

RISK MANAGEMENT



EFFECTIVE PROJECT PLANNING THROUGH JENGA

AN ACTIVITY WHICH HELPS PARTICIPANTS TO IDENTIFY RISKS AND RECOGNIZE COMPETENCIES USEFUL IN RISK MANAGEMENT

After playing this game, participants should be able to analyse key components of a project and to assess their inherent risks, so as to identify strategies for eliminating and/or minimising those risks to an acceptable level. Participants should understand the role of emotions in risk management, and the role of teams in providing emotional support in difficult situations.

Advice: 5-8 participants / 45 minutes / one set of Jenga

Instructions

- Start with explaining the rules of Jenga game¹.
- Ask the group to think of a hypothetical project (i.e. hosting a summer festival), or ask them to propose an actual project they are working on at the moment.
- Tell them to imagine that the Jenga tower represents their project and each block is one area or element of such a project (a team, finances, promotion, logistic ect).
- Open a discussion about what elements of their project are and name them, challenge participants to think beyond the major components.
- While discussing, ask participants to start building a Jenga tower.
- Once ready, move on to talking about risks in each area of the project. Explain the concept of risk including physical and emotional safety, property damage, financial security, reputation, etc.
- Ask every participant to identify a single risk in each area of their project and then have that individual remove a block from the tower.
- Repeat the previous step until either the tower falls, or the group cannot think of any other reasonable risks.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenga>



Reflection in the learning community:

Did you enjoy the game? What was the most challenging part? How did you feel working in your team? Was identifying risks difficult? Is it important to talk about risks in project management?

What helped you to make a decision of removing a particular block? Was the environment helpful? How can you relate this game to risk management?

What competences are useful in risk management? What can you do to develop them?

Tips for facilitators

- If you have a few sets of Jenga, you can facilitate this activity with a few groups at the same time.

