

Project Cycle Management in IT (CARNET)

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The aim of the course is to train students for a project approach to problems and situations in research and development projects (R&D) in ICT, which includes applying methods and tools characteristic of project management.

Working in teams, in the first part of the course, students will work on a standard IT project concept and conceptualize a software tool, with its user requirements. They will prepare an appropriate timeline, work breakdown structure, organizational breakdown structure, RACI matrix, financial plan, and a risk management plan.

In the second part, they will work in a team to extend the developed IT project concept, and create an R&D project proposal: they will prepare a project proposal for the EU funded projects in line with the requirements of a specific call (e.g. Erasmus+, European Structural and Investment Funds). Students will be able to use EU funds and programs for financing of development IT projects.

Planned ECTS: 4

Number of learners: 35

Mode of delivery: Blended

Status: IN PLANNING

Course public access: Private

Contributors:

Barbi Svetec

Course learning outcome	Level	Weight
Analyze the basic features of IT projects.	Analysing	10
Apply project management methods and appropriate software tools to the project cycle of an IT project.	Applying	20
Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan.	Applying	15
Analyze EU programs and funds to support the funding of an IT R&D project.	Analysing	10
Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork.	Creating	20
Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases.	Analysing	10
Evaluate a project application based on tender criteria and conditions.	Evaluating	10
Plan competence development to support IT project management in the context of EU funds and programs.	Understanding	5

Total weight: 100

Topic / Unit name	Workload	Learning type	Mode of delivery	Groups	Collaboration	Feedback	Mandatory activity	Assessment		
								Points	Type	Providers
Introduction to IT Projects and Priorities Plan competence development to support IT project management in the context of EU funds and programs. (10%) , Analyze the basic features of IT projects. (50%) , Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases. (10%)										
Understanding IT Projects										
Lecture on IT Project Fundamentals An instructor-led lecture covering the key concepts of IT projects, including basic definitions and specifics of IT projects.	45 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Group Discussion on IT Project Examples Students will discuss various examples of IT projects in small groups, identifying the core components and challenges of each example.	15 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	Yes	No	No	No
Similarities and differences between IT projects and EU funded projects Teacher will inform students about basic concepts of EU funded projects to provide a big picture on the entire course content.	20 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No

Project Manager Profession Teacher will inform students about the PM proffession and competences needed by project managers.	20 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Discussion on latest trends in IT project management Teacher will present some of the latest research in IT project management and encourage a discussion with students.	20 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	Yes	No	No	No
Total unit workload	2h									
Seminar - creating a project charter										
Analysis of IT projects financed from EU funds Students search and analyse IT projects financed from EU funds, from Erasmus+ and Horizon project databases, prior to lecture.	60 min	Investigation	Online	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
Presentation and discussion on project ideas Students presents and discuss about the type of IT projects that can be financed from EU funds.	15 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	Teacher	No	No
Competency-Based Grouping Activity Students are divided into teams of 4 based on their competency assessment - it is important to cover students with different background (knowledge about project management, developer, specific knowledge in the field...). Another important aspect is student interest for certain horizontal priority!	15 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	Yes	No	No	No

