



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Data

Interactive Technologies, Digital for Culture and Education

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Kimmo Koski
Managing Director
CSC-Tieteen Tietotekniikan Oy
Keilaranta 14
02100 Espoo
Finland

**Subject: Grant agreement No. SI2.488704 (ECOKT2016-1)
Project title "CompLeap - Learner-centred digital ecosystem of competence development", Preparatory Action: Open Knowledge Technologies: Mapping and validating knowledge
Remote interim review report**

Dear Mr Koski,

We are writing in connection with the review procedure for your above-mentioned grant.

Following the remote review scheduled for June 2019, please find enclosed the review report of the experts that examined the project for the Commission. The project implementation is currently satisfactory and the Commission has decided to allow the project to continue.

The Commission endorses the conclusions reached by the reviewers and would like to draw your attention especially to the following parts:

- 1. Overall Assessment of the review report, b. Recommendations concerning the period under review and c. Recommendations concerning future work: These recommendations have to be taken into account in the project's future work. The implementation of these recommendations will be assessed in the next review. Please report how you tackled the recommendation and provide details requested by the reviewers either; in a separate section in the future deliverables or if preferable in separate documents.

The assessment of the use of the resources made by the experts does not imply the acceptance of the corresponding costs by the Commission.

You may make observations on the result of the review of your project within one month of reception of this letter.

We would be grateful if you could inform the other members of your consortium of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Asja Satler
Project Officer

Annex 1 – List of deliverables

No	Title	WP	Lead	Type	Date	Status	Comment
3	Standard management report Q3	1	CSC	R	M15	Accepted	
7	Standard progress report P3	1	CSC	R	M18	Accepted	
20	Running prototypes in cooperation with WP3	2	EDUFI	P	M12-M18	Accepted	
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24	Open source code for all components, including example code	3	EDUFI	R	M7-M18	Accepted	EUPL v1.1. is an adequate licence for the project code. Please add this licence to the GitHub repository too.
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26	Three prototypes	3	EDUFI	P	M10-M21	Accepted	Ensure release notes and bugs are accessed publicly

Resubmitted deliverables requested in previous reporting period:

No	Title	WP	Lead	Type	Date	Status	Comment
D8	Project Roadmap	1	CSC	R	M1-M24	Accepted	
D14	Risk Management Plan	1	CSC	R	M3	Accepted	
D15	Desk research	2	EDUFI	R	M3	Accepted	
D18	Detailed description of the user scenarios with guidelines and advice for developers in WP3	2	EDUFI	R	M6	Accepted	
D35	Stakeholder Management plan	5	DUO	R	M3	Accepted	

TECHNICAL REVIEW REPORT

Pilot project – Open Knowledge Technologies: Mapping and validating knowledge - CompLeap

Project acronym: CompLeap

Project title: Open Knowledge Technologies: Mapping and validating knowledge "Learner-centred digital ecosystem of competence development (CompLeap)"

Grant agreement number: SI2.488704 (ECOKT2016-1)

Funding scheme: Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology Directorate Data

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Interactive Technologies, Digital for Culture and Education (unit G.2)

Project starting date: 01/12/2017

Project duration: 24 months

Project Manager: Antti Laitinen

Project web site: www.compleap.eu

Period covered by the report: Period No.2, from 1/12/2018 to 31/5/2019

Place of review meeting: -

Date of review meeting: Remote review – June 2019

Experts: Dr. Stefania Bocconi, National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Institute for Educational Technology (ITD)
Dr. Georgios IOANNIDIS, IN2 search interfaces development Limited

Project officer: Asja Satler (G2)

Individual report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consolidated report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

a. Executive summary

Overall, the project implemented the corrective actions and recommendations from the mid-term assessment and achieved its main objectives and milestones for the period under review (M12-M18). During this reporting period, the project:

- produced a detailed roadmap of key tasks and modified appropriately the project plan for delivering and testing the proposed “learner-centered ecosystem of digital services and products”
- mapped the ecosystem architecture to user scenarios; described user personas and groups in detail (updated D18) and showed the potential impact of the CompLeap outcomes
- released an initial version of the Beta prototype in M18 as scheduled. It incorporated functionalities to record past studies (Module 1), gather present interests and competences (Module 2) and recommend future educational opportunities (Module 3). Despite that some of the underlying data are mocked-up the project showed that it can reach the stated technological objectives.
- carried out activities to disseminate and deploy the results of the project beyond the Finnish environment to stakeholders e.g. in Netherlands and Germany.
- described piloting activities in adequate detail including main activities to be carried out; participants sample and tools to collect and analyse feedback (WP3)
- planned and organised concrete actions and arrangements to conduct a case study exploiting the interlink between CompLeap and EUROPASS services (WP5). This activity suggested in the mid-term review offers a valuable opportunity for the project to effectively impact at European level.

