Informed Consent

Part A – Information Sheet

The following information is provided to inform you about the "augMENTOR" project and help you to decide about your participation or not. The informed consent explains the purpose of the project in detail and how you can participate to provide feedback on the following aspects:

- to gather information from participants about their current education and training practices, how and to what extent they use technology especially for teaching 21st century skills such as critical thinking, creativity and problem solving;
- to gather information about participants' needs and expectations from technological tools that can support teaching and/or acquisition of 21st century skills. For example: what the technological tool can do, how and when information should be provided and so on.

Please read this consent form carefully and ask as many questions as you wish before you decide whether you want to participate in this research. Feel free to ask questions at any time before, during, and/or after your participation. You should be aware that even if you agree to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without saying the reason and with no repercussions for you.

Project title: Augmented Intelligence for Pedagogically Sustained Training and Education (GA No. 101061509)

Project partners:

1 (Coordinator)	Unisystems Luxembourg Sarl
1b	Uni Systems GR
2	Iasis
3	Csi Center For Social Innovation Ltd
4	Universitaet Duisburgessen
5	Epistimi Epikoinonia
6	Konnekt Able Technologies Limited
7	Panepistimio Patron
8	Novelcore O.e
9	Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje
10	Fondation Université Côte D'azur
11	Kauno Technologijos Universitetas
12	Osterreichisch es Studienzentrum Furfrieden Und Konfliktlosungosfk
13	Mission-x Ltd

Project-Coordinator: George Garofalakis, GarofalakisG@unisystems.eu - UNISYSTEMS

Scientific Manager: Nikolaos Karacapilidis, karacap@upatras.gr – University of Patras

Researcher in charge of the organization and review of this research: Marianna Anagnostopoulou, Chara Spyropoulou, IASIS, email: marianna.anagnostopoulou@iasismed.eu, hara.spyropoulou@iasismed.eu

Local coordinator(s): Aleksandra Mladenovic - Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje

Contact Information: office@ambassadors-env.com, ecoschools@feeserbia.com

DPO: Andjelka Mihajlov, anmihajlov@gmail.com, 063316355

1. Purpose of the research

The purpose of this research is to understand what educational stakeholders (teachers, instructors, trainers, students, learners, trainees) need from advanced technological systems that aim to support teaching and learning and what such a technological system as augMENOR should do. To do this, we will work with stakeholders and end-users (such as, teachers, trainers, instructors) to design the different parts of the system, figure out what it should be able to do, and make sure it is meaningful, useful and easy to use.

Throughout the project, we will keep talking to users and making sure we are on the right track, so that the end result works well and is what users need. The input of users will be taken integrated for the evaluation of the final outcome.

2. Description of the augMENTOR project

augMENTOR aims to develop a novel pedagogical framework that promotes both basic skills and 21st century competencies by integrating emerging technologies. This framework will be supported by an open access AI-boosted toolkit that builds on the strengths of big data and learning analytics to provide different types of stakeholders with explainable recommendations for smart search and identification of educational resources, as well as for designing personalized learning profiles that take into account individual actors' characteristics, needs, and preferences. The overall approach foreseen is innovative, based on appropriately structured data that capture the stakeholders' learning paths, promote informed and well-justified interaction, and advance critical thinking.

We will meaningfully integrate pedagogical approaches with AI-based software solutions to enable a rich collaboration among all chain's actors from students to teachers and policy makers. Our goal is to provide guidelines to stakeholders on how to address potential underlying educational difficulties and disabilities, shape individual learning paths, or identify cases of gifted and talented students, to enable them to reach their full potential.

The foreseen solution will be thoroughly deployed and validated in a series of real pilots representing diverse educational and training settings to define best practices.

3.   Participant selection

Participants were selected to participate in the research on the following basis:

a) Their experience regarding educational technologies and 21st century skills

b) The professional status that characterizes them as end-users of the augMENTOR solution

c) They actively participate in the Eco-schools program in Serbia through the Eco-schools they belong to

d) They filled in a pre-questionnaire to apply to participate in the research

e) They are committed to develop their pedagogical 21st-century skills by using emergency technologies

f) They will be able to contribute quality answers to questionnaires for data collection

g) They have sufficient capacity and ability to coordinate their professional work with the project requirements for data collection and testing of the proposed model

h) Only adults are eligible to participate in this research.

4.   Explanation of the procedure to be followed

Participants will be involved in two workshops and two follow-up surveys. Both workshops will take place online.

During the workshops the participants will discuss teaching and learning of 21st century skills, and the use of educational technologies in this context. Additionally, we will design together a technological tool that can support teachers and students when practicing 21st century skills. For example, we will sketch what the system should be able to do, what it should look like, what kind of information it should provide, and when.

