

# Explanation Expert Research - EMBED

*For the EMBED project we like to validate a framework for blended education and learning. Therefore we want to ask the opinion of experts in the field of blended education and learning. This document describes the research design and explains how you can participate in this research.*

## Introduction: The EMBED project

The European Maturity model for Blended Education ([EMBED](#)) is a strategic partnership between seven<sup>1</sup> institutes of higher education in Europe. EMBED will create a reference model for developing and implementing blended learning, embracing all levels of an institution: the design of the blended course (micro level), organisational aspects such as staff support and training (meso level), and institutional leadership, developing policies and strategies making the institution continuously innovative (macro level). The maturity model is a model with criteria and instruments to assess the degree of maturity of blended learning and innovation.

## This research

The aim of this research is to validate the maturity framework for blended education. We developed a draft maturity framework, based on an extensive literature research and dozens of interviews. The draft maturity framework consists of two levels; the micro-level (course and curriculum level) and the meso level (institution level). For each level we have identified dimensions to describe the level and indicators to measure the maturity. The next step is to validate the draft maturity framework with experts in blended learning (that would be you).

This validation will be done using a Delphi research. In a Delphi research we ask experts in the field of blended education their opinion about the draft framework. This will be done in two rounds. We will use the input from round 1 to adjust the framework for round 2.

## **Round 1 (will take place between 21 November 2018 and 12 December 2018)**

In the first round you will validate the dimensions of the draft framework. We defined 7 dimensions on micro-level and 9 dimensions on meso-level. We're asking if you agree with the dimensions and also to give reasoning why you agree, or not. This will be done using an online questionnaire, which will take about 30 till 60 minutes to complete. The questionnaire will be available from 21 November till 12 December.

After Round 1 we will refine the framework based on the input of the participants.

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<sup>1</sup> the seven institutes are: European Association of Distance Teaching Universities ([EADTU](#)), [Aarhus University](#) (Denmark), [Tampere University of Applied Sciences](#) (TAMK, Finland), [Dublin City University](#) (DCU Ireland), [KU Leuven](#) (Belgium), [Delft University of Technology](#) (Netherlands) and the [University of Edinburgh](#) (United Kingdom).

**Round 2 (Will take place between 16 January 2019 and 6 February 2019)**

In the second round we will present the revised list of dimensions. First we will ask you to rank the dimensions in order of importance. After the ranking we will present the indicators for maturity per dimension. We will ask you to what extent you agree with the indicators and why. In this round we will also use an online questionnaire and it will take about 60 minutes. The questionnaire will be available from 16 January 2019 till 6 February 2019.

**What do we ask of you?**

We ask the following of the participants in this research:

- You have any experience in the field of blended education, learning or teaching. This can be in a role as director, manager, teacher, educational advisor or something else.
- You can spend 60 minutes per round, to fill in the online questionnaire. Round 1 will be from 21 November 2018 till 12 December 2018. Round 2 will be from 16 January 2019 till 6 February 2019.

**How can you participate?**

If you like to participate with the research for the EMBED project, please enrol using this link:

[https://delftxtudelft.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3fPI86ZZiG2D5kx](https://delftxtudelft.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3fPI86ZZiG2D5kx)

**More information**

If you like to know more about the research or the project, please send an email to Wiebe Dijkstra of the Delft University of Technology - [w.p.dijkstra@tudelft.nl](mailto:w.p.dijkstra@tudelft.nl).