

Generativity

Participant evaluation of the LTTA, Syros, June 2017

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Introduction and methodology

A total of 26 people attended the 5-day LTTA meeting in Syros. Through presentation of the draft Project Cycle Management (PCM) training modules that had been developed for IO2, this meeting had the objectives of both explaining to partners and their trainees the nature and practice of PCM and acting as a testing ground for the draft modules before their finalization and uploading to the Generativity platform.

After the meeting a short evaluation questionnaire was developed using AdminProject and distributed online to all attendees (except the two representatives of partner EEC who have undertaken the evaluation). All 24 remaining attendees completed the online questionnaires.

The questionnaire comprised 8 questions. The first asked for ratings of the respondents' experience (Excellent, Good, Average, Poor) on seven features of the LTTA: The LTTA as a whole, Workshops, Venue, Food and refreshments, Venue accessibility, Administration prior to the event, and Logistics during the event.

The following four free-response questions asked respondents to provide any general comments they had about the sessions/workshops attended, what aspects they found most useful, what aspects they found least useful, and what thoughts they will take away as a result of the event.

Regarding aspects of the course, respondents were asked to what extent they agreed/disagreed with a range of statements: "The contents of the course were well matched to the audience", "The course venue was of sufficient quality (access to Internet, computers, etc.)", "The course materials were of good quality", "The time given to work on the course items and content was sufficient", "I was

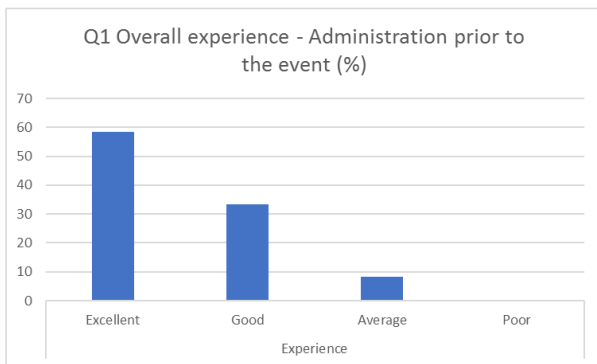
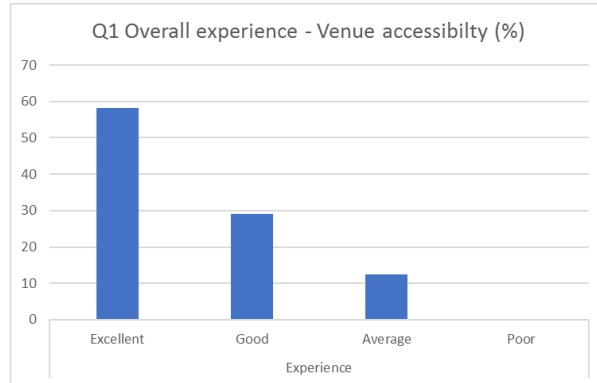
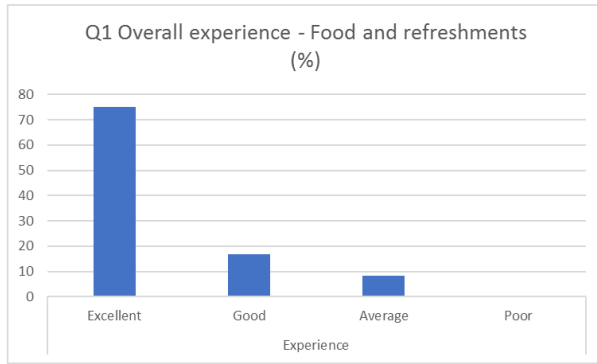
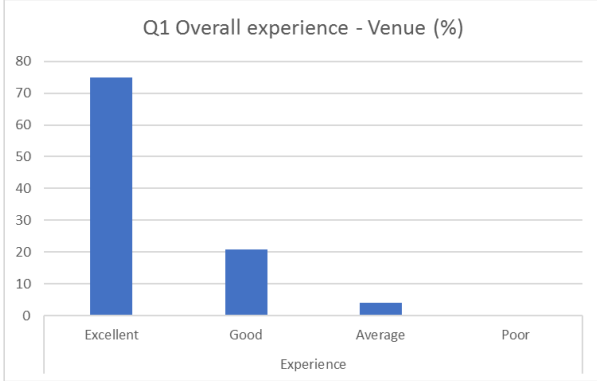
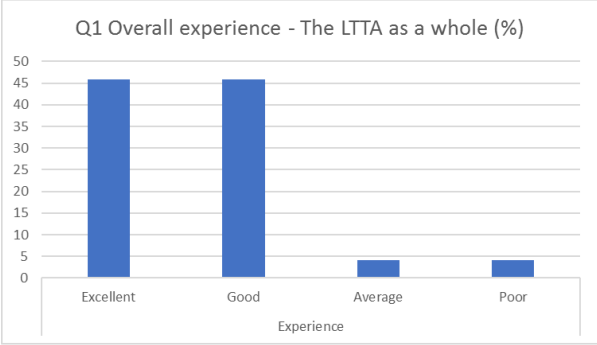
impressed with the presentations and demonstrations during the course”, “Sufficient time and opportunities for discussions was given”, “My own ideas were listened to appropriately and taken into account”, “The course agenda was sufficiently flexible to match my expectations”, “The course as a whole was appropriate and productive”.

