



**Extending Design Thinking with Emerging Digital Technologies**

## **3-Month Extension**

## Background

(From OMT Meeting: 29 November 2024)

### 1. Project Extension

- Marcelo Milrad (LNU) had an informal discussion with our Project Officer (PO) in mid-November 2024. A “no-cost” extension was in principle fine with our PO. Our PO recommended it be 2-3 months, and the process start asap in 2025.
- The final reporting must be submitted within 60 days of the agreed project end date. It would therefore make more sense to request a 3-month extension rather than a 2-month extension (e.g., to avoid having to do the final reporting submission by 31 December 2025).
- The physical EC review meeting would be in the final month of the project, otherwise within 1-2 months of the project end.
- In the case of an extension all partners would receive their final payment (ca. 15%) after the approval of the P2/final reporting.
- Even if some partners are not able to continue to work in the possible project extension period, all WP leaders/Partner leads should attend the final review, preferably physically. All partners should have budgeted travel costs in their overall budget for this in any case.

### 2. Feedback Received at OMT Meeting 29 November 2024

- **NKUA:** OK, with a 3- month (and even with a 6-month) extension.  
- The rationale would be the possibility to try out the third layer of technology, at a limited level, and include the results in the policy recommendations.
- **NTNU:** We must provide good rationale for the request and show what we have done in the additional months of the extension as the reviewers will be concerned about this.  
- We need to consider which remaining deliverables/milestones we need to also ask an extension for to report work done in the extended period.
- **NTNU, OU and TCD** will unlikely have contracted staff or capacity to carry out work after the project end.

*When submitting the M27 reporting Partners were asked to additionally provide written feedback on a 3-month project extension from a partner budget perspective and the WP they are leading on (involved in) perspective.*

*It would be good to consider which WPs and Partners can (if need be) finish on the original schedule without affecting other WPs. WP1 and WP8 for example should continue to the end. If a partner (e.g., OU) did not have the resources to continue (e.g., with a skeleton staff) then it was suggested, a possible solution be that another partner, who did have resources and expertise, could continue instead with the required work and activities.*

### 3. Further Feedback provided from Partners in Conjunction with M27 Internal Reporting

#### 3.1 Request for a 3-month Project Extension

**LNU, NKUA and SIMPLE** propose a 3-month extension for the Exten.(D.T.)<sup>2</sup> project to allow further development and refinement of the content related to WP4, WP5, WP7 and WP8.

Below, are outlined key arguments to support this request:

1. **Improved evaluation of the analytics dashboard**  
The technical readiness of the analytics dashboard will be significantly improved during M33–35. Conducting empirical fieldwork in August 2024 (M36) is challenging due to seasonal constraints during European countries. An extension will provide reasonable time to analyse and evaluate its use and effectiveness.
2. **Further development of AR technologies**  
The refinement and technical readiness of AR technologies will also continue during months 33–35. An extension would allow for additional fieldwork and analysis of the new affordances, such as embodied interactions, enabling a more comprehensive evaluation of the innovations.
3. **Maximising fieldwork opportunities**  
The mainstream Cycle 3 fieldwork will conclude in early May as schools approach the end of the academic year. Scheduling on-site use of extended media after this point will be impractical. However, the proposed extension would facilitate focused, small-scale empirical work in September within the already established network of some of the schools, allowing for consolidation and refinement of evaluation results.
4. **Enhanced dissemination of results**  
The extension will enable organised outreach activities targeted at teachers in Sweden and Greece. In Greece, this outreach will align with an ongoing large-scale professional development initiative led by the Ministry of Education, maximizing impact and engagement. In Sweden, this outreach activity will be held during the *Digital Competence Day for Teachers* (13th edition) at LNU in late October, attracting over 400 regional teachers to explore the latest developments in ICT and learning.

The requested 3-month extension will therefore significantly enhance the project outcomes by providing additional time to address, test and evaluate the work and results of critical work packages, including their technical readiness levels, and ensure more complete impactful dissemination and evaluation efforts.

### 3.2 Feedback from other Consortium Partners

#### **NTNU**

NTNU does not require a 3-month extension but supports the decision of the project's consortium if the decision is to ask for it.

NTNU requests that no additional duties or tasks are assigned during the potential 3-month extension period. However, NTNU will adhere to the schedule for the technical and financial reporting and the final review meeting whenever they take place."

#### **UGent**

At UGent we will not have contracted staff to carry out work or implement activities (PD or school interventions).

The only thing we maybe could do on voluntary basis would be to give feedback on updates of the developed technologies, if these updates are improvements based on feedback from earlier implementations.

#### **TCD**

TCD will finish all deliverables in line with the existing plan and will only be available for the final review meeting after that date.

If that review meeting is postponed for 3 months due to an extension that is okay from a Trinity perspective, but as there is no funding we will not be able to engage in any other activities after the original end date.

#### **OU:**

The OU does not have resources to cover work during this period.

If it is the intention of all other partners to proceed we will agree to extend subject to our internal approvals but we will be committed to finish our projects to the original schedule.

### **Proposal from the Coordinator**

LNU proposes that further to all feedback received (see above) it further discusses the 3-month extension with the Project Officer.

If a 3-month extension is acceptable for the EC a formal request with detailed justifications for the affected tasks that LNU, NKUA and SIMPLE will work on during the extension, deliverables affected, etc., will be submitted.

A technical and financial reporting timeline for partners who do not require or request the 3 month extension (UGent, NTNU, TCD and OU) will as far as feasible be agreed in line with the original project finish date.

It should be noted that all partners will need to set aside some resources to participate in the final review which will happen in the final month of the requested project extension, or within 60 days of the project extension end date.