

Klens

AI for project proposals assessment
The experience of the
Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme

7 °Jems User group meeting,
30-01 October, Lecce



The Need

➤ **Current challenge**

Using advanced tools to make project selection more efficient

➤ **Innovative solution**

Use AI to automate checks and provide support during the assessment process



Italy – Croatia

Comparing solutions

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Off-the-shelf AI

Document classification	Automatic, dynamic, with customizable criteria	Fixed, with predefined categories
Folder summary	Contextual, automatically updated	Generalized or absent
Natural language queries	On folder or entire repository, with mix of LLM + SQL	Limited to LLM or generic answers
Structured output on Client schema	Aggregated responses according to customizable templates	Standard or unstructured output
Input/output integration (API, RPA, etc.)	High interoperability, designed for end-to-end automation	Often closed or with limited APIs



Italy – Croatia

Comparing solutions

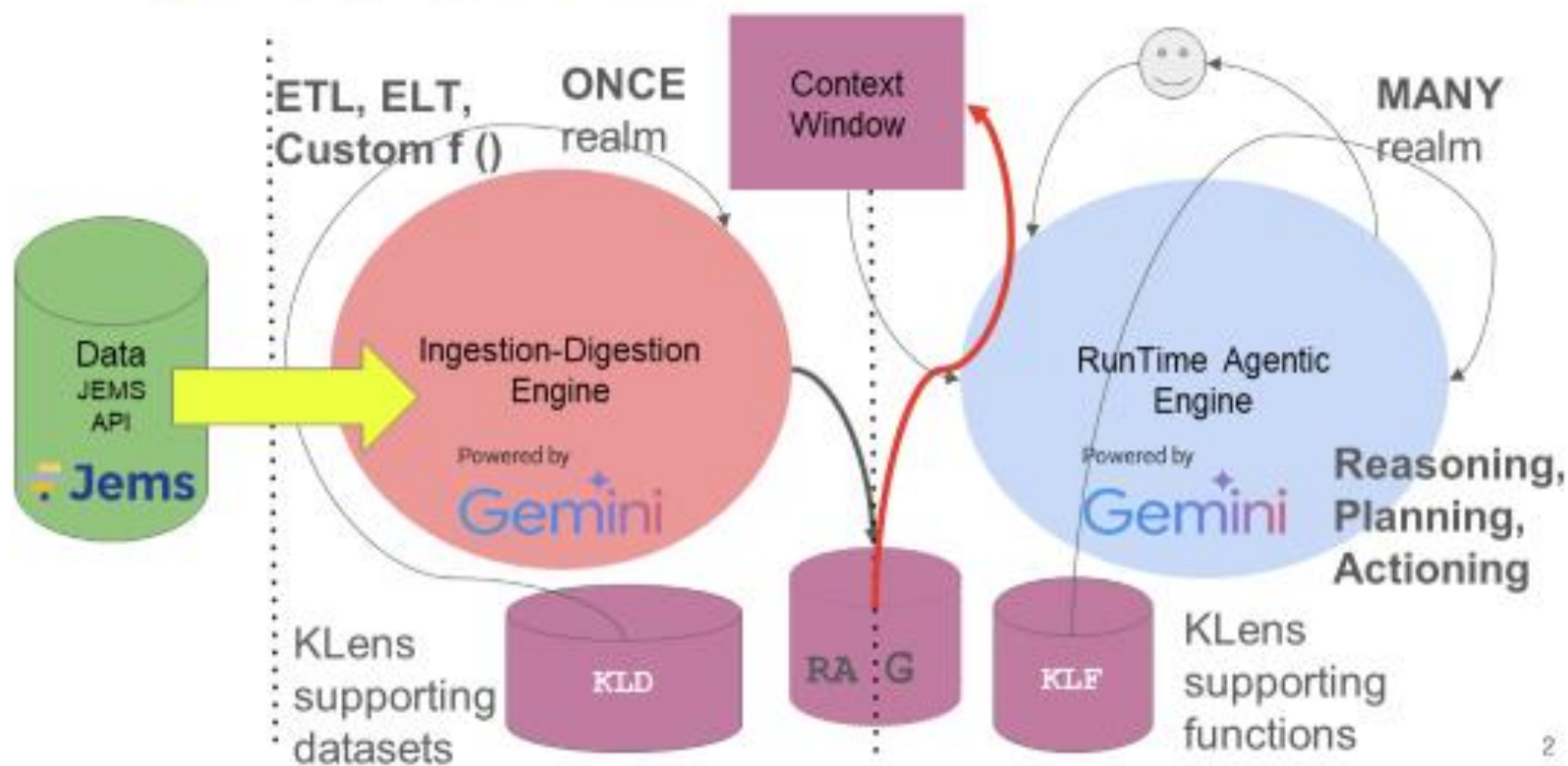
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Off-the-shelf AI

