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Invitation to tender for external evaluator

Terms of Reference

MILES

MIL and PRE-BUNKING approaches for Critical thinking in the education sector

Project n° 101132716

[ERASMUS-EDU-2023-PI-FORWARD] — [ERASMUS-EDU-2023-PI-FORWARD-LOT1]

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1. Information about the funding programme Erasmus + - Partnership for Innovation - Forward Looking Projects

Forward-Looking Projects are large-scale projects that aim to identify, develop, test and/or assess innovative (policy) approaches that have the potential to become mainstreamed, thus improving education and training systems. They will support forward-looking ideas that respond to key European priorities and that have the potential to become mainstreamed, to give input for improving education, training and youth systems, and to bring a substantial innovative effect in terms of methods and practices to all types of learning and active participation settings for Europe's social cohesion.

The goal is to support transnational cooperation projects implementing a coherent and comprehensive set of sectoral or cross-sectoral activities that either:

- a) foster innovation in terms of scope, ground-breaking methods and practices, and/or
- b) ensure a transfer of innovation (across countries, policy sectors or target groups), thus ensuring at European level a sustainable exploitation of innovative project results and/or transferability into different contexts and audiences.

The three lots under this program are:

- (1) Digital education (cross-sectoral)
- (2) Vocational Education and Training
- (3) Adult Learning

2. MILES: General information about the project

The MILES project is funded under the call ERASMUS-EDU-2023-PI-FORWARD priority N.3 of the call Looking forward - Lot 1 focused on teachers' training and curriculum development in tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy and has an overall total costs of EURO 1,772,613.14 EUR. The project is coordinated by Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci (Italy) and is implemented together with partners from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania, The Netherlands. MILES is a 36-month project spanning from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2026 aimed at **building resilience against disinformation and promote independent and critical thinking within the educational sector.**

2.1 Specific Objectives

- 1. To develop innovative approaches tailored to the educational context.



2. To intervene in both Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to equip current and future teachers with the necessary skills to address the complexities of the online environment.
3. To enhance teachers', students', and families' awareness and preparedness to tackle fake news and disinformation, focusing on strategies for identifying and countering misinformation.
4. To foster collaboration among educational stakeholders, policymakers, and relevant organizations to integrate digital literacy initiatives into educational curricula effectively.
5. To ensure the sustainability and scalability of the project outcomes, enabling them to be transferred to different educational contexts and audiences.

2.2 Activities

- Mapping existing resources at National and EU level and collection of data and insight at local level through interviews, focus groups and surveys
- International training for the development of the training materials targeting ITE/CPD teachers
- Training of trainers
- 2 Teachers' trainings of 15 hours per country, on the topic of cognitive biases and logical fallacies, conspiracy theories, mechanisms of propaganda and populism to manipulate opinions, filter bubble, echo-chambers, information disorder, pre-bunking techniques.
- 2 co-design workshops with teachers for the development of training materials for students (syllabus, practical exercises, games)
- 8 workshops per country with students and led by trained teachers, which will have the aim of improving students' critical thinking and ability to pre-bunk fake news, check truthfulness and reliability of sources
- 2 co-designed workshops with students to design the flipped classrooms experience for teachers, parents, carers
- 1 flipped classrooms workshop per country led by students with teachers and parents, carers
- Creation of a boardgame per country, designed by students and one common EU version will be created and disseminated
- Meetings with the educational community that will gather and lay down a list of requests to submit to local policy makers

2.3 Results

- MIL & Debunking: datasheet, needs, best practices – Report on the existing resources and data collection on the local level of awareness and policies
- E-Learning platform containing all the resources
- Report on ITE and CPD containing the final results of the tests taken by teachers and insights from the local contexts
- Report of the workshops with students
- MILES students' toolbox with materials to develop workshop with students based on practical exercises adapted to different subjects
- Board games designed and tested by students with their families and teachers
- Lists of requests laid down by the educational community to the policy makers
- Collection of MoU: at least 10 MoU signed by policy makers per country, 100 in total, which will state their will to take the responsibility of the educational community requests for improving the school environment



- Report of National and EU-level events
- Miles website
- Impact Evaluation(1st and 2nd Report)

2.4 Impact in numbers

- 22 trainers trained on the methodologies
- 360 teachers involved in the trainings
- 540 students involved in the workshops
- 270 parents involved in the flipped classrooms workshops
- More than 600 stakeholders involved in the events

2.5 Partners

- [Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci](#) - Italy
- [OLAE](#) - Portugal
- [Aproximar](#) - Portugal
- [ALSDGC](#) - Romania
- [Bupnet](#) - Germany
- [KMOP](#) - Greece
- [GO!](#) - Belgium
- [Cardet](#) - Cyprus
- [die Berater](#) - Austria
- [Atermon](#) - The Netherlands
- [Danmar](#) - Poland



3. Evaluation approach and activities

According to the project description, and together with Quality Assurance leader and Impact Assessment leader, evaluation and quality assurance procedures for the MILES project should be carried out also by an external evaluator in order to carry out **impartial evaluation at mid and final stages of the project** in relation to all project **deliverables and results achieved: s/he will monitor quality of deliverables** produced throughout the project's cycle and **their consistency** with the set objectives and outcomes. Also, s/he will be responsible of providing recommendations and guidelines aimed to improve the quality of those results and activities. In addition, s/he will:

- Monitor partner **cooperation**
- provide **recommendations on how to improve the engagement of target groups**

Evaluation should be carried out through a Quality Plan and Impact Assessment Plan developed by the leader partners, plus an External Evaluation Plan developed by the selected external evaluator. The Plan will pay particular attention to the measurement of the indicators to reach of quality of results and engagement of the target groups, the respect of ethical guidelines already provided in the Project Management Plan and the cooperation among partners.