All changes requested to deliverables submitted in the first reporting period have been adequately addressed. In particular:

- **Updated Deliverable D8 - Project Roadmap** has been resubmitted as a self-sustained document (as well as a periodically updated live document), including the operative plan of activities for the next 12 months. Internal reallocation of the budget has been clearly detailed. KPIs are described.
- **Updated Deliverable D14 - Risk Management Plan** identifies well the possible risks and presents a credible contingency plan to mitigate delays.
- **Updated Deliverable D15 - Desk research** presents a practical analysis of the environment with a focus mainly on related to CompLeap initiatives and provides information related to the development of CompLeap requirements and architecture design, detailing user needs related to the current service ecosystem.
- **Updated Deliverable D18 - Detailed description of the user scenarios with guidelines and advice for developers** provides more information on user scenarios and motivates also how they have been developed (through the use of workshops with associated partners and feedback from stakeholders) and presents the user-centred process adopted for developing the framework architecture, which is now clearly explained and detailed also in the Eduuni online space.
- **Updated Deliverable D35 - Stakeholder management plan** presents identification and selection criteria for engaging key stakeholders, as well as main actions to involve them.

b. Recommendations concerning the period under review

- **Develop a detailed case study template** to clearly present the key dimensions explored and identified to interlink CompLeap and EUROPASS services (WP5). Specifically, the case study template should document and describe in detail: what elements/functionalities have been identified to interlink CompLeap and Europass; what potential agreements can be stipulated with Europass; what are the expected challenges and corrective actions that could be adopted.
- **Provide more details on project progress** by monitoring and reporting KPIs. Specific KPIs (e.g. number of target users involved in pilot activities, numbers of participants attending project's events/workshops, number of visitors accessing project's online communication and dissemination channels etc.) are still lacking and should be included in the next reporting period to highlight the engagement of key stakeholders and interest in the project. Furthermore, some of the meetings held (e.g. Helsinki workshop 14.3.2019, REDU-workshop 10-11.4.2019) appear empty on Eduuni not describing agenda/results and should be updated.

c. Recommendations concerning future work

- **Detail how piloting activities inform development and contribute to refinements of the final beta version.** Present in detail how the results from the piloting (including information on how many users, particularly NEETs and immigrants, have been involved in each iteration; key data collected in each country) informed the refinement of the consolidated Beta version.
- **Detail how final outcomes of the project can be integrated in real-life environments.** Present in detail any differences from real-life APIs to the mock-up data used, and how the CompLeap results can be integrated into existing services or frameworks, hence creating added value for service providers and for users

d. Assessment

Excellent progress (the project has fully achieved its objectives and technical goals for the period and has even exceeded expectations).

Good progress (the project has achieved most of its objectives and technical goals for the period with relatively minor deviations).

Acceptable progress (the project has achieved some of its objectives; however, corrective action will be required).

Unsatisfactory progress (the project has failed to achieve key objectives and/or is not at all on schedule).

2. OBJECTIVES and WORKPLAN

a. Progress towards project objectives

Progress towards the overall objective of creating “a learner-centred ecosystem of digital services have been satisfactory. Elements of this ecosystem can be seen in the presented framework architecture and the specific implementation of the beta pilot versions. The next period should refine the beta versions, document clearly user feedback and how it informed developments and detail how real-life integrations could occur.

The first objective (to study and develop an integrated and holistic learner-centred ecosystem) is on a good way to be fully achieved. Updated deliverable D15 is well documented and presents the study related to the development of CompLeap requirements and architecture design, detailing user needs related to the current service ecosystem.

Significant progress towards the second objective (to tailor the functionality of this framework so that it is suitable across Europe) has been made mainly through efforts to deploy the beta prototypes to other countries than Finland, the availability of the developed solutions as open source, efforts to map existing competences to the ESCO ontology, together with developing a case study to exploit potential synergies between CompLEAP and EUROPASS.

Progress towards the third objective (to technologically build prototypes of the CompLeap ecosystem) has been satisfactory. Compared to the HTML mock-up prototypes of the first reporting period, a beta version has been released that exemplifies the use of the ecosystem. There is however more to be done in relation to piloting and refinements. It is also crucial that at least the consortium assesses how mock-up implementations can be replaced by real-life data and how much effort this entails. It is desirable though that an integration with a real-life data API is implemented during the lifetime of the project.

The fourth objective (to support the deployment of the ecosystem through various professional networks) has been properly addressed in the period under review. A strong commitment and collaboration among associated partners and networks has emerged in the period under review (M12-M18) and the deployment of the framework architecture and the developed prototypes including analytics will take place in Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and some other EU-countries (through networks that are already available among the partners, i.e. innoVET via Gradia).

b. Progress in individual work packages

WP1 - Project Management

The project was able to provide a detailed and adequate roadmap for the way ahead and implement corrective measures to fulfil the contractual obligations. Several strategies and mechanisms for supporting cooperation and communication among partners are in place (e.g. weekly meetings, webinars). Analysis of contingent risks (e.g. project running below expected timeline) and the quality of deliverables have significantly improved.

