

Projet ERASMUS+ Yabda (يبدأ)

“Strengthening of relations between higher education and the wider economic and social environment”

586418-EPP-1-2017-1-MA-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Evaluation Report (M25 -M36)

WP 4	Quality and evaluation plan
Task 3	Quality assurance and evaluation reports
Deliverable	3rd annual report (January 2021)
Status of the document	Final
Document version	V4
Date	January 2021
Author	AUEB

3rd Evaluation Report

Projet ERASMUS+ Yabda

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Introduction

It is reminded that the Evaluation of the Yabda project employs two main evaluation categories, namely process evaluation and effect evaluation. Process evaluation is assessed through continuous monitoring and assessment of partners' satisfaction. Effect evaluation evaluates the quality of the project's deliverables and identifies the project's impact on those who participate in the project.

The quality assurance and evaluation reports of the Yabda Project are developed in the frame of WP4, which foresees quality assurance ensured through the Quality Assurance Committee¹, the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan, the Evaluation Compendium and the process of continuous quality control.

The current document presents the 3rd annual evaluation report, which is a compilation of the 5th and 6th short biannual reports. The reason of providing an annual instead of two biannual reports resides in the time-plan of the implementation of the project and reflects an effort to provide a better picture of the progress of implementation.

The 3rd annual evaluation report presents the findings of the evaluation activities performed for the third 12 months of the project and recommendations for the improvement of the project implementation.

It should be noted that this period does not represent the last year of the project implementation, since a one-year extension has been requested by the project's coordinator to deal with the consequences of covid-19, and officially accepted by EACEA. Accordingly, an adapted time-plan for the implementation of the project has been unanimously decided by all partners.

¹ The Quality Assurance Committee consists of 14 members, one member par partner institution, as described in the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan. Specifically, the members of the QAC are: Hanane NAHID, UH2C; Leila LOUKILI, UHP; Brahim ELAFQIH, UCA; Naoufal SEFIANI, UAE; Mostefa MEDJAHED, UMAB; Imane OUAHIB, UB2; Rida MASMOUDI, UB1; Noureddine METENANI, UC3; Yassine AYDI, US; Khaoula KEFI, UTEM; Olivier LISEIN, LENTIC; Carole BECQUET, AMU; Erifili CHATZOPOULOU, AUEB; Vassiliki CHATZIPETROU, ReadLab.

1. Objective of the 3rd Evaluation Report

The objective of the 3rd evaluation report is to support the Yabda project partners to evaluate the progress of the implementation of the project between M25 and M36 and proceed with corrective actions if necessary.

The report is structured as follows. First, the findings of the continuous monitoring are presented followed by the results concerning the assessment of partners' satisfaction. Then, the deliverables quality assessment is shown.

The development of this evaluation report uses the Project Evaluation Compendium (deliverable R4.2) and the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan (deliverable R4.1) as main references.



2. Monitoring

Monitoring concerns the production of deliverables that were due in the third 12 months of the project implementation, thus referring to WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6, as well as the finalization of some deliverables referring to WP2 that were only partially completed during the previous period. Specifically monitoring assesses what deliverables have been produced, in what sequence, what was the contribution of partners. It been performed in cooperation with the project coordinator UH2C, with the working package leaders (UCA for WP2, US for WP3, AUEB for WP4, AMU for WP5) and with the deliverables' associated partners.

2.1. Framework

For performing the monitoring of the third 12 months of the project the framework presented in Table 1 has been used, which is adapted from the one described in the Project Evaluation Compendium – R4.2. (and similar to the framework that has been also used for performing the production of the first 24 months, as described in the 1st and 2nd evaluation reports):

Table 1: Monitoring Framework

Evaluation targets:

Production of deliverables (R3.1., R3.2., R3.3., R3.4., R4.3., R4.4., R5.5., R5.6., R5.7., R6.4.). Achieved deliverables' deadlines as compared to proposed deadlines. Sequence of deliverables.

