

INFORMATION

Project Cycle Management - from Theory to Practice

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General information on the course module

This Instruction sheet explains the usage of the Case Study Teaching Method into the subject 'Project Writing and Management'. In this Teaching Method real-life challenges and experiences will be provided to students in the form of projects, so that students can practice their theoretical skills gained during the course. The case study will be selected among existing projects in the country (preferably EU funded projects considering their complexity and challenges they present) that have a focus on sustainability issues. Stakeholders will be invited by the professor and they themselves will present the case study (the project they represent) in front of students.

Some of the project examples are the following (considering that the case study/project will be selected in the current year of teaching, and we cannot provide an ongoing project)

http://iep-al.org/test/?page_id=121

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=3167&docType=pdf

Suggestion for course structure and agenda

The following procedure is recommended:

- The professor selects the case study that will be presented to students.
The case study needs to be suitable and related to the students' knowledge and capacity so that they demonstrate empathy with the case study.
The professor in such cases has a crucial role in selecting the appropriate case study as well as in the preparation of creative and thoughtful questions for students.
- The stakeholder which represents the case study must show readiness and be available to participate during the whole process, which includes the explanation of the project, sharing of information and best practices and identification of challenges faced during the life span of the project.
The stakeholder must agree to have students in the premises where the project takes place and demonstrate real examples of the project outcomes. Societal stakeholders represent a project supported (preferable) by the European Commission and implemented by Albanian partners. The stakeholder must be available to:
 - get to know the syllabus of the subject and adapt its 'story telling' to students according to topics included in the programme

- agree to share information and be responsible for the issue of confidentiality
- be committed and eager to share the best practices and address the challenges in the form of exercises for students
- Students learn to apply theoretical knowledge to real world problems. They are divided in groups to commonly negotiate and discuss case decisions.

Preparation Effort for the Teaching Resource

7 weeks in total: the method is applied during the last 7 weeks of the course, after students have gained the necessary theoretical knowledge and skills

- 1 week - Work of lecturer
 - Identification of a suitable project that agrees to participate in the teaching curriculum – as a case study
- 1 week – Lecturer/Stakeholder
 - Work with the stakeholder to prepare the study case, prior to the presentation to the students
- 5 weeks - Work with students
 - 1 week - A detailed discussion between lecturer, stakeholder and students on the case study, where the stakeholder presents the project to the students and they discuss its relevance to theoretical skills gained so far.
 - 2 weeks- Students work in groups on the case study project related to topics provided in the theoretical part of the lecture; In their project students will support the theoretical part of lectures with practical applications from the case study.
 - 1 week - Students will present the model to the stakeholder and discuss the challenges and optimal usage in practice (preferably during the study visit);
 - 1 week - The final presentation;

Guidance on discussion questions for students

- Project writing, challenges: the applicability of this project in relevance to the Programme objectives?
- The implementation phase: negotiation with the stakeholders, staff and internal regulations, timeline and activity chart, etc.
- Risk Management - Assumptions
- Reporting: Internal report to the project manager. Intermediate and final report to the donor
- Life after the project: Audit and sustainability