

Project Management and Grant Writing

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Lesson 2.

The Project Management Life Cycle

In the early 1990s, the European Commission developed the Project Management Life Cycle (PMLC) in order to improve the effectiveness of the supported projects. Surveys identified the following reasons for poor project performance:

- poor project planning and initiating;
- the risks were not fully taken into account;
- the factors affecting the long-term sustainability of the project had been ignored;
- Lessons learned from past experiences were rarely taken into account when new projects had been designed.¹

PMLC contains a series of activities, that are essential to fulfill the goals and the objectives of a project. The cycle begins with initiating and preparing the project. After the initiation, planning, execution, and closure comes.

Without PMLC, it is almost impossible to make a good or successful project. According to Erika Garaj, without Project Management Life Cycle projects would have the following characteristics².

1. Its strategy is uncertain and ambiguous
2. It is driven by the market supply, not the market demand
3. Its situation analysis is weak
4. In the planning phase, it is not goal-oriented but task-oriented. That means it does not focus on the goals to be achieved but on the completion of current tasks only.
5. Its results cannot be measured and verified.
6. The standards of quality are not being in the main focus
7. It's focusing on a short-term period and ignoring the sustainability after the project is completed
8. Project documents are inaccurate and ambiguous

Please watch the following video to learn about the four stages of Project Life Cycle in detail:

- 4 Stages of Project Life Cycle | Phases of Project Management Life Cycle | Knowledgehut <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3N9-RLSbvo>

¹ Márkus, Béla. Térbeli döntéselőkészítés 2., Projekttervezés. Nyugat-magyarországi Egyetem Geoinformatikai Kar. 2010. URL: https://regi.tankonyvtar.hu/hu/tartalom/tamop425/0027_TED2/index.html

² Garaj, Erika. Projektmenedzsment. Edutus Főiskola. 2012. URL: https://regi.tankonyvtar.hu/hu/tartalom/tamop412A/2010-0017_35_projektmenedzsment/index.html

Assignment

Practice Quiz

- You can find the quiz here: <https://forms.gle/pf9MSWC1xALPXqz49>