Evaluation methods:

Overall assessment of the entire process of producing deliverables performed by communication held with the project coordinator and with the working packages leaders. Discussions with the associated partners.

Data sources:

Project coordinator, working packages leaders, for general project data; the associated partners for their contributions.

Timing for data collection:

- Continuously for data concerning deliverables in general and collected through communication via email, and project meetings.
- Through an online questionnaire filled-in by the partners at their own convenience for data concerning partners' contributions.

Evaluation indicators:

Number of deliverables delivered; Sequence of deliverables; Partners' contributions for every deliverable.

2.2. Findings

In the reported period, i.e. the third 12 months of the YABDA project's implementation the deliverables R3.1., R3.2., R3.3., R3.4., R4.3., R4.4., R5.5., R5.6., R5.7., R6.4. (together with their pertaining milestones) have been produced as per **Table 2b**.

It is highlighted that Table 2a presents the deliverables that have been produced (or partially produced) during the second 12 months of the project implementation, which have been the focus of attention of the 2nd annual evaluation report. They are presented here to show delayed yet achieved deadlines and facilitate the presentation of the sequence of deliverables and to facilitate completeness of the project's implementation presentation.

Table 2a: Deliverables and milestones M13-M24

Del/able Number	Deliverable Name	WP	Name of lead org	Level of achievement	Intended Deadline	Achieved Deadline
R2.1.	Yabda Entrepreneurship Centers	2	UCA	Completed (yet because of administrative issues due to covid 19 equipment is delayed for some partners)	M15 (April 2019)	M32
R2.2.	Yabda Guide	2	UTEM	Completed	M17 (June 2019)	M30
R2.3.	Yabda Trainings workshops for teaching and administrative staff	2	UMAB	Completed (except US that has planned the 3rd workshop for M38 and UAE that has planned for M39)	[M18 to] M20	M23-M36
R2.4.	Yabda Communities	2	UAE	Completed	M18	M22
R2.5.	Yabda Hubs	2	UCA	Completed	M18	M24
R2.6.	Yabda virtual learning platform	2	ReadLab	Completed	M16	M20
R4.3.	Quality Assurance	4	AUEB	Completed	M18, M24	M25

	and evaluation Reports					
R5.4.	Yabda national conferences	5	UC3	Completed	M24	M24-36
R5.5.	Yabda policy briefs	5	UH1, UB1, UC3	Ongoing	M24 and M36	
R6.3.	Interim Report #2	6	Project Coordinator	Completed	M24	

Table 2b: Deliverables and milestones M25-M36

Del/able Number	Deliverable Name	WP	Name of lead org	Level of achievement	(Intended Deadline)/ Deadline after extension	Achieved Deadline
R3.1.	Yabda Training Material	3	US	completed	(M25)	M36
R3.2.	Yabda Training Programme	3	US	extension	(M26 to M34)/ M38 to M42	
R3.3.	Community-led support for entrepreneurship in Yabda Universities	3	UAE	extension	(M36)/ M48	
R3.4.	Yabda Entrepreneurship prize	3	UB1	ongoing	(M26)/ M36	
R4.3.	Quality Assurance and evaluation Reports	4	AUEB	completed draft	M36	M38
R4.4.	Evaluation report	4	AUEB	extension	(M36)/ M48	
R5.5.	Yabda policy briefs	5	UH1	ongoing	M24 and M36	
R5.6.	Yabda infodays	5	US	ongoing	M29/M40	
R5.7.	Yabda International Conference and Yabda Prize Award	5	UCA	extension	(M36)/ M48	
R6.4.	Final report	6	UH2C	extension	(M36)/ M48	

2.3. Conclusions and recommendations

It is reminded that the third 12 months do not represent the last year of the project implementation, since a one-year extension has been granted by EACEA to enable the partner universities to deal with the constraints of covid 19. Accordingly, an adapted time-plan for the implementation of the project has been decided by the consortium and the deadlines of many deliverables intended for the third 12 months of the project were extended (as can be seen in Table 2b). Despite several constraints, the sequence of deliverables has been rather satisfactory. Delay in the overall implementation of the project within the extended time-plan seems rather insignificant.