Project ideas brainstorming sprint Plan for brainstorming session (generated with ChatGPT): ◦ Phase 1: Research (5 minutes): Each team reviews a list of EU funding priorities (e.g., digital transformation, sustainability, or social inclusion). Briefly discuss the goals. ◦ Phase 2: Idea Generation (15 minutes): Teams brainstorm IT project ideas, ensuring they align with at least one EU funding priority. Choose the top 1-2 ideas. ◦ Phase 3: Project Brief (10 minutes): Teams outline the chosen project idea, specifying: ■ Project Title ■ Target Problem/Need ■ Target Group/Users ■ Expected Impact ■ Alignment with EU Priorities • Outcome: Each group presents their project idea briefly (2 minutes per team) at the end, focusing on its potential impact and alignment with EU funds.	30 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
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Project Timeline and Financial Planning in IT Projects Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (10%) , Analyze the basic features of IT projects. (5%) , Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases. (10%)										
Estimating Cost and Schedule										
Cost and Schedule Teacher presents basic cost and scheduling techniques.	60 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Discussion and example of project scheduling Discussion on examples of projects estimations	90 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Exploring the examples Students explore examples of different projects, related to their estimation and scheduling	90 min	Investigation	Online	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
Total unit workload	4h									
Seminar on estimating cost and schedule										
Estimating project duration Students have to create CPM and Gantt chart for their project	45 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Estimating project cost Students have to prepare project cost estimation, including direct and indirect costs	45 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Creation of OBS Students create OBS for their project	45 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Creation of RACI matrix Students create RACI matrix for their project	45 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Total unit workload	1.5h									
Risk Management in IT projects Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (10%) , Analyze the basic features of IT projects. (5%)										
Lecture on risk management in IT projects										
Risk management plan Plenary lecture on risk management that involves identifying, assessing, prioritizing, and mitigating potential risks that could impact project objectives such as scope, budget, timeline, and quality.	60 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Discussion on risk project management Examples, and group discussions	30 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Total unit workload	1.5h									
Seminar on risk management										
Creating risk management plan Students prepare risk management plan for their projects.	60 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Discussion on risk management plan Students presents their risk management plan and receive feedback from teachers and peers	30 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No
Total unit workload	1.5h									
Periodical Exam 1 Plan competence development to support IT project management in the context of EU funds and programs. (20%), Apply project management methods and appropriate software tools to the project cycle of an IT project. (20%), Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (10%), Analyze the basic features of IT projects. (20%), Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases. (20%)										
Preparation										
Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	120 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	120 min	Practice	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
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Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	60 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No			
Total unit workload	9h												
Exam													
Taking Part in the Exam Student take the exam.	45 min	Assessment	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	20	Summative	Teacher, Automated	
Reflection on the Results Students reflect on the results of the exam based on the analysis presented by the teacher.	30 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	Teacher	No	No			
Total unit workload	1.25h												
Final IT Project Applications and Evaluation													
Final Project Applications and Evaluation													
Finalization of IT Project Applications Teams work collaboratively to finalize their IT project applications, integrating feedback received throughout the course.	300 min	Production	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No			
Project Evaluation From Students will analyze the evaluation criteria for IT projects. Based on that, they will make further adjustments to their IT project applications.	60 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No			

Teacher and Employer Assessment of IT Projects Students submit their final project proposals. The teacher and employers will assess the final projects.	30 min	Assessment	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	20	Summative	Teacher, Peer
Total unit workload	6.5h											
R&D Project: EU Funding Opportunities and Case Studies Plan competence development to support IT project management in the context of EU funds and programs. (20%), Analyze EU programs and funds to support the funding of an IT R&D project. (70%)												
EU strategic planning of funding programs & EU programs												
Lecture on EU Strategic Planning and Funding Programs This lecture will provide an overview of the EU's strategic planning of funding programs, covering the Horizon scanning, the main goals, priorities, and structure of key funding programs such as Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the European Structural and Investment Funds. Students will gain an understanding of how these programs contribute to R&D projects in IT.	45 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No		

Group Discussion on EU Funding Criteria Students will be given several examples of funded IT-related projects. In this discussion session, students will engage in a group discussion focusing on the eligibility criteria and evaluation process for EU funding of IT projects. They will critique and debate how these criteria influence project planning and execution.	45 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	No	Teacher, Peer	No	No			
Investigating EU policy creation and programs characteristics Students work independently and investigate on their own Horizon Scanning publications and different EU programs based on provided e-book, links and material in Moodle and external sources. Additionally, they research EU fund absorption capacity and project success factors.	120 min	Investigation	Online	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No			
Total unit workload	3.5h												
IT project ideas and EU programs													
Case Study Analysis of Funded IT Projects Students will investigate and analyze case studies of successful IT projects funded by the EU. This activity will involve searching for relevant documentation, identifying key factors that contributed to their approval, and discussing these findings in groups. Students will classify several projects into suitable programs.	30 min	Investigation	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	1	Formative	Teacher	

Needs Analysis and Project Charter Analyze EU programs and funds to support the funding of an IT R&D project. (10%) , Evaluate a project application based on tender criteria and conditions. (10%) , Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (30%)										
Needs analysis in line with EU program requirements										
Introduction to needs analysis for EU Programs and Funding The teacher will present a need analysis for various EU funding programs relevant to IT R&D projects as well as evaluation criteria that include need analysis. How to find similar projects, and research papers to support project ideas? How to build problem tree?	30 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No
Interactive Discussion: Aligning Project Needs with EU Requirements In small groups, students will discuss how to align a project's specific needs with the eligibility criteria of suitable EU programs. They will articulate their understanding and challenge each other's ideas on the best programs for hypothetical project scenarios.	20 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No

