**User Study Protocol**

1. The conductor of the user study should meet each participant/user face-to-face whenever possible; if not, the meeting should be held online.

2. Participants will be sent the participant information and consent form. Participants will return the form after filling it out and signing it.

3. Participants will be reminded that they can leave the study at any time. It will be stated that the study will not have any negative effects on them. The study will take approximately 30-45 minutes.

4. Briefly explain the flow of the study:

a. I want you to use the Explainable Course Recommendation System (XCRS) application that we developed as part of my master's thesis project.

b. I want you to think of the courses you have taken before, the topics you know, and the concepts you know to enter into the four text boxes on the application's homepage.

c. These courses, topics, and concepts should mostly be related to computer science, information technologies, or basic engineering courses.

d. You should write the courses, topics, and concepts you have taken; the names of the ones you enjoy and like in the first box, separated by commas.

e. In the second box, you need to write the lessons, topics and concepts that you have learned but are neutral about, separated by commas.

f. In the third box, you need to write the lessons / topics / concepts that you have learned / known that you did not enjoy / did not like.

g. In the last text box below these, you need to write the lessons / topics / concepts that you do not know / have not learned but are curious about and want to learn.

h. There is a cheat sheet at the bottom of the page so that you can get an idea. Terms in different fields are distinguished with different colors. For example, the first color gives examples of programming languages, while the second color is technologies, concepts related to web development, etc.

5. The user interacts with the XCRS application and sends his/her own answers to the system.

6. The user examines and reads the results in detail.

7. After the examination is completed, the link at the bottom of the page is asked to open in a new tab.

8. The survey form that opens is read by the user and begins to be answered.

9. The user can answer the questions by returning to the outputs of the application again and again if necessary.

10. The user sends the survey form.