All partners involved in the production of deliverables assisted according to their roles. In some cases, there were delays in communication resulting in dysfunctional cooperation among partners, which although created some problems in the sequence of some deliverables, had, no massive impact in the project implementation. To deal with such delays a more systematic plan of online communication has been put in place, which facilitated communication with the project manager and the overall coordination of the project, yet internal communication among associated partners remained rather weak.

It is recommended to enhance the plan of online communication among the associated partners in order to avoid delays and succeed with better sequencing in the future.

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3. Assessment of project partners' satisfaction

Evaluation of partner satisfaction aims to assess and thereby improve if necessary, the working process and collaboration within the consortium of the YABDA Project. It has been performed in cooperation with all partners. For this evaluation, data were mainly collected through completion of an online questionnaire, as well as through discussions with partners.

3.1. Framework

For assessing partners' satisfaction during the third 12 months of the project the framework presented in Table 3 has been used (which is based on the one described in the Project Evaluation Compendium – R4.2):

Table 3: Partners satisfaction assessment framework

Evaluation questions:

Questions concerning partner opinions on the ongoing activities and the general trend of the project. Questions concerning partners' opinions on the organization of the main processes of the project.

Evaluation methods:

- Analysis of data collected through the online Partners' Satisfaction Questionnaire (provided in ANNEX 3 of the Project Evaluation Compendium), June-July 2020.

Data sources:

All associated partners

Timing for data collection:

- M32-M36 (through the online Partners' Satisfaction Questionnaire)

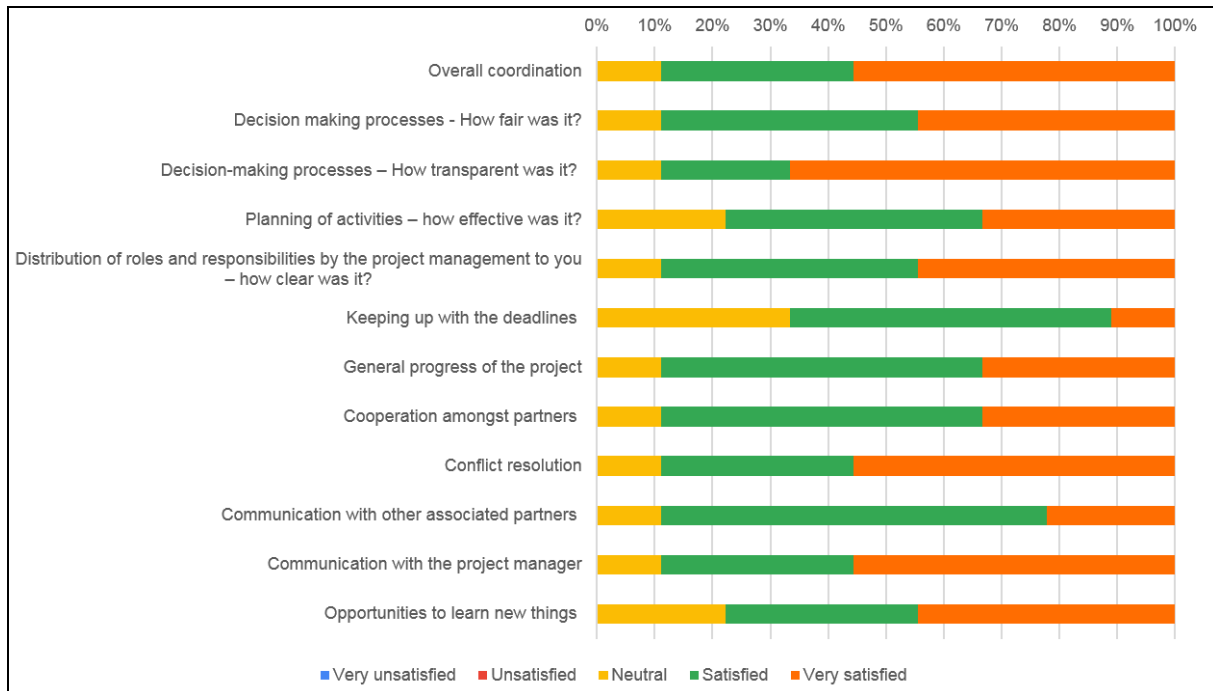
Evaluation indicators:

Number/percentage of associated partners satisfied with the way activities are realized and management processes are organized.

3.2. Findings

Findings are based on the analysis of the data collected through an online questionnaire completed by 9 participants. The analysis of the data collected are presented in chart 1.

Chart 1: Partners' Satisfaction with the project



3.3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Despite the challenges encountered due to covid 19, the majority of the project partners are satisfied with overall project coordination, with their involvement in the project, and with the high level of communication with the project manager and among partners in general. Following the recommendation of the previous quality evaluation report this period is characterized by an increase of the frequency of online meetings and the use a more systematic plan of communication that enabled to avoid heavy delays and succeed with better coordination of the project activities. On the negative side, the transition to the online period and the increase of online meetings was associated with the fact that not every partner was able to participate in every meeting. This brought fatigue and often constrained the communication among partners.

It is recommended to optimize the plan of online communication in order to ensure participation of all partners to the meetings and improve communication among partners.

Quality assessment of the deliverables

The assessment of the quality of the deliverables focuses both on presentation and content issues. It concerns the deliverables produced (or partially produced) in the frame of WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6 during the third 12 months of the implementation of the project, thus deliverables R3.1., R3.4., R4.3., R5.5., R5.6. (since the deadlines of the remaining the deliverables have been extended beyond M36). It has been performed in cooperation with the project manager, the WP leaders and the members of Quality Assurance Committee.

4.1. Framework

The process followed for the assessment of the quality of the deliverables (based on the process described in Project Evaluation Compendium) is presented in Table 4:

Table 4: Assessing the quality of deliverables

Assessment process:

- For reports the author of the deliverable provides a first draft of the deliverable to one among the appointed internal reviewers (shown in the Project Evaluation Compendium); the internal reviewer provides his/her overall assessment of the deliverable; the author implements the changes and sends the final version back to the reviewer; once last comments are resolved, the final deliverable is submitted.
- For products and events assessment of the quality of the deliverables is made through discussions with partners and through the partners satisfaction questionnaire.

Partners involved:

- For reports: Deliverable authors, internal reviewers, WP leaders, project manager
- For products and events: All partners

Evaluation indicators:

Number of deliverables with high quality in terms of presentation and content.

4.2. Findings

In the reported period the following deliverables have gone through the process of internal review and have been produced as per table below:

Table 5: Deliverables evaluated

Del/able Number	Deliverable Name	WP	Name of lead org	Type	Achieved deadline	Internal reviewers	Deliverable Quality
R3.1.	Yabda Training Material	3	US	Training Material	M36	UH1, UC3, AUEB	Good
R3.4.	Yabda Entrepreneurship prize	1	UB1	Product	ongoing	UH1, UC3, AUEB	Good
R4.3.	Quality Assurance and evaluation Reports	4	AUEB	Report	M36 (draft report)	UTM, AMU AUEB	Good
R5.5.	Yabda policy briefs	5	UH1	Product	ongoing	UAE, UB1, AUEB	Good
R5.6.	Yabda infodays	5	US	Event	ongoing	UAE, UB1, AUEB	Good

4.3. Conclusions and Recommendations

The process of the quality assessment of the deliverables has been affected by the constraints the partner universities encountered due to covid 19. Despite these constraints, however, the end result of the implementation of this process has resulted to quality deliverables, which comply with both the deliverables presentation guidelines (as described in the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan) and the deliverables content requirements (as described in the detailed description of the project).