholders like teachers and researchers.

The project mainly targets teachers and students from Higher Education in Engineering and Technical careers but also the organizations themselves, as there is the goal of changing the pedagogical methodologies as an institutional strategy.

1. Teachers from Higher Education in Engineering/Sciences/Technical faculties that will be able to apply the Active Learning methodology and the tools to be developed in the project

2. The students will benefit from a more motivating pedagogical context and will be more attracted to these subject areas

3. HEIs will benefit from adopting a more active pedagogical approach and will be able to attract more students, will establish closer links with the society and the labor market

As part of the ALIEN methodology, work package 7 is dedicated to the process of quality assurance of the approach and results of the project, focusing on objectives, outcomes, milestones, effectiveness of the approach and used tools, resource usage, control procedures, partner's roles and responsibilities, etc. Assessment will be performed at different levels with particular focus on the direct stakeholders. Satisfaction of the end users will be assessed in different phases (beginning of the program, end of the training phase and at the end of the coaching period). Assessment approaches will be defined in the Quality Plan.

The external evaluation will therefore focus on compiling data enabling recommendations and suggestions to the participants of the project, including the coordinator, partners and the financial body, contextualized in relation to the objectives, priorities and rules of the project and the underlying program, this case, the Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education.

The main issues that define the evaluation are:

• The project correctly addressed the needs of the target audience?

• The project has an appropriate development path, which leads to the proposed results?

• The project created the conditions for an effective partnership?

•The project clearly defined procedures for the coordination and management?

•The project includes an adequate system for monitoring review?

•The project has achieved the objectives and expected results?

•The project could disseminate the results and impact with a European dimension?

• The project has created the conditions for effective sustainability of results after the funding period?

External Evaluation Methodology

The methodological framework for the external evaluation follows the project through the following steps:

- Detailed analysis of the proposed project and the relation with the overall process of quality assurance
- Detailed analysis of the current state of the project compared with what was proposed
- Analysis of the logic and context on Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education programme
- Detailing criteria, indicators and data collection tools
- Definition of the work plan of the external evaluation
- Meeting with the Project Coordinator
- Continuous improvement of the External Evaluation Methodology in line with the project's quality assurance plan

Initial Phase of the Project Evaluation (until April 2019)

- Follow up of project activities
- Implementation of the work plan for data collection
- Maintain the area of the External Evaluation in the project Intranet
- Analysis of documentation and communication tools
- Analysis of results
- Recommendations to the Partnership and to the Coordinator
- Interviews with some selected partners (locally or at distance)
- Meetings with the coordination team
- Delivery of the Intermediate Report of External Evaluation
- Recommendations for the final part of the project

Final Phase of the Project Evaluation (until October 2020)

- Follow up of project activities

- Implementation of the work plan for data collection

- Maintain the area of the External Evaluation in the project Intranet

- Analysis of documentation and communication tools

- Analysis of results

- Recommendations to the Partnership and to the Coordinator

- Interviews with some selected partners (locally or at distance)

- Meetings with the coordination team

- Meetings with partners

- Delivery of Final Report of External Evaluation

- Analysis of the project process and results

Evaluation Tools

For the external evaluation process the following qualitative and quantitative tools will be used to collect data:

- Project website, social media and portal
- Administrative documents
- Other available documents
- Project planning
- Project reports
- Project forums and e-mails
- Project results
- Platforms exploited
- Training developed
- Implementation and results
- Dissemination activities
- Reports and evidence
- Meetings and minutes
- Partner interviews
- Internal evaluation process
- Internal evaluation reports

The External Evaluation model will be in line with the project's quality assurance plan. The External Evaluation Process will generate data to what will be the basis for a set of key performance indicators that will monitor, measure and control the project, so allowing the best project management and coordination.

Cost

The total cost for the external evaluation service for the project is:

Total Cost: **15 000 € (seven thousand and five hundred euros)**

Payment should be made according to the terms defined: 30% (award), 20% (intermediate report), 50% (final report).

Porto, 30 of June of 2018

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Eduardo Luís Cardoso