In order to improve the project and conduct remedial actions if needed and to ensure further adaptability and replicability of MILES results in different contexts, two Evaluation **reports** will be produced. They will be prepared and issued in two key moments of the project: in M17, after the end of teachers' training, and in M36 at the end of the project.



4. Tasks of the External Evaluator

Activities	Description	Period of involvement and days or hours of work ¹
Development of recommendations, guidelines and evaluation reports	<p>The external evaluator will carry out a complete review of the released deliverables and the results achieved (summarised in the updated evaluation grid). At the end of its review, s/he will issue recommendations and concrete guidelines aimed to improve the quality of the results and activities, with the final goal to reach outcomes closer to expectations (impact on target groups). S/he will finalise 2 external quality evaluations. Partners will rely on the first one that will be released in M17, after the end of the ITE and CPD (T3.1) to understand the quality of the produced outputs, the level of engagement and awareness of the most important target group, and subsequently to re-align the workplan towards the expected outcomes in case of discrepancy. The second and last evaluation will be used as a general and all-embracing assessment on all the produced outputs and finalised activities, in order to understand the final achievement against the initial set goals.</p> <p>Finally, the external evaluator is expected to provide recommendations and concrete guidelines aimed to improve the quality of the results and activities, with the final goal to reach outcomes closer to expectations in 2 moments of the project: November</p>	<p>1st report (May 2025)</p> <p>2nd report (November 2026)</p>

¹ One working day is 8 working hours



	<p>2024 and June 2026. These recommendations will be discussed during the M12 and M30 consortium meetings.</p>	
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5. Exclusion criteria

5.1 Exclusion from participation

Tenderers will be excluded from participation in this procurement procedure if:

- (1) 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;
- (2) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- (3) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Beneficiary can justify;
- (4) 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 or with those of the country of the Beneficiary or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (5) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;

5.2 Exclusion from award of contracts

Contracts may not be awarded to tenderers which, during the procurement procedure:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interests;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Beneficiary as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.

Tenderers must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed above filling the declaration of honour attached to this invitation.



6. Award criteria

6.1 Pre-requirement

Availability for the remainder of the project's implementation period (June 2024 - November 2026).

6.2 Selection criteria for the external evaluator

The external evaluator will be selected on the basis of a number of technical criteria. These include the following competences and experiences:

- Knowledge and expertise in media and information literacy.
- Knowledge and expertise in educational context needs related to disinformation and the spread of fake news.
- Knowledge and expertise in targets engagement and minors involvement (policies and guidelines)
- Experience in evaluation of EU funded projects (evaluation experience of at least two projects, incl. projects co-funded by the DG EAC, better if with experience in KA3 and upscale projects)
- Proficiency in English language (at least C1), very good writing skills.

Further to this, the quality of candidatures will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Quality of the proposed evaluation plan (including methodology to be used).

Financial evaluation will be carried out on the basis of the cost proposal (total price including VAT).



7. Selection procedure

The contract will be awarded to the tender offering best value for money. All requests to participate and tenders declared as satisfying the requirements and criteria announced in advance will be evaluated by a committee. The commission's reports and written records are for official use only and may not be communicated to the tenderers nor to any party other than CSC and DG EACEA, if needed. The quality of the candidatures will be evaluated by assigning a maximum of 100 points to candidates for qualitative criteria (competences and experiences: max. 60 points; proposed evaluation plan: max. 40 points). Each tender reaching a minimum of 60 points in the technical criteria will be included in the financial evaluation.

Financial evaluation will be carried out as follows: the candidate with the lowest Total Price will be awarded 100 points for the Financial score. The other candidates will be awarded points on the basis of the following formula:

$$\text{Financial score} = (\text{lowest Total Price} / \text{Total Price of the bid in question}) \times 100$$

In order to determine the best value for money tender for the award of the contract, the quality/price ratio of 80/20 will be applied in the following way:

- The points awarded for technical quality (overall technical score) multiplied by 0,80
- The points awarded for the price (financial score) multiplied by 0,20



8. Language of the tender

The tender must be submitted in English. Tender submitted in any other language will be automatically rejected.

9. Submission requirements

The tender must be submitted filling in the template of Annex 1. Tenders submitted in any other format will not be considered.

The Declaration of honour, duly filled in and signed has to be attached to this template (Annex 2).

The tender and the declaration of honour must be submitted in electronic version (PDF version) to the following email addresses:

project@danilodolci.org

The object of the email must indicate "Tenders external evaluator of Project n° 101132716 – MILES"

The original copy shall be provided upon specific request by the Beneficiary.

The deadline for the submission of the tender is 14/06/2024.

Any tender received after the deadline will be rejected.