During the workshops, the participants will create digital and/or physical artifacts, such as affinity diagrams, sketches and notes and will provide their input to a semi-structured interview protocol regarding 21st century skills and the use of educational technologies.

Each workshop will be followed by one survey. The goal of the first survey is to collect demographic information about the participants and information about their professional role. The goal of the second survey is to collect information about the motivation of the participants to attend the workshops and how satisfied they are from these workshops.

Each workshop will last from 1 to 3 hours maximum. Workshop1 will take place on March 30, 2023 and Workshop 2 will take place on April 28, 2023. Participants are encouraged but not required to participate in both workshops. Each survey will require approx. 15 minutes and participation in the surveys is voluntary.

5.   How will your privacy be protected?

augMENTOR will adhere to data privacy, as regulated by the the Law on the protection of personal data (GDPR), implemented in Serbia through the Commissioner for information of public importance and personal data protection.

6.   Reimbursement

Each participant will receive a certification of attendance from IASIS. Participation is voluntary and no remuneration is foreseen.

7.   Risks

It is expected that selected participants will have some previous experience regarding educational technologies and 21st-century skills. However, the level of knowledge among participants might be different, taking into account possibilities to access the material and documents, training and workshops they had or hadn't had the opportunity to participate in the previous period.

8.   Benefits

For teachers, it is very important to follow and understand directions from a novel pedagogical framework that promotes 21st century competencies by integrating emerging technologies. This is very important for their individual professional development regarding their educational work. Their personalized learning profiles will be built and designed taking into account individual actors' characteristics, needs, and preferences. Different stakeholders from the community and society as a whole will benefit from the open access to AI-boosted toolkits that will be built to strengthen big data and learning analytics. This will enable them to make explainable recommendations for smart search and identification of educational resources to use emerging technologies in society development.

9.   Confidentiality

We will not be sharing information about you (the participant) with anyone outside of the research team. The information that we collect from this research project will be kept private.

10.   Participants' right to the termination of research study

You are free to choose whether or not to participate in this study. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled if you choose not to participate. In the event you decide to discontinue your participation in the study, there will not be any disadvantages for you. You can decide to discontinue your participation at any time and without saying the reason! In this case, please inform us by contacting Aleksandra Mladenovic, national coordinator of the Eco-schools program in Serbia, email address: ecoschools@feeserbia.com, phone number 0631173797, in the name of local partner

Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje and we will take care of all necessary steps to remove your data. If you withdraw from the study, we will not use data from your participation. If you withdraw from the study after the data is saved and anonymized, we will not be able to withdraw the collected information as the information will be anonymized.

11. How will your data be used?

Participants' data will be properly anonymized in order to be used for research purposes as stated in the purpose of research (paragraph 1), and published results for academic and research purposes (academic and research publications).

The person in charge is

Prof. dr Andjelka Mihajlov, honorable president, Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje

12. How will I find out what happens with this project?

Information about the project will be communicated via the project's website and social media.

13. During the research the following personal data will be processed

- Participant's full name
- Participant's professional role
- Participant's age
- Participant's gender
- Participant's contact information
- Photos, video and audio recordings during the workshops
- Survey responses
- Artifacts (physical or digital) generated during the workshops (e.g. diagrams, notes, sketches)

14. How will your data be stored and transferred during the project?

All data will be securely stored within the private cloud area (Google Drive) and will be only restricted to consortium members. The files that will be stored will be: google forms' responses (specifically, Google forms for a survey after the completion of every workshop), google docs (to obtain input from the participants that will register electronically), digital artifacts that participants may create (for example, digital notes or pdf files), pictures and transcripts from workshops' video recordings. All data will be properly anonymized by the workshop organizers upon collection. For all data, especially those used in the Demonstrators and workshops, the names of the participants are not pointing to real persons. All the direct and indirect (according to the EU legislation - GDPR) information of an individual will be fully masked in any printed materials, project reports or dissemination activities.

For the workshops' activities, the users will give their answers anonymously – using aliases – through a digital application called Miro (miro.com), which has been selected since it

follows industry best practices and regulatory requirements, including GDPR, ISO/IEC 27001, NIST, SOC2 Type II, SOC3, and TISAX. Their White Paper on Security (https://miro.com/trust/security-whitepaper/) has been dispatched to the Data Project Officer (DPO) of the coordinator and their server infrastructure provides secure data storage and high application availability. All application services are hosted on multiple servers with a load-balancing/fault-tolerance system to increase redundancy. Cluster topologies are classified by the N+1 level of high availability. User data is replicated to multiple availability regions. Under EU Data Center Residency (https://help.miro.com/hc/en-us/articles/6491838039570-EU-Data-Center-Residency) all Customer Content (production data, backup data and metadata) is hosted within the EU by default. Miro offers an optional add-on called Encryption Key Management, which gives users centralized control over the encryption keys used to protect their data. This is a 100% cloud-based solution that allows the user to revoke key access to its data at any time and monitor activity logs related to encryption keys.

