



Project management case study

You have been hired by the TU/e to conduct research into the use of antidepressants among students. The research is part of a larger European study and is not a doctoral research project.

For this research a representative group of 250 students has to be interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire. Each interview takes approximately one hour. Additionally, blood samples need to be taken and analyzed from all students. You will only be able to do one of the two (either the interviews or the blood tests) and for the remaining part of the study you will work together with a research bureau in Heerlen, which is leading the project from the Netherlands. Your own supervisor is working on a similar research project at the TU/e.

For the writing of the definitive questionnaire and to determine the blood tests, a kick-off meeting is planned with all partners from abroad attending, in Stockholm in three weeks time. Two more meetings will be planned with all partners to discuss the data analysis and the draft report.

The printed report will be presented to the European Commission in exactly one year. You have a budget that covers the travel abroad and a budget of €2500.00 for the other expenses.

1. Decide between taking the interviews and the taking of blood samples.
2. Plan your schedule.
3. Present your planned schedule to the group in 5 minutes.

Group 1: Name the possible risks of this project and which actions are planned in case these risks materialize.

Group 2: Pay attention to the division of labor between the various parties. Who will do what?

Group 3: What financial expenses do you expect? Think of the smartest way to use your budget. How can you save money? What do you need to keep a financial buffer for? If any money remains at the end, how would you choose to use it?

* Elective additional assignment for all groups: How could you use this research as a starting point for a doctoral research project? What steps would you need to take to achieve that?