



Terms of Reference for External Evaluator

Project title	Improving Internationalisation Practices in South Asian Higher Education
Project acronym	MERGE
Project reference number	610391-EPP-1-2019-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Project start date	15/01/2020
Project duration	36 months

Reference no and title of work package	WP4 Quality Plan
Institution	Agora Institute for Knowledge Management
Document status	Final
Dissemination level	Public

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II Terms of Reference (ToR) for external evaluator

Subcontracting authority: Agora Institute

Scope: Erasmus+ project MERGE

Duration of assignment: 27 months

Expert fee: Defined by the project budget

Documents:

1. CV (Europass format).
2. **Motivation Letter**

Language: All documents should be provided in English.

Deadline: 20.11.2020

Procedure: Documents should be sent to the project coordinator: Agora Institute for Knowledge Management, Alicante, Spain

Background information

Funding: Erasmus+

Key Action: KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education

Type of project: Joint Projects

Coordinating Institution: University of Genoa, UNIGE

Globalisation has accelerated the pace of internationalisation of higher education worldwide, including in the South Asian region, Afghanistan, India and Nepal. The globalised market requires graduates to have international, foreign language and intercultural skills to communicate with int'l clients. Higher education institutions (HEIs) plays a critical role in preparing and facilitating a skilled, knowledge workforce, they are placing more importance on internationalisation. However, SA, home to a 25% of the world's population & a youthful region with more than 600 million people under 18, has failed to respond to the demand on IoHE. The poor internationalisation practices in the region may jeopardise the socio-economic development by unfulfilling the preparation of students' employability & limiting the int'l profile of the HEIs. MERGE has taken an endogenous approach to address the

challenges. It commences with a benchmarking exercise to standardise internationalisation practice alongside 2 study visits to EU. After that, it equips 366 people (incl. non-consortium partners) via 6 trainings and 6 English courses to develop strategic goals for both IROs and institutions until 2025. Meanwhile, 5 national activities will be organised to promote IROs' services, e.g. 6 mobility weeks and 6 video filmed. To enhance the student mobility services, 1 guideline will be developed which can be adapted by 6 PC HEIs and other HEIs. A 45-member regional network will be established to encourage regional cooperation and integration. To increase MERGE exposure on the international platform, 2 international conferences will be organised to stimulate cooperation and dialogue. The sustainability and long-term impact of MERGE is ensured by enhanced institutional capacity and engaging non-consortium partners.

Objectives of external evaluation

The primary task of external evaluator(s) is to supervise the implementation of project activities and to provide the assessment of various project aspects such as relevance (is the project still relevant in terms of its goals and achievements), efficiency (are the activities within the work-packages done on time and within planned budget), effectiveness (how well are the project specific objectives met), impact (at the different levels) and sustainability (what would stay after the project is finished).

General responsibilities of an external evaluator

Expected outputs

- Evaluate the quality of project activities and outputs
- Evaluate dissemination activities as well as the sustainability and exploitation of the project outputs
- Present preliminary conclusions based on desk research
- Write monitoring report based on the initial evaluation
- Submit 3 annual reports by January 2023 (1 report every project year with constructive comments)
- Assess effectiveness and efficiency of the budget spending
- Evaluate the project as a whole

Monitoring reports should reflect on relevance, impact, dissemination, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project outputs and provide recommendations for all project partners. In order to achieve envisaged outputs an external evaluator

can schedule independent monitoring visits however it is highly suggested to attend at least one project management meeting. The project management board is responsible to provide all project documents and deliverables to the external evaluator(s) on request.

Expertise needed:

- At least 5 years of experience in conducting data analysis (desk research, quantitative and qualitative data analysis)
- Knowledge and understanding of project monitoring and evaluation
- Experience in working with the European Commission and/or other international organisations
- Research experience in the field of higher education
- Knowledge and understanding of Erasmus+ programme
- Experience in implementing Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education projects
- Experience in conducting monitoring and evaluation of Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education projects

Additional criteria

- Language: Excellent communication skills in English (written and oral) and ability to write clear reports and articles;
- Readiness to work in cooperation with an expert coming from a programme/partner country and chosen as an additional external expert.

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