**The author's name.**

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**Topic of the thesis.**

Personal learning environment adoption by teachers in primary and secondary schools

**Supervisor (s).**

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**A brief description of the subject, and definitions of the key terms.**

In brief, European Union got concerned, based on statistics from different schools, about early drop outs from schools of those students for whom subjects of Science, Technology and Math (STEM) were way too hard to master. This fact in its turn results in lack of professionals in those areas and all related to it social impacts. That’s why a need appeared for developing such a digital personal learning environment (PLE) which will increase motivation of pupils (students) towards learning STEM subjects, will support them in personalized way throughout the whole process and be applicable to all learning styles. And that's what Almerin dares to develop.

YOU CAN PROVIDE SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF YOU COMPANY HERE

Definition of PLE in IMAILE project:

The IMAILE Personal Learning Environment (PLE) for STEM is an adaptive, accessible, and easy to use solution providing smart services for the realization of personalized learning including individualized learning paths, support of different learning strategies, and intelligent tutoring for primary and lower secondary schools.

(more info: http://www.imaile.eu/about/ple-personal-learning-environments/)

**Motivation (Why do you want to investigate it?)**

E-learning is very attractive for me field of study generally. It is a great thing, allowing people to learn what they want to despite of their location and possible physical impairments which otherwise would be an obstacle on the way of studying in a classical contact teaching approach. I also like the idea of education system’s movement from **teacher centric approach** where teachers are using technology, interactive whiteboards and learning management systems (LMS) in their teaching activities towards **student centric approach** where all students have access to devices, digital content and software in a personalized way.

Choosing of this topic also has a practical reason – to benefit the company I am working for. Probably the biggest challenge with a software, and especially with that software which include some innovation, something totally new, what has never been in use before, is to sell it to actual clients. Almerin clients are schools and the key people whose opinion have a big weight in schools’ decision on whether to take something new into use or not are teachers and that is why my research concentrate on studying them in the context of adoption of a new PLE. People’s nature is such that they are afraid of going out of their comfort zone while changing of a working tool is exactly what it requires. Teachers would need to learn to use our new PLE and not many of those would like to do it if they are not persuaded well enough, if they are not shown with outstanding benefits of using a new technology. So for Almerin to be able to create a successful selling campaign they need to find good answer on the basic question of “why teachers would even want to adapt a new PLE”. And exactly answers on this question I intend to find while making a research of the chosen topic.

**Preliminary research questions.**

why teachers in primary and secondary schools would want to adapt a new PLE in their teaching activities?

* what could motivate them to start using it?
* What challenges teachers experience while using existing tools?
* What issues teachers would want to have solved while using a new technology?

**The research method, if it can already draw.**

To be decided with the supervisor. My personal thought is to go with quantitative research method, create a survey and send to several schools.

**A few scientific sources.**

* Venkatesh, V., Morris, M. G., Davis, G. B., & Davis, F. D. (2003). User acceptance

of information technology: Toward a unified view. *MIS Quarterly,*

*27*(3), 425–478.

* Venkatesh, V., Thong, J. Y. L., & Xu, X. (2012). Consumer acceptance and use of

information technology: Extending the unified theory of acceptance and

use of technology. *MIS Quarterly, 36*(1), 157−178.

**Capacity to carry out the work.**

Due to my work, I have a limited time what I can dedicate for my theses writing, about 10 hours a week. Starting from next February this amount might be even smaller as I project to be working full time. But my motivation to finish my theses until the end of 2016/2017 academic year is high, so I will do my best to make it happen.