

Report of the M04 pilot teaching in KNUCA

Semester: Autumn (Winter) 2021/2022 academic year

Curricula: 122 specialty “Computer science. Project management”, Master Program

Module: Distributed Team (elective)

Students: 4 persons

Teacher: Olena Verenysh (Professor, Dr. of Sc.) and Olena Sharovara (PhD)

About the module: During the third learning semester, Master students had only elective modules. 4 Students chose the module “Distributed team”. According to the actual curricula at that academic year (now it has been changed), the module had 4 ECTS.

Short description of students: All students had working experience in distributed teams (as a team member or a project manager).

The module topics:

1. What is a distributed team: pros and cons
2. Tuckman’s model
3. Preparation stage of the Distributed Team’s lifecycle model: Hiring
4. Trust
5. Personal productivity
6. Launch stage of the Distributed Team’s lifecycle model: Kick-off organization, getting acquainted, mission and shared vision, intra-team rules, conflicts, how to increase a distributed team productivity
7. Time-management
8. Intercultural projects

Topics #1, 2, 3,4, 6 and 8 were chosen based on the M04 content that was created in the frame of the project.

Educational process form: online

Didactic concept: more traditional conception: theoretical material (lectures), discussions during the classes and tasks.

Pedagogical strategy: traditional presentation material with elements case-study and simulation approaches (preparing the hiring process, using ICT: pros and cons, Time-management, eLearning in education: pros and cons from the distributed teams point of view, Tuckman’s model in real life)

Quality evaluation: A questionnaire was created for evaluating the learning process and content. It consisted of 11 questions. The results of the evaluation are presented below. However, this report is presented only the information concerning the content.

1. Was the module interesting?

All students answered that the module was interesting (100%).

It confirms that the M04 is a state-of-the-art module.

2. What were the most interesting topics?

All students indicated that the most interesting topics were time management and hiring.

Changes that were made in M04: This result was the base for creating elective courses “Hiring” and “Time management” for updating the M04 content.

3. How does the course seem useful?

Most students answered that the module was useful, but some of them indicated that only some topics were useful (without pointed out what topics were useful/unuseful).

Changes that should be made in M04: It is a good result and getting possibility for its improving. It will be made based on the project results.

4. What topics would you add that were not covered in the module?

It was indicated that the topic of conflict management in distributed teams would be like to present more deeply. As conflict management is in another mandatory module “Phycology, Communication and Leadership in the project management” it was not a lot of attention on this topic.

Changes that were made in M04: The topic is in the mandatory part of the M04 content.

5. Was e-Learning effective for the module?

We got an interesting result. Most students indicated that the eLearning was effective for some topics, but for another isn't. However, it is planned that the module has to use ONLY e-Learning because it is important to study working in a distributed team. The reason for it was few students amount on the module and it was not possible to organize fruitful distributed work.

Changes that should be made in M04: The module should be improved in the contest of the didactic methods. For the M04, it indicates that it should be more attention on the tasks for the students.

6. What practical tasks do you think should be added?

It was got an interesting offer: “Live game with HR, as it can happen in practice.”

Changes that should be made in M04: It should be prepared for the M04.

Conclusions:

1. Add more practical tasks and games
2. More teamwork
3. More dynamic in eLearning process: fewer lectures, more discussions