The final two free-response questions requested any further comments on the aforementioned topics, and any suggestions for improvement.

Results

Q1-5 The LTTA experience

The overall ratings demonstrate a clear bias towards the respondents being extremely satisfied with the 5-day event. Median ratings on all features in question 1 were firmly in the ‘good’ (“overall experience” and “workshops) or ‘excellent’ (all other categories, including the venue and its facilities and the logistics and LTTA organisation) ratings.



Q2. Do you have any general comments about the sessions/workshops you attended?

General

- Everything was perfect!
- Some discussions could be shorter but other than that everything was perfect.

Learning from others

- Appreciate knowledge & experts of partners who presented modules (Diciannove, Danmar, EEC).
- contributions from participants valuable
- I think that the LLTA was an useful learning and improvement opportunity, thanks to the competence of the trainers and because of the importance of the themes. Moreover, the exchange between the participants both during lessons and in informal moments was very interesting. It would have been very useful to spend more time on group work in order to understand and learn how to use the tools presented.
- It was very useful for exchanging knowledge.

Session organization/activities

- Good that the sessions were not too long, although each could have been completed with a "practical" workshop in order to empower more the participants.
- I liked the very easy going atmosphere, I now have a much better understanding of Building submitting and implementing a Partnership
- I think that it could be useful to make more practical examples
- I was expecting for a better knowledge of the European funds and their functioning.
- I wish I had been more prepared before attending the sessions/workshops. For example, I wish I could have had access to the platform beforehand to get familiar with it.
- More time for the management
- Sessions were useful and well done.
- well structured, enjoyed the group work sessions

Q3. What aspects did you find most useful?

General

- all
- It was well organized both by the leader as well as the host. The whole experience equipped the participants with lots of useful and practical information

Networking/learning from others/group work

- Also very useful to learn from hands-on experience of expert partners (UTH, Diciannove, Danmar, EEC). Enjoyed practical exercise on last day (from idea to aims / objectives / activities / SWAT ...).
- Contacts with other participants
- Discussions with other participants, comments on the viewpoint of project evaluators

- Good atmosphere, lively discussions, a lot of information provided
- group sessions where we had to develop and brainstorm were unexpectedly helpful. It made you realize the various aspects and steps you need to take into consideration.
- structure of the working program allows participants to test & modify the training modules themselves
- the exchange of knowledge among partners about PCM and the workshop to build up a project
- the group work sessions allowed to get a first-hand experience of what means to build successful proposals
- The most useful aspects were the clear exposition of the topics and the intervention of the different partners within their experiences in PCM

Module development

- building the modules - content of the modules
- I found more interesting and useful the following topics: - the bottom-up methodology, the SWOT analysis and the logical framework approach, whose application could lead social organizations towards a cultural change and an improvement of skills and attitudes in order to realize relevant, feasible and effective projects; - how to find and build a partnership; - the Admin project platform; Concerning the training phases/methods, I found very useful: - the exchanges among participants; - the plenary debate, after the work group, which clarify doubts and meanings
- I found the "real life case study" very useful for people like me who are newcomers to EU projects. I also found useful the mix of experts and newcomers as sharing experiences and tips were useful.
- In my opinion to know how it works when the commission evaluates the projects and the teamwork
- It was a good approach on project set up
- the content
- The content we were able to learn.
- the practical session linked to the previous theoretical modules
- The tips given by the different trainers and PCM specialists were particularly useful.
- The workshops was a very useful aspect of the event
- Workshops

Q4. What aspects did you find least useful?