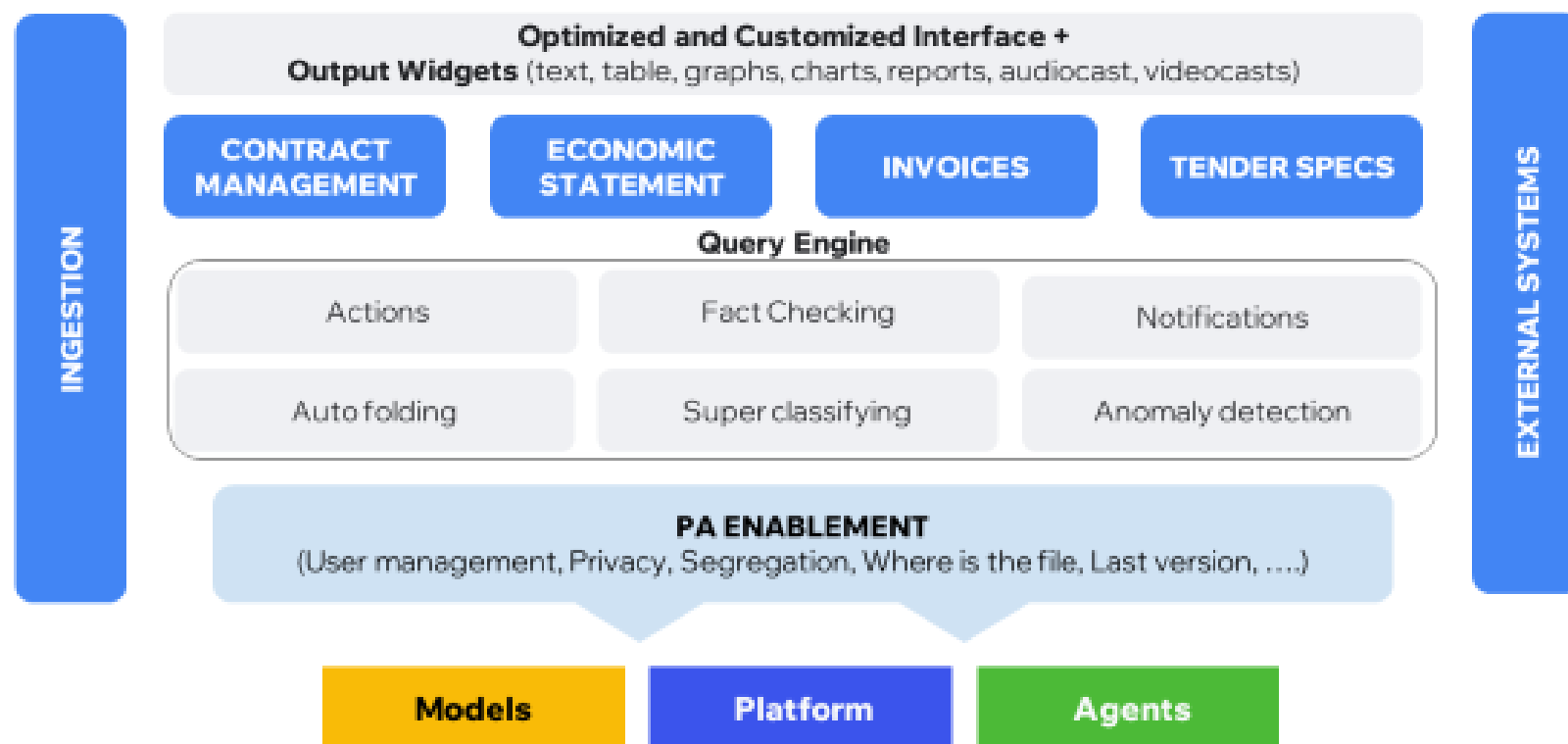
Customization	High: adaptable workflows, models, schemas, and interfaces	Minimal: usage limited to predefined functionalities
Data control and governance	Local or private cloud management possible, with granular controls	Data often hosted on cloud vendors, with no fine-grained control
Semantic scalability	Able to learn and adapt to the specific domain	General-purpose, often underperforming on vertical domains



