

## Self-reflective report for LIFE project portfolio

LIFE project: Interdisciplinary Projects: Proposal Writing, Management and Implementation Team 1 supervisor(s): koidu saia and kadi kriit team members: Nazira Bostoeva, Lili-Ann Bürkland, Triin Gede, Syed Ali Hassan, Katriann Kaasik, Chongbin Li, Eliine Porval

## **SELF-REFLECTIONS:**

**Lili-Ann Bürkland** - My main focus during the project was ensuring that the parts and tasks I took on or that were entrusted to me were done. My duties during the projects were varied and covered multiple studies, for example, I was one of the people who were responsible for the mid-term presentation and I was also involved with writing one of the main content parts of the project proposal writing manual and budgeting for the project proposal. During the project, I learned theoretical and practical knowledge about management, project planning and project implementation. I also had a chance to develop my interdisciplinary collaboration and negotiation skills since the participants in this LIFE project are from different fields and backgrounds.

**Triin Gede** – My contribution to the project was quite challenging for me since I was trying to coordinate the group. I organized the meetings, sent out necessary information and emails to the team and to the supervisors, searched for project guidelines and tried to give as much information back to the group as possible. This task was quite hard since the whole team was from different study fields and did not know each other. The whole team was also working and studying at the same time, so it was quite challenging to find suitable times for Zoom meetings. There was a lot of confusion at first regarding project deadlines and assignments, but after some time we started to work better as a team and understood each other better. We found time for this project and were able to achieve our goals for the project guideline and project proposal.

**Syed Ali Hassan** – My learning experience from this project was quite diverse. We were a team of students from different educational and working backgrounds, hence overall group collaboration was quite productive and effective as everyone was sharing his/her experience and knowledge in a creative way. My core responsibilities in this project was to provide an overview about its impact towards stakeholders and to design and organize the data. Apart from my academic learning, I have learned how to successfully manage different tasks with tight deadlines. I have also learned about group dynamics, how some person in a group turns out to be the leaders and some as productive workers. It generally highlights a person's inner self and polishes their relevant skills. I have also learned that when people from



diverse backgrounds come together to solve a problem, they come up with many unique solutions which are really effective & productive. Overall, this project was a great source of learning and knowledge for me.

**Katriann Kaasik** – My position in the group proposed primarily dealing with the communicational and marketing objectives of the project. Namely, I contributed with developing the communication plan along with the main instruction of writing the communication part of a project proposal. As my field of study is, in fact, communication management, I feel the whole project suggested an excellent possibility to implement my theoretical knowledge gained during studies in a more practical real-life group setting. Furthermore, I learned hands-on about interpersonal communication as well as further developed my negotiation and verbal expression skills while working with peers from various study fields. For example, while dividing tasks, negotiating suitable meeting times, and dealing with giving constructive feedback to group members.

**Nazira Bostoeva** – I have read all the manuals and reviewed interesting presentations in the framework of our course. I worked in a very diverse group with very responsible people who did their part, even though we couldn't always meet all together due to the fact that everyone is working and studying. I wish I could pay more attention to this course. However, I am a family person and it was quite difficult for me, because I am studying and working also. My part of work included doing research on the chosen topic and writing a brief about the topic and why we want to raise awareness about the chosen topic. And also write what are the most common mistakes made in writing projects and write a guide for creating a presentation and a pitch elevator. I gained experience in effective teamwork, valuable theoretical lessons and materials on creating project proposals and guidelines for writing projects. I am grateful to Triin for organizational work and patience.

**Chongbin Li** – With the help of the tutors and other dedicated teammates, I have benefited a lot from this ELU project aimed to improve the participants' project writing skills, teamwork skills, and project management skills. Throughout, I have gained a deeper understanding of how to build up the case for a project proposal from defining the goal, identifying the stakeholders, making action plan to budgeting and even presenting it to the financing body. In the team, I have contributed to writing the step-by-step guide of the project writing manuals and the budgeting of the project proposal example, together with Lili-Ann, with specific focus on the parts of team introduction, budgeting, and summarizing up the impacts. In the course of learning and working on the project, our tutors Koidu and Kadi and team leader Triin have provided valuable feedback and kept the team on track. I am really grateful for their help to improve my learning experience in this ELU project.

**Eliine Porval** - The teamwork was enjoyable, since everyone was quite motivated and open to working. There was clear communication, when someone couldn't make it to the meetings, so we could account for that. Due to the intensity of my work during the late fall period I could not attend all the meetings, but I always tried to still contribute and do the work that I missed. My main focus was on contributing to the project as much as I could and to be an active team member. It was important to me that none of my team members would suffer due to my work not being done. I wrote the section about impact in the project proposal and in the Project Writing Manual I wrote about Varia section a. what to think about and the section of what to do after writing the project proposal.