Nothing

- I didn't find anything least useful. All the LTTE was generally a good experience.
- I didn't really feel any aspects of the training less useful than the other as the training was well focused on the PCM and related issues
- I think that everything has been said was helpful

EU programmes and structures

- Description of European programs

- I know it is difficult to well present the particularities of the different funding programs (how does program work? deadlines? national or European-level call? etc.) , still, for me, it would have been useful to learn more about these aspects.

Specific features

- Details about project cycle management were less useful: nevertheless, it's important as a reminder of the different steps necessary to build a successful project.
- In relation to my previous knowledge and experience, I found less useful: - the last module (5), very interesting in itself, included many topics, each of which deserves to be looked at more closely, in particular I am referring to the themes of dissemination and evaluation. - the work group because it set a very complex goal to reach in a short time. The group I attended included participants with different levels of knowledge and experience, so it took a long time to understand the task, and to debate the meanings of terms and tools. It would have been helpful to organize the work in several steps
- Some presentations were too general.
- some comments from partners were a bit out-of-issue
- sometimes comments and feedback were not coherent with the issues at stake
- the dissemination part
- the level of deepening in comparison of different degrees of knowledge about the theme
- the long length of the workshop
- The training material

Lack of practical opportunities

- I needed to work on more concrete cases
- We could have spent less time on theory and more on practice / practical examples of PCM adapted to social intervention projects.

Q5. What thoughts will you take away with you as a result of the event?