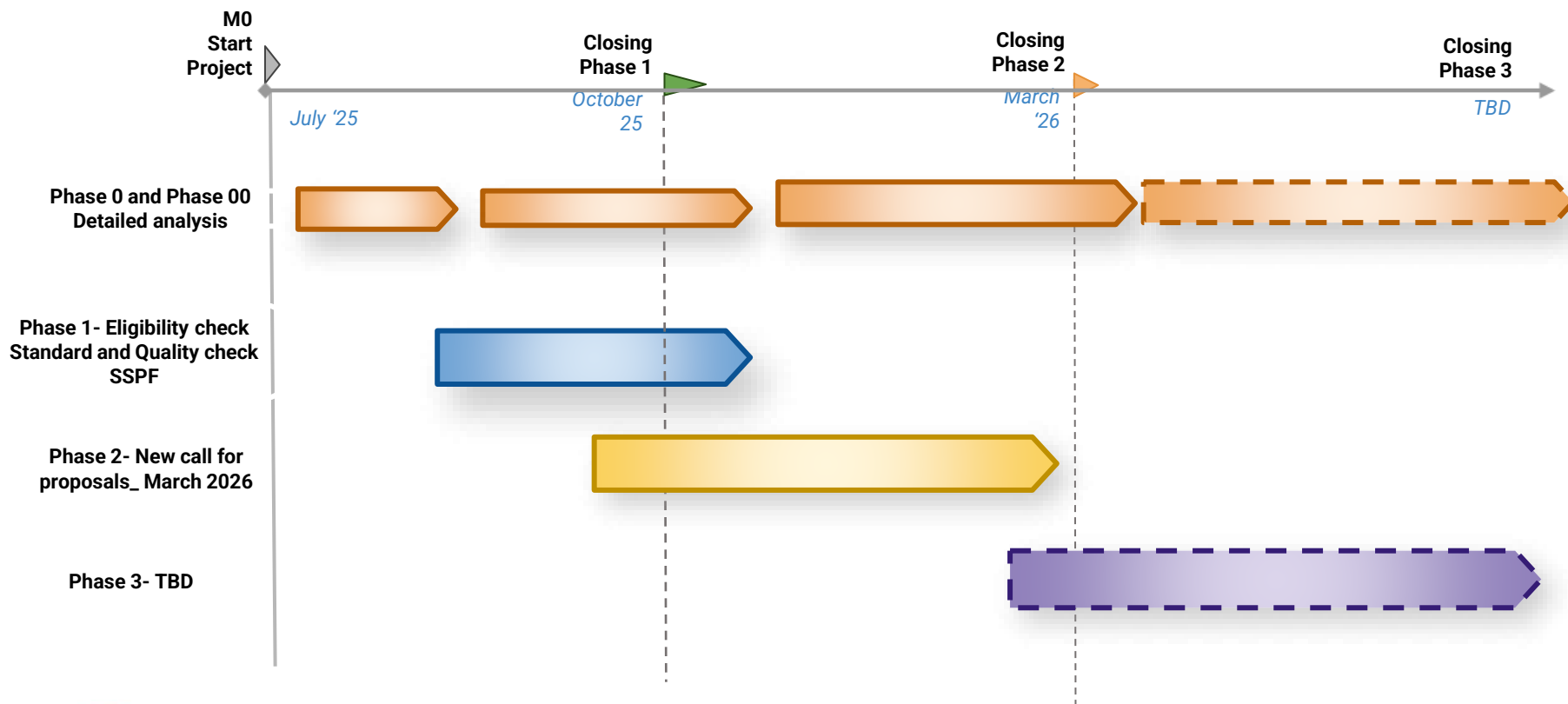
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Key components