All data requested are adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for relation to the purposes for which they are processed, in accordance with Article 5 of GDPR.

15. How will research data be preserved and shared on completion of the project?

All identified dataset categories will be stored and backed up regularly through existing backup mechanisms in place at Google Drive. In particular, the open research datasets will be archived in the Zenodo and assigned a unique identifier (reference), to ensure open accessibility and discoverability. Qualitative data will be backed up and secured by the coordinator on a regular basis; metadata will include clear labeling of versions and dates. The data produced and generated in the context of the research and development activities of the project, from research prototypes to development codes and deployment scripts, will be stored and preserved in a private repository in version control tools such as GitLab. Accordingly, backup versions of each module will be extracted periodically and stored in the Google Drive. All data containing private information will be destroyed upon completion of the respective study/research task. In any case, all personal data will be destroyed at the end of the project and only anonymous or non-identifiable data will be retained after the completion of the final report.

16. How will retention and disposal of personal data and confidential information after project completion be managed?

All data containing private information will be destroyed upon completion of the respective study/research task. In any case, all personal data will be destroyed at the end of the project and only anonymous or non-identifiable data will be retained after the completion of the final report.

17. Process to be implemented in the case of escalation

The Chair of the Ethics Board Prof. Eleni Mangina (University College Dublin, eleni.mangina@ucd.ie) will oversee that the procedures run smoothly; in case of any non-

compliance, the Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje, office@ambassadors-env.com in collaboration with the WP2 leader Irene-Angelica Chounta, (University of Duisburg-Essen, irene-angelica.chounta@uni-due.de) will decide the timeline and mitigation measures, so as to take all the necessary actions in a timely manner and ensure full compliance with the legal and ethical requirements of the project. In all cases, all non-compliant actions will be immediately suppressed or suspended, and the partners will implement a mitigation action within 5 working days.

Part B- Consent Form

Project title: Augmented Intelligence for Pedagogically Sustained Training and Education

(GA No. 101061509)

I, the undersigned, voluntarily, as a choice under free will, agree to participate in this research study.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that even if I agree to participate now, I can withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question without saying a reason and without any consequences of any kind.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that I can request to access the personal information that I provide in this study, that is, the informed consent form, the audio and video recording, and any personal information included in the questionnaire response, during the project and within 5 years after the project by asking the Prof. dr Andjelka Mihajlov, office@ambassadors-env.com Data Protection Officer (DPO).	☐ yes	☐ no
I have had the purpose and nature of the study explained to me in writing and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that participation involves discussing aspects of the augMENTOR solution, through participation in interactive, collaborative workshops, participation in two surveys and creating examples of how people will use it and gathering feedback from everyone	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that I will not benefit directly from participating in this research study.	☐	☐ no
I agree to my interview and/or focus group being video and audio recorded.	☐	☐ no
I agree that Artifacts (physical or digital) generated during the workshops (e.g. diagrams, notes, sketches) will be collected.	☐ yes	☐ no
I agree that photos will be taken during my participation in focus groups/ workshops.	☐ yes	☐ no

I understand that all personal information I provide for this study will be treated confidentially.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that all information I provide for this research study will be used solely for the purposes of the augMENTOR project.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that in any report on the results of this research study my identity will remain anonymous. The process to be followed is as follows: After signing the informed consent form, participants will be provided with an anonymized unique code and their views and feedback will be recorded only using the code which cannot be linked back to the participant's identity	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that anonymized extracts from my interview/focus group may be quoted in internal (to be shared amongst the consortium members) and external (public) communication, including reports, documents, scientific papers, workshops, communication activities etc.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that signed informed consent forms and original video and audio recordings will be retained solely within Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje with restricted access. The signed consent forms, as well as the filled questionnaires, original video and audio recordings, and related documentation will be kept for five (5) years after the end of the project. All copies will be destroyed five (5) years after the end of the project.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that I can request to have the personal information that I provide in this study, that is, the informed consent form and the audio and video recording, as well as any personal information included in the questionnaire response, deleted during the project and within the five (5) year term after the project by submitting a request to the Ambasadori Odrzivog Razvoja I Zivotne Sredine Udruzenje DPO at office@ambassadors-env.com.	☐ yes	☐ no
I understand that I am free to contact any of the people involved in the research to seek further clarification and information.	☐ yes	☐ no

§ **Respondent Details**

Name and Surname	
Email	
Role	
Gender	
Age	

Place, date: _____   Place, date: _____

Participants' signature   Signature of the partner in charge