

A new way to engage

What if a project manager got to spend hundreds of millions of US dollars, negotiate with multiple international governments, and fit years of challenging negotiations all into a single day? And what if they came away from it with all of the learning and experience, but none of the risk?

The Dam Challenge is a revolutionary way to learn practical, real-world skills in project management. Based around the idea of a “serious games” paradigm, our unique training programme abandons traditional lecturing to focus on higher-order understanding and skill testing.

And what better space to learn in than the same type of environment

you’re likely to encounter in real life? Our engaging platform means you’ll be challenged with all the variables while still having the freedom and confidence to experiment. Run by a team of professional facilitators, this is an advanced simulation specifically geared towards developing hands-on project management abilities.

Apart from being an exciting new way to develop your expertise, our one-of-a-kind experience is also designed to help you gain and implement teamwork skills. Delegates will learn how to deal with obstacles and make tough decisions, maximise future learning potential, and do it all in a dynamic and exciting scenario.

Stakeholders. Risks.

Gaining confidence. Improving processes.
Facilitating achievement.

An overview

According to research, adults are far more likely to engage in higher-level learning when they practically implement newfound information. By using their knowledge to solve a challenging problem in a high-pressure situation, their chances of understanding and skill acquisition are vastly improved, regardless of the outcome of the situation itself.

The Dam Challenge adapts this thinking in an exciting way to maximise learning potential. It follows a hypothetical scenario where Country A commissions a project to construct a hydroelectric dam on a river protected by an international treaty. The project must take place within three years of “virtual time”, and with a budget not exceeding USD 750 million.

Between difficult trade-offs, stakeholders with competing interests, and an intense, multiple-risk scenario, participants are continuously challenged to adapt to the task at hand. Teamwork is also a key component of the simulation, and multiple competitors compete against each other and the clock as they learn the value of working in a team-based environment.

Furthermore, the benefits of The Dam Challenge go far beyond the time spent at the event. Participants are frequently encouraged to reflect on their experiences at key points in the simulation to help identify what lessons they’re learning. These are led by an experienced facilitator who focuses on asking questions rather than their answers, a process that gets delegates to properly consider and understand their decisions.



Sustainable. Lasting impact.

Action learning. Knowledge transfer.
Skills for life.

Customer Opinion: The Dam Challenge

“ We get to the point from total chaos to the project being run smoothly. And the time pressure is a perfect enabler for teamwork. ”

*President of National
Project Management Association*
European Union

“ This simulation helped us to train under circumstances more similar to real life, as opposed to exercises in books. It helped developing better ways of thinking and leading a project. ”

*Angela Francisco
Civil Engineer*
Lena Group
(Engineering & Construction)

“ This workshop is a fantastic and clear way to provide participants with a chance to experience project fail factors in a controlled environment. It really helps you to take away experiences to be very successful in real-life project management. Every project manager should experience this! ”

Rui Oliveira PMO Manager
EDP Group

Learning outcomes

- ✔ Learn key project management concepts including stakeholder, risk, change, and team management in practice.
- ✔ Assess personal project management skills and discover strengths and weaknesses in a real-time competitive environment.
- ✔ Receive expert training and advice on common fail-and-success factors in stakeholder, risk, scope and team management and how to apply these in the real world.
- ✔ Develop skills to deal with unanticipated changes.
- ✔ Learn the nature of decision-making processes and skills involving trade-offs among competing priorities.
- ✔ Engage in Q&A on managing project elements from professional project and risk managers facilitating the game.
- ✔ Reflecting on lessons learned to maximise understanding.