Ethics Mid Term Report February 2024

1.0 Responsibility as defined under 1.9 Project Management of the Application

The ethical treatment of users and material, social responsibility, equal opportunities, equity, inclusion, personal data protection, identity, privacy, confidentiality and security. Each manager will monitor the activities he/she is responsible for on a monthly basis. Furthermore, they will be in constant contact with the WPs leaders who will be responsible for the organisation and coordination of the work done for each WP. The WPs leaders will plan and organise the tasks that need to be implemented in order to successfully complete the WPs' objectives, and they will also be responsible for the coordination of online meetings as well as for monitoring the progress of the WPs' activities on a monthly basis.

2.0 Ethics Alignment with Project Goals

The project is an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership between four University partners led by RTU Riga including CUT, UTT and TU Dublin. The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the lecturers to engage in effective online pedagogy. The project will support educators to redesign their courses so that they can use online technologies in an appropriate manner. The course will be centred on applying appropriate technologies to the teaching and learning experience for students.

This will be achieved through firstly an exploration of the different pedagogical approaches, then a refinement of the most appropriate delivery and engagement methods depending on the programme of study which finally in turn will lead to the use of the most appropriate technologies.

Project objectives with reference to ethics are:

- Building lecturer skills and confidence and capacity to use technological tools effectively, through both accredited and informal learning and peer learning. This will take place through Learning Teaching Training Activities.

- Redesigning delivery methods to enable more staff to deliver more high-quality online learning.

- Disseminate intellectual outputs and activities through conferences, publications, multiplier events and the network on partners to increase impact.

From the above research it is key to understand how the participants are recruited to the project, what ethical guidelines are in place to ensure their data is handled correctly, how information is gathered and stored.

3.0 Details on how participants will be recruited to the research

Participants will be selected based on the call for participation. The call will contain the key details about the project- what its aim is, what support will be offered and what output/ engagement is expected from them regarding peer learning, attendance etc.
Selection criteria includes experience and role in University.
Participants at dissemination events will be self-selected by virtue of choosing to attend the event or conference session.

4.0 Details on the focus groups and/or interviews.

The focus groups will be utilised to explore the issues raised in more depth. The participants to the events will be invited to participate in an online focus group. The focus groups will be kept to 8 or so in size and if in the unlikely event that there is a heavy oversubscription to participate in the focus group then a selection process will be used based on engagement, location and experience.

5.0 Details on the roll out of the survey (i.e., paper-based or online, mechanism to collect consent, splash page information sheet).

The surveys will be online and will be collected online via Microsoft Forms or similar. Consent forms will be emailed to all participants as part of the orientation onto the programme. See attached forms for more detail.

6.0 Details on the consent process(es) to be used for the different data collection activities.

See attached forms for consent process

7.0 Implementation

See attached presentation for overall structure