# ARETE

## Call for Pilot 1 Teachers

## Primary school (English language literacy)

# Contents

# 1 OVERVIEW OF THE CALL

European Schoolnet is recruiting **38 English teachers or Special Needs Assistants of pupils in the 4th-6th grade of primary school - aged between 9 and 12 years old in September 2021** – to participate in ARETE Pilot 1 activities. Teachers should be **active in schools where English is the main teaching language** and come from EU and H2020 associated countries[1]. ARETE Pilot 1 studies the effects of implementing WordsWorthLearning's interactive augmented reality (AR) solutions for English language literacy attainment with primary school students, typically underperforming in English language literacy tests.

# 2 THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELECTED ARETE PILOT 1 TEACHERS

Teachers, participating in ARETE Pilot 1, will be requested to:
- Carry out administrative duties necessary for the pilot's implementation (including the distribution and collection of appropriate consent forms and information sheets for children and parents participating in the pilot, and overseeing the implementation of pseudonymous identification codes, under the guidance of the ARETE team).
- Participate in the pilot study (either in the control or intervention group) with a limited number of pupils in their classrooms which fit the pilot's target group (see Section 5 below). Teachers will be required to liaise with the parents (of the participating pupils) who will be asked to fill in a pseudonymous ProfilED Case History Form; in addition, teachers will be asked to liaise with the parents of up to 5 pupils in their class who are not presenting with a specific learning difficulty or delay and consequently do not participate in the pilot but whose parents agree to fill in a pseudonymised ProfilED Case History Form in order to provide 'control' data.
- To administer the NARA II Reading Test and Vernon Graded Word Spelling Tests to their participating pupils – both in the WWL-AR intervention and Pilot control group. These pseudonymised paper-based tests should be administered twice over the course of the pilot: at the beginning and at the end of the pilot to ascertain an initial baseline and to measure intervention impact. The teachers will be requested to collect and send both digital and paper versions of the tests to the pilot coordinators.
- If appointed to the intervention group, be prepared to implement the WordsWorthLearning literacy programme individually or with a small group of children which fit the pilot profile, according to the specifications of the Pilots Manager. This intervention will normally be delivered in a 1:1 setting, unless there are children who are well paired and can work together.
- Fill in the qualitative online surveys (pre and post intervention respectively) covering pedagogical aspects, e.g., on student motivation and classroom

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[1]https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

engagement, barriers and facilitators for AR use, and experiences with AR-enhanced teaching and learning.

- At the end of the pilot, teachers allocated to the intervention group will be required to share a brief paper survey with their students, aiming to measure the students' interest/enjoyment, perceived competence and value/usefulness of the piloting activities.

**Note:** A control group design will be employed to measure the effectiveness of the pilot's intervention. This means that, after their selection, the ARETE Pilot 1 teachers/ Special Needs Assistants (SNA) will be randomly allocated to either: [1] the intervention group, who will implement the WordsWorthLearning application during the 2021-2022 school year (between 3 and 5 sessions of 15 minutes per week for up to two school terms) and undergo evaluation with their students, or [2] the control group, who will only receive access to the WordsWorthLearning application during the 2022-2023 school year, but still pass through all evaluation activities during the 2021-2022 school year. Control and intervention groups will only be decided after the first round of evaluation instruments has been applied, so <u>there will be no way of knowing, at the selection stage, which teacher belongs to which group</u>.

