



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

for the External Evaluation of the RISE project

**Reinforcing Integration of Skills for Employability and Internationalisation in Kurdistan region of Iraq (RISE)**

**Call: ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CBHE  
(Capacity building in the field of higher education)**

**Topic: ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CBHE-STRAND-1**

**Project number: 101179468**

### 1. Background of the project

The RISE project is built on two assumptions: the first relates to higher education's pivotal role in the society, for the creation of responsible citizens from local to global levels, and the second concerns the increasing importance of filling the gap between academia and industry improving the employability rate of graduates nationally and internationally. The Kurdistan region of Iraq has experienced an exacerbated economic, political and social crisis, and is therefore in dire need to develop long-term solutions to tackle unemployment and to support the sustainable growth of the region.

In this context, internationalisation of HEIs and entrepreneurship can synergically contribute to reach this ambitious as well as highly needed achievement. Therefore, RISE project seeks to:

- Define an integrated and coordinated approach for institutional development, through a synergic roadmap integrating internationalization and employability
- Enhance skills and competences of university staff through capacity building of educators, administrative staff and students, empowering them to play an active role in the local and global scenarios for institutional and societal sustainable development
- Increase the attractiveness and international exposure of HEIs, through mobility, networking and strengthening internationalization services
- Improving the entrepreneurial mindset of students and graduates and reinforcing the relations between academia and industry for a new generation of young entrepreneurs and glocal citizens

The ultimate goal of RISE is to contribute to the sustainable development of the Kurdish society through the reinforcement of the institutional capacity of universities in generating a new class of young leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists, professionals and responsible world citizens, as active players in the global and local scenarios.



The project is carried out by:

- UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union, Italy (Coordinator)
- University of International Studies of Rome-UNINT, Italy
- University of Murcia, Spain
- Akre University for Applied Sciences, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- Duhok Polytechnic University, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- Erbil Polytechnic University, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- Sulaimani Polytechnic University, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- University of Duhok, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- University of Garmian, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- University of Zakho, Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Kurdistan Region of Iraq (associated partner)

Project duration: 24 months, from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2027.

## 2. Objectives and Key Principles of the Evaluation

The aim of the external monitoring and evaluation is to ensure that the monitoring of the project is performed adequately and accurately. It identifies procedures, criteria and resources for monitoring the project. It also deals with the evaluation of the progress of the project, risk management, coordination and collaborations among partners, and with the evaluation of the results in comparison with the needs of the target group(s) and sector(s).

The External expert will be a key independent figure in monitoring the project progressing. The External evaluator will concentrate on the quality of the deliverables and on the compliance of the project work with the objectives. He/she may be drafting recommendations for the Consortium to improve collaboration and implementation of tasks.

The external monitoring and evaluation include the evaluation of:

- Partnership performance (quality of the management and WP leaderships, effectiveness of communication, meeting deadlines, etc.).
- Progress toward the contractual outcomes and respect of the work plan.
- Quality and relevance of the project outcomes in reaching the set objectives. Furthermore, the partners will identify key areas of concern for additional evaluation.
- Pertinence of the scientific contents and added value of the activities performed.
- Quality and relevance of the trainings carried out.
- Impact of the activities performed on the target groups, but also on the broader context at local, national and international level.

In the framework of RISE, the External Evaluator will also:

- monitor the effectiveness and impact of management activities and partnership performance;
- contribute to the definition of monitoring procedures;



- design tools to evaluate the project plenary meetings and the overall coordination;
- assess the pertinence of the scientific contents and added value of the activities performed;
- analyze the data collected and the methodology used;
- assess the quality and appropriateness of the project actions and results;
- take part in at least 1 in-presence meeting;
- take part in all the online meetings, upon availability;
- cooperate with the Project Manager and internal Quality Team to integrate the results of the internal evaluations with the results of the external evaluations;
- elaborate evaluation reports.

The results of the evaluation will be shared and discussed within the partnership. On the basis of recommendations from the External Evaluator and feedback from Partners, corrective actions will be taken if necessary.

### 3. Contents of the Evaluation and document to be produced

Deliverable	Delivery Date
<p><b>Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality plan - External part</b></p> <p>At the outset of her/his activities, the External Evaluator will define, discuss with the Coordinator and then finalize the External Quality Plan. The document shall report an indication of the evaluation procedures, the timing of the evaluation exercise, the scope and expected deliverable for each task. Specific indicators will be defined, together with the Project Manager and the internal Quality Team. The external Quality Plan shall be in synergy with the internal Quality Plan so as to avoid duplication of efforts.</p>	04/04/2025
<p><b>External Evaluation Report</b></p> <p>A document reporting the evaluation conducted by the External Expert on the project dynamics, progressing, achievements and quality of the results produced. It will include an analysis of the project strengths and a number of recommendations for improvement.</p>	31/07/2026 (M18)



#### 4. Contract Period

The contract shall be carried out during the eligibility period of the project, which is which is 1st February 2025 – 31st January 2027. In case of an extension to the eligibility period of the project, the contract period is intended to be extended accordingly.

Starting date of the assignment: 04/03/2025

Finishing date of the assignment: End of the project

#### 5. Form of Contract

Goods or services ordered by the RISE as a result of the bid shall be in accordance with the RISE conditions of contract. The Terms and Conditions are those of the contractor which is UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union.

#### 6. Budget

The total value of the contract (including any taxes and contributions) shall not exceed **8.000,00 EUR**. VAT exemption applies, whether in accordance with the national legislation of the provider. Any travel costs incurred while carrying out assignment(s) are covered directly by the provider.

#### 7. Application procedure

Offers should include:

- CV with an indication of previous experience in the field of the project;
- a concept note with a rough indication of the anticipated methodology of max 2 pages;
- statement of availability;
- detailed financial offer for the implementation of the tasks.

Deadline for receipt of offers: **25/02/2025**

Applications must be sent in English to: **uni-med@pec.it**

#### 8. Selection Criteria

The Evaluation Committee will assess the received offers following these criteria:

Award criteria	Max Points
Professional experience	30
Technical capacity to perform the contract (as proven by	40



the concept note)	
Price	30
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

The tender offering the lowest price corresponds to 40 points by default.

To be considered for the contract, offers must score at least 60 points in total and at least half of the maximum points for the award criteria “Professional experience” and “Technical capacity to perform the contract”.

In case of ex aequo offers, priority will be given to the one scoring highest under the criteria "Price" and then under the criteria “Technical capacity to perform the contract”.

## 9. Contact

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