Roadmap



Eligibility checklist

checklist

Esporta Excel

		Confidence	Lock
[a1] The proposal is the only submitted for the given project?	Check: passed. Reason: No similar project acronym was found.	1	[1]
[a2] The proposal is complete and filled out in all its parts in English language?	Check: passed Reason: All required paragraphs ('A.1 Project identification', 'A.2 Project summary', 'B Project partners', 'C.2 Project relevance and context', 'C.3 Project partnership', 'C.4 Project work plan', 'C.5 Project results', 'C.7 Project time plan', 'C.8 Long-terms plan') are present and filled with relevant content.	1	
[a3] The proposal is duly signed by LP's legal	Check: passed. Reason: All		

Report for quality assessment

Question

What added value does the cooperation bring?

- The importance of cooperation beyond borders for the topic addressed is clearly demonstrated
- The results cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without cooperation
- Effective CB activities (and investment if any) are clearly demonstrated (no mirroring).
- Benefit for all PPs and for both side of the border are clearly demonstrated

Search strategy

A summary based on sections C.2.3, C.3, and C.4 of the application form.

Confidence

HIGH

Answer

The project's cross-border cooperation is centered on the transnational nature of pilgrimage routes spanning Italy and Croatia. The partnership comprises four organizations: ~~the~~ Town of ~~Vodice~~ (Lead Partner, Croatia), ~~FestAmbienteSud~~ (Italy), SOCOBA Foundation (Italy), and EMEDEA (Croatia). Each partner contributes specific expertise in areas such as EU project management, cultural heritage, route management, and community capacity building. The project's work plan is designed to innovate spiritual tourism through co-creation, storytelling, and sustainable mobility. Key activities include participatory workshops ("Camino Dialogues") to create a "Camino Treasure List," Youth Media Camps for a digital storytelling campaign, capacity building for local tourism stakeholders, immersive cross-border experiences leading to a "Youth Camino Charter," and the creation of a permanent "Camino Adriatico Hub." This collaborative approach enables the development of joint digital solutions and a shared strategic vision to promote lesser-known routes as an alternative to mass tourism.

Explanation

The answer synthesizes information from the three specified sections. Section C.2.3 explains the value of cross-border cooperation for the project's topic. Section C.3 details the composition and complementary expertise of the partnership. Section C.4 outlines the project's work plan, including its objectives and key activities which are inherently collaborative and cross-border. The summary combines these elements to provide a comprehensive overview of the project's cooperative structure and implementation plan. The confidence is high as all specified sections were available and contained direct, non-conflicting information that was synthesized to form the answer.



Expected Benefits



Time reduction

Less duplication and fewer manual tasks in project selection, leading to faster processes and shorter timelines.



Quality & Consistency

Better data quality and uniformity thanks to automatic synchronization across systems.



In-depth Analysis

Opportunity to explore project themes in greater depth, supporting richer insights and decisions.



Future developments (open questions)



Revising our process

Given the results it might be promising to modify our CL to include as many checks as possible that can be dealt by AI



More prone to complaints?

Using AI for eligibility could expose us to more complaints by potential beneficiaries?



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