Lesson: Problem tree - project objective tree Students watch a short video on problem tree and objective tree construction or listen the lecture on the topic.	20 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
Starting a Problem Tree In teams, students discuss the most pressing issues related to their project idea. They start building a problem tree.	20 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
Investigative Task: Researching EU Funding Program Criteria Students will independently investigate different EU funding programs. They will compare criteria, eligible activities, and application processes, documenting their findings in a comprehensive report.	30 min	Investigation	Online	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
Total unit workload	2h									
Creating project chartner										
Developing an Objectives Tree Students work in teams to finish the problem trees and identify the wider and specific objectives of their project proposal.	45 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No
Starting a Project Charter Students will start preparing a project charter. They will consider the funding program priorities, possible partners, overall budget and duration, in line with the chosen line of financing.	45 min	Investigation	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No

Project Charter & Needs Analysis Assignment Students will practice writing a needs analysis document for a mock IT R&D project, ensuring alignment with EU program requirements. They will prepare a problem tree and an objectives tree (supported by references - policy documents, research papers, previous projects) and develop a project charter.	90 min	Practice	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	No	No	3	Formative	Teacher
Total unit workload	3h											
Logical Framework Matrix Apply project management methods and appropriate software tools to the project cycle of an IT project. (10%) , Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (10%) , Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (20%)												
Introduction to Logical Framework Matrix												
Video on Logical Framework Matrix Basics Students will watch a video that provides an overview of the Logical Framework Matrix (LFM), including its purpose, structure, and application in project management. Key concepts such as goals, objectives, outputs, and activities will be discussed.	30 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No		

Work Breakdown Structure, Dissemination, Project Management and Timeline of an R&D Project Apply project management methods and appropriate software tools to the project cycle of an IT project. (10%), Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (10%), Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (10%)										
Work Breakdown Structure										
Discussion on WBS Examples In class, the teachers presents students with examples of WBSs from real projects. The examples are discussed based on the questions given by the teacher (e.g., what is the difference in WPs considering the rules of different calls; how many levels and WPs seems plausible with regard to projects of different complexity and budget; where are the WBS elements placed in an LFM).	45 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No
Lecture: Dissemination Students engage in a lecture with discussion on dissemination.	25 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No

Lecture: Project Management Students engage in a lecture with discussion on project management in the context of an international R&D project compared to an IT project performed by one provider.	20 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No				
Preparing a WBS for the R&D project Students reflect on their knowledge on WBS from the first part of the course, reading materials and their LFM and prepare the first draft of the WBS for their R&D project.	90 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No				
Total unit workload	3h													
Dissemination and Timeline														
Discussion on WBSs Teams present the WBSs for their R&D projects and get feedback from teachers and peers.	45 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No				
Dissemination Plan Working in teams, students prepare dissemination plans for their R&D projects.	30 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No				
Peer Review and Feedback on the Dissemination Plan Teams switch their dissemination plans and provide peer feedback. They can also ask the teacher for feedback.	15 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	0	Formative	Teacher, Peer		
Finalizing the Dissemination Plan Teams finalize their dissemination plans, incorporating the received feedback. They submit the assignment for assessment.	60 min	Production	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	2	Formative	Teacher		
Total unit workload	2.5h													

Budget of an R&D Project Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (30%) , Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (10%)													
Understanding EU R&D Project Financing Rules													
Independent Investigation on Financial Rules Students investigate the financial rules of the given call ahead of the class.	60 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No			
Lecture and Discussion on EU R&D Project Financing Rules Students will attend a lecture where they discuss with the teacher the specific financing rules of EU-funded R&D projects. The session will cover the categories of eligible costs and how funds are allocated for different activities and work packages.	30 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No			
Quiz on Project Financing Students will take a short quiz covering the basics of project financing.	10 min	Assessment	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	1	Formative	Automated	