# 3   ARETE PILOT 1 TEACHER SELECTION CRITERIA

- Be an **English language teachers or special needs assistants (SNA) in primary schools (of pupils in the 4th-6th grade of primary school – aged between 9 and 12 years old – in September 2021) where English is the main teaching language.** To comply with the pilot requirements, selected teachers/SNAs will have, in their classrooms, students underperforming in English standardised school literacy tests (who are not diagnosed to be functioning in the Intellectual Disability range of intellectual functioning and have no significant visual or auditory deficits).
- **Proficient knowledge of English (understanding, writing, reading and listening):** teachers should feel comfortable to communicate in English in order to successfully carry out pilot instructions.
- **Interest and/or proven experience in the use of technology in education:** teachers will be required to demonstrate their interest and/or experience in the use of technology in education. Previous experience in collaborative local/national/international projects is desirable, but not a must for pilot teachers.
- **Good digital skills**: teachers should feel comfortable with using mobile applications in their teaching.
- **Good internet connection** at school and at home both in terms of stability and available bandwidth as well as frequent access to technical infrastructure (i.e., tablets, IPads) since teachers need to be able to regularly connect online for their work.
- **Access to devices:** pilot teachers and their students will have access to Android or iOS tablets/iPads.
- **Selected Pilot 1 teachers will be engaged in the project between September 2021 and June 2022.**

# 4   STUDENTS' PROFILE

All the teachers participating in ARETE Pilot 1 research activities should be teachers of students of a particular profile.

**Inclusion Criteria:**
- Age of participants: pupils in the 4th-6th grade of primary school - aged between 9 and 12 years old – in September 2021
- Must have access to Android or iOS tablets/iPads in class
- Pupils deemed to be functioning within the average or above range of cognitive ability, who are underperforming in standardised literacy tests (< 25th Percentile Rank). Pilot 1 will be delivered only to these pupils (usually 5-6 per class).

**Exclusion Criteria:**
- Significant hearing impairment e.g. requires bilateral hearing aids
- Significant visual impairment e.g. on the blind register
- Intellectual disability

# 5   BENEFITS FOR THE TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN ARETE PILOT 1

- **Access for themselves and students in their class (up to 6 students per class) to WWL-AR cutting edge educational technology for teaching English language reading and spelling skills to struggling students** (the WordsWorthLearning Augmented Reality toolkit) for the duration of one calendar year.[2]
- **Unique insight into classroom progress following the pilot's implementation:** At the end of the pilot, each teacher will receive a brief evaluation report containing research results specific to each participating classroom.
- **Access to training materials for implementing augmented reality in the classroom:** Every teacher's participation in ARETE Pilot 1 will contribute to developing new technologies and digital tools for education. Students will learn English, while improving digital skills using an ICT solution/mobile app. All necessary WWL materials (excluding devices) and software will be provided free of charge.
- **Certificate of participation:** All the teachers participating in ARETE Pilot 1 will be awarded with a certificate of participation at the end of the pilot.

# 6   TIMELINE

| Indicative dates | Process / Milestone | Indicative tasks |
|---|---|---|
| **Until September 2021**  *Participants will be confirmed on an ongoing basis* | Pilot teacher recruitment | Recruitment of teachers to participate in ARETE Pilot 1 and signing the Memorandum of Understanding |
| **September 2021 [date tbc]** | Pilot teacher online meeting – Phase I | Participation in min. 1 online or face-to-face training to discuss the implementation of piloting activities |
| **September-October 2021** | Pre-test evaluations | Pre-test evaluation for: parents, teachers and students |

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[2] Teachers and students participating in the research in the intervention group will have access to WWL-AR toolkit for the period of September 2021 – August 2022. Participants in the control group will be granted access for a full calendar year once the post-assessment has been completed (between July 2022 – June 2023).

| Indicative dates | Process / Milestone | Indicative tasks |
|---|---|---|
| **October 2021 – April 2022** | Pilot implementation | Participation in piloting activities: intervention group teachers administer WWL-AR app to their students; control group teachers continue as normal in class (without WWL-AR app) |
| **May – June 2022** | Post-test evaluations | Post-test evaluation for: teachers and students |
| **February 2022 – April 2022 [date tbc]** | Pilot teacher meeting – Phase II | Participation in min. 1 online or face-to-face meeting to discuss the progress on pilot implementation and next steps |

**Legend:**

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|---|
| **Recruitment** |
| **Piloting activities (Pilot 1)** |
| **Pilot teachers' meetings** |

# 7 ABOUT ARETE PILOT 1 – WORDSWORTHLEARNING (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LITERACY)

**ARETE Pilot 1 will redevelop an existing WordsWorthLearning (WWL) digital programme into an app containing Augmented Reality (AR) to facilitate teaching English language reading and spelling skills to struggling students. The aim is to utilise AR based teaching and learning technologies to make both teaching and learning of the English language more accessible and successful for those teachers and students engaged in the process.** The online *WordsWorthLearning literacy programme (WWL)* embraces clinical, educational, social and political solutions to the cycle of illiteracy.

