

## CALL FOR EXPERTS

### 1. Project description

The aim of the European Union-funded TeSLA project (An Adaptive Trust-based e-assessment System for Learning) is to improve the online assessment process by introducing tools and resources in learning activities that gather data to enable learners' authentication and to ensure authorship in any type of learning activities, final examinations or exercises. By means of this innovative online assessment system, TeSLA opens up new opportunities for educational institutions, guaranteeing equal opportunities and providing an inclusive solution.

TeSLA system ([www.tesla-project.eu](http://www.tesla-project.eu)) will follow the interoperability standards for integration into different learning environment and it will be developed to reduce the current restrictions of time and physical space in teaching and learning, which opens up new opportunities for learners with physical or mental disabilities as well as respecting social and cultural differences.

Given the innovative action of the project, the current gap in e-assessment and the growing number of institutions interested in offering online education, the project will conduct large scale pilots to evaluate and assure the reliability of the TeSLA system.

### 2. Mission

The mission of the experts will consist in evaluating the quality aspects of the execution of 3 successive pilots in different universities. During each evaluation, the experts will provide feedback and recommendations for the improvement of the subsequent pilots and for the implementation of the system on the market at the final stage of the project. They will collaborate with the quality assurance units of the institutions to check the assessment methodology and perform on-site as well as online interviews in each of the participating universities.

#### 2.1 Universities involved:

- Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Spain
- Open University of the Netherlands (OUNL), The Netherlands
- Sofia University (SU), Bulgaria
- The Open University (OU), UK
- Technical University of Sofia (TUS), Bulgaria
- Anadolu University (AU), Turkey
- University of Jyväskylä (JYU), Finland

#### 2.2 Fields:

Each of the aforesaid universities will select several courses and assessment activities from the following fields. However, the selection criteria of experts will place greater value on the expertise in e-learning and e-assessment:

- Social Science and Law
- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts and Humanities
- Science
- Health Science

### 2.3 Type of assessment:

- Continuous
- Formative
- Summative

### 3. Panels of experts / Pilots' phases

Pilots will be conducted in three phases to test the e-assessment models and technologies developed. The rationale behind the pilots is to increase the number of participants, the integration of technologies and the e-assessments models in each phase taking special care of disabled learners.

These three phases of the pilots will be assessed by two different types of panels (head panel/regular panel). The main difference between these two panels is that the head panel will be involved in all the pilots and it works at a decision-making level while the regular panels will participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> pilot and their work will be submitted to the head panel for its validation. Each panel (either the head or the regular ones) includes a president who is responsible, among other tasks, for writing the reports.

More details on panels' role are described hereunder:

Name:	HEAD PANEL
Quantity:	1
Composition:	At least: 1 academic, 1 QA professional, 1 student and 1 technological expert ( <i>see Section 4 for further details</i> )
Participation:	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> pilot
Tasks (1 <sup>st</sup> pilot):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation of the features of the selected courses and assessment activities.</li> <li>• Preparation of the working plan for the second pilot (medium test-bed pilot).</li> <li>• Improvement of the assessment methodology.</li> </ul>
Decision-making tasks (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> pilot):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation and approval of the reports coming from regular panels.</li> <li>• Improvement of the assessment methodology.</li> <li>• Elaboration of the metaevaluation report in each pilot.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw the final conclusions of the TeSLA model.</li> <li>• Preparation of the working plan for the third pilot (large scale pilot).</li> </ul>
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Name:	REGULAR PANEL
Quantity:	10
Composition:	At least: 1 academic, 1 QA professional, 1 student and 1 technological expert ( <i>see Section 4 for further details</i> )
Participation:	2 <sup>nd</sup> pilot (3 panels) 3 <sup>rd</sup> pilot (7 panels)
Tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation of the features of the selected courses and assessment activities.</li> <li>• Assessment of the pilot taking into account the developed fit-for-purpose methodology and standards and elaboration of the assessment report.</li> <li>• Validation of the use and the functionalities of the authentication/authorship technologies.</li> <li>• Elaboration of a proposal for improvement of the assessment methodology.</li> </ul>

Pilots will be conducted as follow:

**3.1 Small Educational Pilots:** In this first stage, it is planned to involve about 600 learners from the different universities of the consortium. In this phase, the TeSLA system will be under development, therefore no technology will be tested, but only the coordination between all the partners and the defined protocols and data flows between involved WPs and actors (learners, teachers, auditory, ...). The assessment methodology will also be tested, using different evaluation types (continuous assessment, formative assessment, peer assessment, etc.) and data collection for their posterior analysis and coordination protocols. A first critical risks guideline will previously be defined.

Experts in the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot will work in the following areas:

- Validation of the features of the selected courses and assessment activities.
- Preparation of the working plan for the second pilot (medium test-bed pilot).
- Improvement of the assessment methodology.

This work will be carried out by the head panel. After completing these tasks, the head panel will continue to be involved in the project in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pilot (see further details about this role above).

**3.2 Medium Test-bed Pilots:** This second phase will be conducted during the second year of the project and it is expected that the TeSLA system will start providing functionalities at the start of

this year and be fully functional for the last pilots in this phase. It is planned to involve about 3,500 learners during 4 thematic pilots to test the 4 main authentication/authorship instruments:

- 1) Facial and voice recognition: test learners' authentication using these biometric instruments of the system.
- 2) Keystroke dynamics: test learners' authentication using this biometric instrument of the system.
- 3) Natural language: test the authorship of the deliverables using forensic analysis.
- 4) Plagiarism techniques: test the authorship of the deliverables using plagiarism instruments.

Experts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot will work in the following areas:

- Validation of the features of the selected courses and assessment activities.
- Assessment of the pilot taking into account the developed fit-for-purpose methodology and standards and elaboration of the assessment report.
- Validation of the use and the functionalities of the authentication/authorship technologies.
- Elaboration of a proposal for improvement of the assessment methodology.

In order to properly fulfil and complement all these tasks, the 3 regular panels will conduct online interviews with relevant stakeholders.

**3.3 Large Scale Pilots:** This final phase of the pilots will be conducted during the third year of the project. The goal of this phase is three fold:

- 1) To test the TeSLA system's integration and scalability.
- 2) To test the refinement of the TeSLA modules and the European e-assessment Model performed with the feedback of previous pilot phases in a prelarge scale scenario.
- 3) To test the reliability of authentication and authorship mechanisms.

Two rounds will be performed during this phase, the first one will involve about 6,500-7,000 learners and the second and final round will involve between 10,000 and 14,000 learners.

Experts in the 3<sup>rd</sup> pilot will work in the following areas:

- Validation of the features of the selected courses and assessment activities.
- Assessment of the pilot taking into account the developed fit-for-purpose methodology and standards and elaboration of the assessment report.
- Validation of the use and the functionalities of the authentication/authorship technologies.
- Elaboration of a proposal for improvement of the assessment methodology.

In order to properly fulfil and complement all these tasks, 7 panels will be assigned to one of the 7 aforesaid universities involved in the project (see Section 2) and will conduct site visits to the institutions and face-to-face interviews to the relevant stakeholders.

#### 4. Experts' profiles

Academic	Minimum requirement:
	Full professor, Associate professor or equivalent with experience in e-learning higher education in the field of e-learning or distance learning.

QA professional	Minimum requirement:
	QA professional from an Agency or from a university staff with experience in quality assurance processes.

Student	Minimum requirement:
	Undergraduate or postgraduate student preferably experienced in studying in a virtual mode (online or blended learning).

Technological expert	Minimum requirement:
	Expert in e-learning, outside of the scope of the university, with knowledge and experience in ICT application (preferably 2-3 years of experience).

The president and the secretary of the panel will be selected depending on the qualifications and skills of the individuals

#### 5. Number of days per expert

HEAD PANEL (1)	President	Panel members (4)
Face-to-face meetings - TRAVEL	3	3
Online meetings	2	2
Training - TRAVEL	1	1
Working days	20	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26 DAYS</b>	<b>16 DAYS</b>

REGULAR PANELS (10)	President	Panel members (3)
Online visits (2 <sup>nd</sup> pilot) or Site visits (3 <sup>rd</sup> pilot) - TRAVEL	2	2
Training - TRAVEL	1	1
Working days	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7 DAYS</b>	<b>7 DAYS</b>

## 6. Fees

Presidents: 300 EUR/day

Panel members: 200 EUR/day

Travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts for face-to-face meetings, training and site visits, based on actual costs (it applies to all experts).

## 7. Period of the mission

HEAD PANEL for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pilot: Nov 2016 – Dec 2018

REGULAR PANELS for 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot (3 panels): Feb 2017 – July 2017

REGULAR PANELS for 3<sup>rd</sup> pilot (7 panels): Sept 2017 – Sept 2018

## 8. Application

Candidates should submit their CV in the format provided to [tesla@agu.cat](mailto:tesla@agu.cat) by **25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 midnight GMT.**