Investigation of Previous Funded Projects Students will investigate examples of previous R&D projects that were successfully funded by the EU. They will explore and analyze the financial structures and allocations presented in these project proposals, gaining insights into practical applications of the rules.	20 min	Investigation	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
Starting a Draft Financial Plan for an R&D Project Students will start creating a basic financial plan for their R&D project. They will categorize eligible costs and allocate funds in accordance with the EU financing rules learned in the unit.	30 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
Total unit workload	2.5h									
Developing a Detailed Project Budget										
Budget Breakdown Workshop Students will work to estimate costs and categories of costs for each work package. Facilitated by teachers, the workshop will provide guidance and feedback on appropriate cost allocation.	45 min	Practice	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
Budget Proposal Presentation and Feedback Each project team will consolidate their budgeting efforts into a formal presentation that outlines their financial plan, cost justifications, and alignment with financing rules. This presentation will be assessed by teachers and peers.	45 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher, Peer	No	No

Finalizing the R&D Project Budget Students will work in teams to finalize the budget for their R&D projects, incorporating the received feedback. They will submit the assignment for assessment.	90 min	Production	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	3	Formative	Teacher
Total unit workload	3h											
Impact Plan, Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan competence development to support IT project management in the context of EU funds and programs. (20%) , Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases. (20%) , Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (5%)												
Impact and Implementation of R&D Projects												
Lecture on Impact Planning and Implementation Students will attend a lecture that provides an overview of theoretical insights and practical guidelines on impact planning, implementation, and monitoring of R&D projects. The lecture will address key components such as analyzing roles and responsibilities, preparing a detailed impact plan, and ensuring the fulfillment of project goals.	45 min	Acquisition	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	No		

Case Study on Successful R&D Project Implementation Students will investigate real-world case studies of successful R&D project implementations. This activity involves exploring project documentation to identify critical success factors, challenges, and the methods used to address them in alignment with EU project rules. Student will be provided with project reports, impact plans, evaluations.	45 min	Investigation	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Total unit workload	1.5h									
Consolidation of an R&D Project Proposal										
Workshop: Developing an Impact Plan In a hands-on workshop, students will work in teams to create a detailed impact plan for their R&D project proposal. They will be tasked with drafting strategies to ensure consistent monitoring and successful achievement of the predefined impacts.	45 min	Production	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
Draft Project Application Teams will consider the project application form (in line with the call) and ask the teacher any questions related to the finalization of the project proposal.	45 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	Yes	Yes	Teacher	No	No
Total unit workload	1.5h									

Periodical Exam 2 Plan competence development to support IT project management in the context of EU funds and programs. (10%) , Create a financial plan, time plan and risk management plan. (10%) , Analyze EU programs and funds to support the funding of an IT R&D project. (20%) , Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases. (20%) , Evaluate a project application based on tender criteria and conditions. (10%) , Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (5%)										
Preparation										
Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	120 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	120 min	Practice	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No
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Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	120 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No

Preparation for the Exam Student independently prepare for the periodical exam.	60 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	No	No	No	No	No		
Total unit workload	9h											
Exam												
Taking Part in the Exam Student take the exam.	45 min	Assessment	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	20	Summative	Teacher, Automated
Reflection on the Results Students reflect on the results of the exam based on the analysis presented by the teacher.	30 min	Discussion	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	Teacher	No	No		
Total unit workload	1.25h											
Final Project Applications and Evaluation Analyze project success criteria and the importance of making valid and timely decisions in project cycle phases. (20%) , Evaluate a project application based on tender criteria and conditions. (50%) , Create a project application for an R&D IT project based on a tender for EU funding through collaborative teamwork. (20%)												
Final Project Applications and Evaluation												

Finalization of R&D Project Applications Teams work collaboratively to finalize their R&D IT project applications, integrating feedback received throughout the course and aligning with specific EU tender criteria.	300 min	Production	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No		
Project Evaluation From Students will analyze the evaluation criteria for R&D IT projects. Based on that, they will make further adjustments to their R&D project applications.	60 min	Investigation	Onsite	Asynchronous	Teacher not present	Yes	Yes	No	No	No		
Peer Review and Teacher Assessment of Project Applications Students submit their final project proposals and participate in a peer review session, evaluating each other's project applications based on the tender criteria and conditions. They provide feedback to peers to improve the quality of the applications. Teacher will assess the final applications.	180 min	Assessment	Onsite	Synchronous	Teacher present	No	No	No	No	35	Summative	Teacher, Peer
Total unit workload	9h											
Total course workload	91.25h											