The participating students will be randomly assigned to 2 groups (a control group **without** WWL-AR intervention and an intervention group **with** WWL-AR intervention). All students will undergo a standardised assessment for reading and spelling skills prior to starting and then the WWL-AR intervention group will be asked to use the WWL-AR app in school over two academic terms. It is expected that each session will take 15 minutes (ideally, one session per day: Monday – Friday or, if not possible, one session per day 3 times per week) and will take place during school hours under the supervision and guidance of a designated school staff member. Parents will also have access to the programme at home should they wish to collaborate and support the work being done in school. Following this, students in both groups will then be reassessed to measure the impact of the WWL-AR app intervention as opposed to 'normal' school-based intervention. Once the reassessment phase has been completed the Pilot Control group and their parents/teachers will also receive a 1-year licence for the WWL-AR app. To measure the effect of using AR, the pilot will involve parents completing a detailed pseudonymised case history form to establish participants profiles, all students will undergo pre and post intervention literacy assessments, thus establishing a baseline from which to measure progress.

# 8 ABOUT ARETE PROJECT

ARETE is a European Commission-funded project that aims to develop and integrate interactive technology via Augmented Reality (AR) methods and tools.

The ARETE project aims to support existing European interactive AR technologies' effort to enhance current technologies and develop new highly usable technologies and contents. Particularly, ARETE will revolutionise and push AR through **three unique and comprehensive pilot studies (Pilot 1: English literacy skills, Pilot 2: STEM and Pilot 3: Positive Behaviour Intervention) to validate the technology in real life settings**. To bring together the basic principles of AR in education with the technological concept, ARETE aims to establish a sustainable competitive ecosystem of European technology and solution providers for AR interactive technologies, through a targeted community engagement process within the education field, which will be deployed, demonstrated and evaluated via the pilot studies around Europe.

**This call is for teachers to participate in ARETE Pilot 1: English literacy skills, coordinated by European Schoolnet with main contributions from WordsWorthLearning, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg and University College Dublin.**

# 9 WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

You will be one of 40 teachers participating in this pilot from across Europe. You will receive free products and free software for participating in the project. For the research purposes there will be standardized assessments conducted to collect the data from teachers and students typically underperforming in English language literacy after the use of WWL-AR app (WordsWorthLearning Augmented Reality application) related to improving English literacy. This data will be compared with the similar assessment conducted in the control group who did not use Augmented Reality solutions for English literacy attainment. The goal of this research is to understand whether Augmented Reality supports the learning of English literacy skills, helps to maintain interest in learning English longer, as well as increase the retention of the information long term.

# 10 HOW TO APPLY?

- Teachers are invited to apply for the call through the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ARETE-Open-Call-for-Pilot-Teachers-Pilot1. All applications should be submitted in English. Participants will be confirmed on an ongoing basis, until places are filled.
- The selected teachers will be officially informed by a confirmation email sent by European Schoolnet.

## Important:

- The final selection of teachers will be validated by the Ministries of Education in the corresponding countries. EUN will not enter any detailed discussions or exchanges with any applicant as to why their application was not successful.
- Selected teachers will be responsible for getting any permissions from the school necessary for their involvement in the ARETE Pilot and the completion of the tasks outlined above.

- To carry out the activities between September 2021 and June 2022, each selected teacher will be requested to sign a <u>Memorandum of Understanding</u> with EUN, which will include: 1) the description of tasks and benefits for pilot teachers, students and parents; 2) the description and purpose of the research being carried out within ARETE Pilot 1; 3) data management provisions, namely storing the consent forms of pupils and parents.

## Any questions?

Please contact Giuseppe Mossuti at giuseppe.mossuti@eun.org.