DATA-READY

Empowering Education through Data Literacy Integration in Compulsory Education

Call for Request of Services

External Evaluation

ERASMUS-EDU-2024-POL-EXP-DIGITAL
Project Reference Number: 101195801

January 2026

1. Background

DATA-READY is a three-year European policy experimentation aiming to embed data literacy across compulsory education. The project delivers: (i) a cross-country analysis of strategies and practices; (ii) a Framework for Data Literacy Skills; (iii) training programmes for pre-service and in-service teachers; (iv) an experimentation phase in schools supported by an online assessment tool; and (v) targeted policy engagement, communication and exploitation activities.

The project foresees a comprehensive Quality Assurance & Evaluation (QA&E) approach with internal QA led by the Quality Leader and a distinct external evaluation at mid-point and at project end to ensure objectivity and credibility of results.

2. Objective of this call

To contract an independent External Evaluator (individual or organisation) to design and carry out a process-focused evaluation of DATA-READY project, providing actionable feedback at mid-term and an overall assessment at project conclusion.

3. Scope of work & key tasks

The External Evaluator will work at arm's length from the consortium and will not assess the scientific correctness of technical outputs (e.g., curricula or research methods), but rather the processes, implementation quality, management effectiveness, participation, and use of results. Key tasks include:

1. **Evaluation design**

- Produce an External Evaluation Plan aligned with the project's QA&E plan, KPIs and work plan.
- Define methods (mixed-methods recommended), data sources, sampling, instruments (e.g., interview protocols, survey items), and a risk-responsive evaluation schedule.

2. **Formative (mid-term) evaluation**

- Review management and coordination activities, committee effectiveness (e.g., Steering, QA), and adherence to the work plan & KPIs.
- Examine progress in key WPs, including: research & framework development; teacher training pilots; experimentation protocol and online assessment tool; policy engagement; and dissemination/exploitation. Progress examination should be aligned to deliverables, milestones and key activities of the project.
- Provide actionable recommendations to adjust implementation for the remainder of the project.

3. **Summative (final) evaluation**

- Assess the overall outcomes and impact of the project. Assessment should be aligned to the objectives, management and QA procedures, deliverables, KPIs.
- Reflect on cross-cutting aspects (ethics, inclusion, accessibility, stakeholder engagement, risk management).

4. **Light-touch reviews feeding internal QA**

- Provide brief written feedback (2–3 pages) on the consortium's Year-1 and Year-2 internal progress reports, highlighting risks, lessons and good practices.

5. **Participation & communication**

- Meet online with the Project Manager/QA Leader at agreed checkpoints (e.g., quarterly/bi-monthly).
- Upon invitation, join selected committee/coordination meetings online.
- No routine travel is expected; any in-person participation must be pre-approved and covered within the maximum budget of this contract.

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

4. Deliverables & timetable

D1. External Evaluation Plan (before M12): methods, tools, data collection calendar, reporting templates, and indicator mapping.

D2. Mid-term External Evaluation Report (around M18): findings vs. KPIs, analysis by work package, and a prioritised recommendations roadmap.

D3. Light-touch QA feedback memos on internal consortium reports (M12 and M24).

D4. Final External Evaluation Report (M36): overall process evaluation and lessons learned; assessment of outcomes/impact; recommendations for scalability and sustainability.

5. Methodological expectations

- ✓ Mixed-methods approach combining document review, structured interviews/focus groups, short pulse surveys, and dashboard/KPI verification.
- ✓ Clear triangulation strategy and treatment of limitations.
- ✓ Practical, concise reporting tailored to decision-making.
- ✓ Ethical handling of data (GDPR-compliant) and safeguarding where minors' contexts are discussed.

6. Profile & eligibility

Required

- Proven record on the evaluation of EU-funded education/skills related projects.
- Expertise in process evaluation and organisational learning; experience establishing KPIs and feedback loops.
- Strong qualitative & quantitative skills; ability to design fit-for-purpose instruments.
- Excellent command of English (working language of this contract).
- Independence from all DATA-READY project partners and absence of conflicts of interest.

Desirable

- Knowledge of data literacy in K-12 contexts, teacher professional development, and experimentation protocols.
- Familiarity with EQAVET-style quality approaches and Erasmus+ grant management.
- Experience with cross-country stakeholder engagement and dissemination impact assessment.

Eligible applicants include natural persons, companies, research organisations, consultancies or NGOs established in an EU Member State or associated country.

7. Award criteria

Proposals will be scored out of 100. Minimum quality threshold: 70/100.

- Methodology & work plan – 50 points (clarity, fitness-for-purpose, feasibility, risks/mitigations).
- Relevant experience – 40 points (evaluations of similar scope/complexity; references).
- Price – 10 points (cost-effectiveness, proportionate effort).

Ties will be resolved in favour of the higher Methodology & work plan score.

8. Budget, contract & payments

Maximum total budget (all-inclusive): EUR 4,000. This is a fixed ceiling covering all fees and expenses, including any travel that may be pre-approved.

Contract type: Service contract under Greek law; language: English.

Payments (indicative): 30% upon approval of D1; 40% upon acceptance of D2; 30% upon acceptance of D4. Invoices are payable within 30 days after acceptance.

IPR: All evaluation reports and instruments produced under this contract become the property of the Contracting Authority. The Evaluator may reuse generic methodologies/tools not specific to the project.

9. Application submission

Send one email with the subject "DATA-READY External Evaluation – <...**Applicant Name..**>" including:

1. CV(s) of the evaluator(s) (max 2 pages per person) highlighting relevant evaluation assignments.

2. Technical offer (max 10 pages) covering:

- Methodology and data collection plan;
- Work plan and timeline aligned with Section 4;

3. Financial offer with total price ≤ EUR 4,000.

4. Declaration on honour regarding eligibility, independence and absence of conflicts of interest.

Submission address: dataready@aegean.gr

Deadline: 27/02/2026

Questions/clarifications: Accepted by email at dataready@aegean.gr until 08/02/2026.

10. Exclusion & conflict-of-interest criteria

Applicants will be excluded if they: (i) have a conflict of interest; (ii) are bankrupt or under analogous procedures; (iii) have final convictions for professional misconduct; (iv) have outstanding tax/social security debts; (v) made false declarations; or (vi) committed grave professional misconduct. A signed Declaration on honour is required.

11. Data protection, ethics and confidentiality

The Evaluator must comply with GDPR and applicable national laws. Personal data shall be processed solely for the purposes of this assignment and stored securely for the minimum period necessary.

Any access to data involving minors (e.g., in the experimentation phase) will follow the consortium's ethics protocols; the Evaluator will only use anonymised/pseudonymised datasets and will not directly collect data from minors without prior written approval.

All non-public project information is confidential.

12. Working arrangements

- The Evaluator will report to the Project Manager and cooperate with the Quality Leader.
- Check-ins at agreed intervals (e.g., quarterly), plus ad-hoc meetings near deliverable deadlines.
- Access to project documentation, KPIs, management handbook, and committees' minutes will be facilitated.
- Preferred mode of collaboration is online.

13. Timeline snapshot (indicative)

Contract signature

D1 Evaluation Plan (before M12)

Year-1 QA memo: M12

Mid-term Report: M18

Year-2 QA memo: M24

Final Report: M36

14. Disclaimer

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to cancel the procedure, modify timelines, or not award the contract. Submitting an offer does not entail any right to a contract.

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