

- 1. You note that education-specific QA is excluded and handled by universities. Could you define the boundary between “project QA” (in scope) and “educational QA” (out of scope) with a few concrete examples (e.g., curriculum accreditation, assessment rubrics, learning-outcome KPIs)?**

Basically, everything that is quality assurance for students (either in the MSc programme or in the modules that are part of the project) is excluded from the scope. What’s included is the quality assurance for the project itself vis-à-vis the funding organisation.

- 2. For the Project Quality Assurance Plan, does “assessing financial management” mean process-level checks only, or will the contractor need access to financial records/budget execution data? If access is expected, what level and format?**

InnoEnergy, as the Project Lead, has already specified the way the financial reporting is required and will put the systems in place to do this reporting. The requirement is regular project level checks, to make sure the reporting is executed as required. The contractor may check that we have appropriate financial management procedures in place, but will not need to access financial records of the partners.

- 3. Will the QA provider act with an independent role vis-à-vis all partners (including the coordinator), or in an advisory role to the Project Lead with decisions taken by the Project Board?**

The Contractor Representative will be part of the Project Steering Committee in order to advise/support the Project Manager and/or Project Board to ensure that the procedures and quality requirements, data management requirements, risk assessment and mitigation plan are followed by the different Work package managers. The QA Contractor will have an advisory role and has no decision taking authority.

- 4. The RFP notes the contractor “should be able to start ... after 28 Oct 2025 (project kick-off).” Has the kick-off already taken place? If so, could you share a high-level plan/calendar or minutes? Should we assume service commencement immediately after contract signature on 24 Nov, or will there be a separate onboarding date?**

Kick off has already taken place, as planned. The contractor should start immediately after contract signature and at that moment all information will be shared. We will onboard the contractor separately.