

## **Participant Information Sheet 1.0 ERGO/FoPSE/8175**

**Study Title:** LifeGuide – Randomised Control Trial Allocation

**Researchers:** Liam de Valmency, Aleksandar Botev, Dionisio Perez-Mavrogenis, Kim Svensson

**Ethics number:** 8175

**Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.**

### **What is the study about?**

We are a group of MEng Computer Science students who, as part of our final year studies, are currently developing several improvements for LifeGuide, an application which facilitates the easy setup of randomised control trials for research purposes. Currently, LifeGuide requires the user to write logic files to determine how the trial is organised and how participants are allocated into the various arms of the study. We aim to remove the need to hand-code the allocation logic, providing a more convenient way of specifying how participants in the study will be assigned into groups. This stage of the study aims to find out more about the needs of researchers who run randomised control trials.

### **Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen as you are a user, or potential user, of the LifeGuide system.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be asked to fill out the attached consent form, followed by the questionnaire, and return both to the questionnaire distributor.

### **Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

Your participation in this study will allow us to better evaluate the needs of potential LifeGuide users, and as a result we can provide more intuitive and useful system upgrades.

### **Are there any risks involved?**

No risks are involved in the study.

### **Will my participation be confidential?**

Participation will be fully confidential. Our study complies with the Data Protection Act, as well as the University of Southampton's policies on confidentiality and data use. All gathered data will be stored securely on password-protected servers provided by the University. Any data you provide as part of the study will not be linked to your identity beyond the completion of a consent form. Full anonymity cannot be ensured if you opt to include your email address in the questionnaire, as indication of willingness to participate in the second stage of the study.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

If you wish to opt out of the study, there is no requirement to complete or return the questionnaire. In the event that you have returned the questionnaire, but have changed your mind and no longer wish to participate in the second stage of the study, please contact us at any of the email addresses at the end of this document. Your email address will be deleted from our list of candidates, and you will not be contacted further.

**What happens if something goes wrong?**

If you have any concerns or complaints about the study or its organisation, please contact Professor Rosalind Edwards, (023) 8059 5857, [R.S.Edwards@soton.ac.uk](mailto:R.S.Edwards@soton.ac.uk), giving the ethics number at the top of this document.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you wish to know more about the study, or have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of the group members using the email addresses below:

Liam de Valmency - [lpdv1g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:lpdv1g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk)

Dionision Perez-Mavrogenis - [dpm3g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:dpm3g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk)

Aleksandar Botev - [ab9g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:ab9g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk)

Kim Svensson - [ks6g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:ks6g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk)