

Successful Projects with EU PM²

UGRA_017291

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	3
Teacher responsible	Gloria Segura Espiell - gloria.segura@esade.edu

Course Goals

By the end of this course, students will know and understand what the execution of a project entails, and the importance of doing a good project management and focus on results, as well as they will have learnt project management skills through the practice of the tools taught in the course. And moreover, students will have the opportunity to know in deep the European Union PM2 methodology.

In parallel, on the one hand, they will strengthen teamwork and presentation skills, and on the other hand, they will enhance the level of social commitment with sustainability issues (social and/or environmental).

Teaching methodology

The course is based on the European Union PM² project management methodology.

To achieve the learning objectives and foster active student engagement, the course adopts Esade's Service Learning (SL) methodology, which combines academic learning with meaningful social impact.

The course is structured around a combination of theoretical concepts, case discussions, practical exercises, teamwork, and self-directed learning based on the PM² Guide. Throughout the course, students will apply the PM² methodology to the design and planning of a project for a non-governmental organization (NGO), enabling them to develop project management competencies while contributing to a real social or environmental challenge.

Further information about Service Learning can be found at Esade's Service Learning website:
<https://www.esade.edu/en/about-us/mission-values/holistic-education/service-learning>

Course contribution to program

Public institutions, international organisations, NGOs, and private companies increasingly rely on projects to implement strategies, deliver services, and address complex societal challenges. As projects become more interconnected and multidisciplinary, effective project management has become an essential professional competence.

The main objective of this course is to help students understand the role and value of project management while developing practical experience in the application of key project management techniques through the design of a solution to a real organisational challenge and the preparation of the corresponding project plan for a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The course is based on PM² ("P-M-Square"), the project management methodology developed and supported by the European Commission. PM² was designed to help project teams manage projects effectively and deliver outcomes that generate value for organisations and stakeholders.

PM² is a lightweight, practical, and easy-to-implement methodology suitable for projects of different sizes and sectors. While originally developed to address the specific needs, culture, and constraints of European Union institutions and public administrations, it also incorporates internationally recognised project management best practices, standards, and methodologies.

Since the launch of the OpenPM² Initiative in 2016, the European Commission has made PM² openly available beyond EU institutions, enabling public administrations, private organisations, NGOs, contractors, and citizens across Europe to adopt a common project management framework. The initiative aims to improve project management maturity, foster collaboration across organisations, and contribute to more effective and successful project delivery throughout Europe.

Through a learning-by-doing approach, students work in teams to design and plan a real project for an NGO, applying PM² concepts and tools while designing and developing creative and practical solutions to real social or environmental challenges.

As part of Esade's Service Learning methodology, students generate tangible social value while strengthening their competencies in project planning, stakeholder engagement, governance, risk management, teamwork, communication, and presentation skills.

The knowledge and skills acquired in this course also provide a solid foundation for students interested in pursuing the PM² Basic Certification offered independently by the PM² Alliance.

Short description

This course provides students with a practical introduction to project

management through the PM² methodology developed by the European Commission.

Using Esade's Service Learning approach, students work in teams on a real project challenge proposed by a non-governmental organisation (NGO). Through this experiential learning process, students learn how to plan, manage, monitor, and control projects while designing and developing creative and practical solutions to real social or environmental challenges faced by NGOs.

The course combines project management theory with hands-on application, enabling students to develop key professional competencies in project planning, stakeholder management, teamwork, communication, and presentation skills.

The course also provides the knowledge base required for students who wish to pursue the PM² Basic Certification.

Bibliography

European Commission - Centre of Excellence in Project Management (CoEPM²), PM² Project management methodology – Guide 3.1 (2023), Publications Office of the European Union, 978-92-68-10314-2 (E-book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Fieldwork

Teamwork

Quizzes/tests

Group presentations

Readings

Presentations

Interaction with visiting guest professionals

Project development and presentation

Research work and projects

Content

#	Topic
1	Introduction to Projects and Project Management

#	Topic
2	Initiating a project: The Project charter and the Business Case. The Stakeholder matrix.
3	Planning the project: Scope management. The WBS. Schedule management (Network diagram and critical path). Cost management (the S curve)
4	Planning the project: Management plans. Other plans
5	Executing : Coordination and Reporting of Progress.
6	Closing the project: Acceptance, evaluation, archiving and lessons learnt.
7	Monitoring and Control: Controlling scope, time and cost. The Earn Value Technique.
8	Managing risks, communications, acquisitions, stakeholders, incidents, changes, transition, business implementation.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Group project	NGO Project work	Ordinary round	65.00%
Quizzes/tests	Partial knowledge tests	Ordinary round	25.00%
Attendance and punctuality	Participation in class	Ordinary round	10.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Resit exam	Retake	100.00%

PROGRAMS

- G114-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
 - G114 Year 1 (Optative)
- G114S-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
 - G114S Year 1 (Mandatory)
- GDL25-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GDL25 Year 1 (Optative)
 - GDL25 Year 2 (Optative)
- GEL19-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GEL19 Year 4 (Optative)
 - GEL19 Year 3 (Optative)
- GEL23-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GEL23 Year 1 (Optative)
 - GEL23 Year 3 (Optative)
 - GEL23 Year 4 (Optative)