WP2 - Requirements and architecture design

The work carried out in WP2 during the first year of the project is now clearly detailed in the updated Deliverable D15 – Desktop research that provides a deeper understanding of the current CompLeap service ecosystem, describes the user-centred approach and clarifies user needs including scenarios and personas per user groups.

WP3 - Prototype development

Effort in WP3 has been intensified compared to the previous reporting period and good progress has been achieved. The release of the Beta part 1 prototype includes key functionalities from the three main modules. Detailed plans for onsite testing with real users are in place. Further effort should be placed in the refinement of the beta prototypes and possible integration with live data APIs.

WP4 - Deployment and evaluation

In the period under review WP4 focused on the implementation and deployment of the framework architecture and of the developed prototypes. Potential deployments have been organised to take place in Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and some other EU-countries through networks that are already available among the partners, i.e. innoVET via Gradia.

WP5 - Dissemination, communication and exploitation

The stakeholder engagement plan (update D35) provides adequate descriptions of how to engage with actors across Europe. The communication and dissemination calendar and the list of possible related events is sufficiently detailed and included in the Eduuni wiki as a live document. The current project reach is still more evident in Finland, though concrete actions are planned to develop a case study to interlink CompLeap services with Europass. KPIs have been further detailed in the updated project roadmap but more data (e.g. number of participants involved in dissemination events/workshops, statistics of visitors of the project websites, etc.) should be provided.

c. Milestones and deliverables

In the period under review 7 new deliverables have been submitted together with the ones requested to be resubmitted from the previous period. No milestones are defined in the Grant Agreement – DoA.

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d. Relevance of objectives

The project objectives and approach for the coming period are appropriate and achievable within the time and resources available to the project. Major deviations detected during the mid-review have been promptly considered and managed by the consortium and conditions are now in place to ensure a successful delivery of expected results.

3. RESOURCES

a. Assessment of the use of resources

Overall, the work delivered by the consortium until month 18 is in line with the amount of effort reported (87.28 PMs (extrapolated for M18) from the reported 72.73 PMs until M15 in the management report D3). The effort reported is consistent with the principle of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Internal reallocation of not spent budget has been clearly detailed and explained in the document “Modified project plan 2019”, including motivations for budget allocation. Two valuable alternative solutions have been identified that provide a concrete opportunity to address project issues. A clearer description of the correlation between the (old and new) tasks performed and the expected costs would be beneficial.

More effort and resources have also been allocated to develop the Europass case study as suggested by the reviewers. This will be done under WP5 as part of D39 (mainly carried out by P1 CSC and P2 EDUFI).

b. Deviations

In total though around 60% of the planned resources have been spent in the first 18 months taking into account the budget redistribution. This makes it highly unlikely that the project will be able to spend the 40% rest budget in the remaining 6 months.

D3 does not provide a breakdown of effort per partner, but from the “Used vs budgeted PMs for the whole project” presented, we can conclude that EDUFI is still underspending despite the change in the budget distribution. Developing a spending plan for the last six months of the project associated with tasks to be performed, would be beneficial.

4. MANAGEMENT, COLLABORATION AND BENEFICIARIES’ ROLES

a. Technical, administrative and financial management of the project

Project management is professional and effective. Risk management has considerably improved and possible risks and mitigation measures defined (Updated D14). Monitoring of identified risks and applying mitigation activities is credible. The quality of deliverables (i.e. documenting in more detail the process and the main results achieved) has significantly improved.

b. Collaboration and communication

Communication and collaboration between the beneficiaries is effective and no issues are identified.

c. Beneficiaries’ roles

The level of partners’ commitment remains high. Beneficiaries work performed during the review period is in line with their obligations. There is no evidence of underperformance.

5. USE AND DISSEMINATION OF FOREGROUND

a. Impact

The potential impact of the project has increased from the previous review period. The implementation of the Beta part 1 prototype demonstrates significant progresses to reach the technological achievements. Evaluation of the impact is expected in the next period.

b. Use of results

Preliminary actions to use project results have been already implemented with concrete activities organised to deploy the services in Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and some other EU-countries through networks that are already available among the partners, i.e. innoVET via Gradia.

c. Dissemination

Dissemination activities have been carried out also during the current period (as listed in the WP5 section of events in Eduuni). The project website is appealing and the information there consistent. More effort is still needed to reach a European audience.

d. Involvement of potential users and stakeholders

Involvement of stakeholders and potential users is expected and planned both in the pilot activities and dissemination events. In particular, arrangements have been made to organise the final CompLeap seminar as a side event of the European Vocational Skills Week 2019 during the Finnish EU presidency.

e. Links with other projects and programmes

The consortium has planned and organised concrete actions (i.e. a case study and workshops) to explore the interlink between CompLeap and Europass

6. OTHER ISSUES

Not applicable

Name(s) of expert(s):	Stefania Bocconi	Georgios IOANNIDIS
Date:	27 June 2019	
Signature(s):		