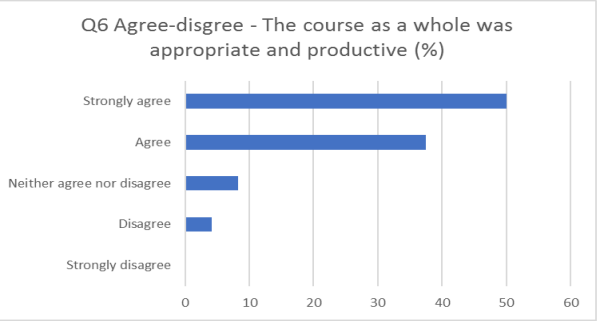
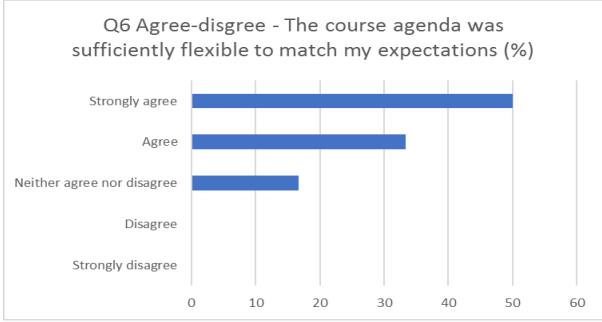
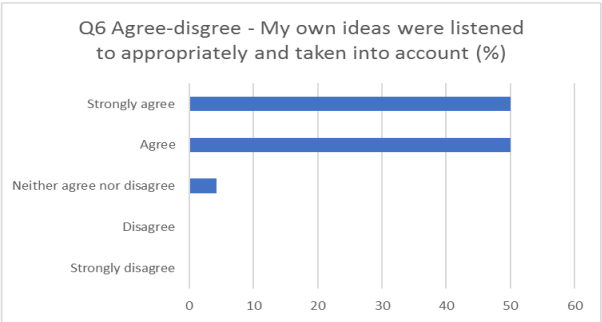
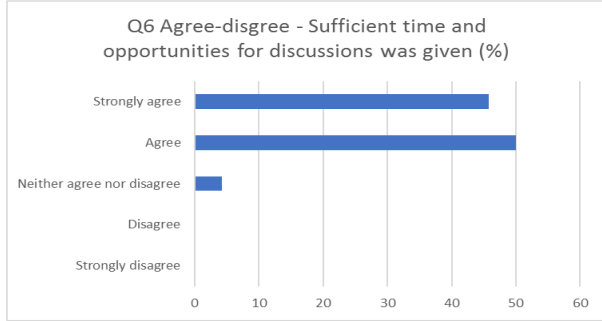
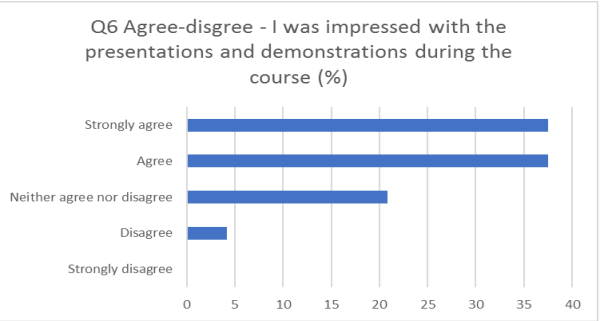
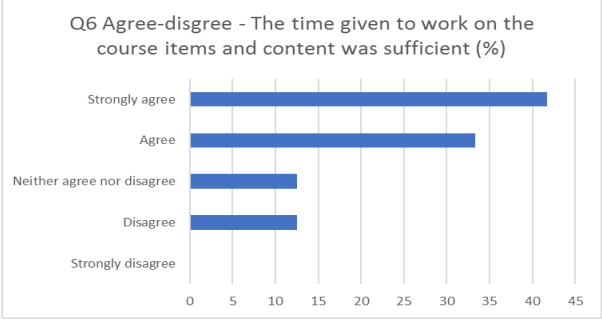
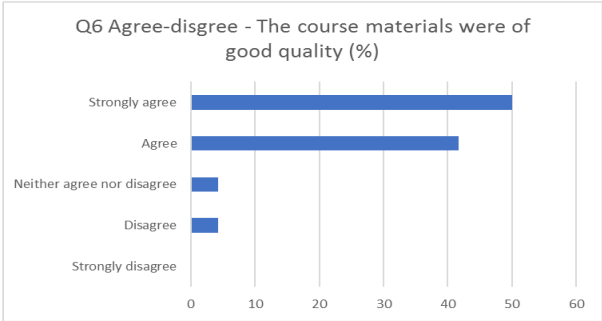
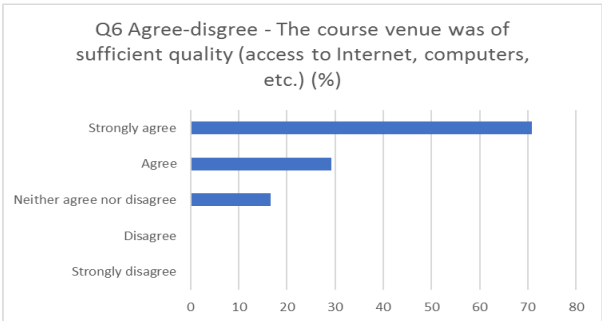
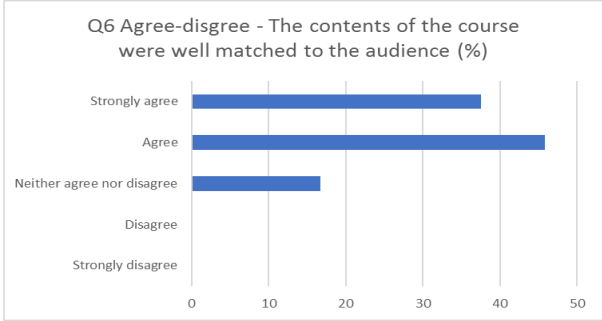
- a different cultural approach when approaching to eu-projects management
- A very well designed and developed LTTA
- All the brand new training we gained
- Beautiful island first of all but also better knowledge about PCM :)
- During the training, we received some interesting contribution from all the partners for improving the modules and the proposal to integrate some practical examples
- EU projects are complex, but surely possible to win and run
- I think I know more about writing projects even though I have to go deeper in the topic I think that the Project Cycle Management is certainly an effective methodological tool capable of promoting real development and a "smart, inclusive and sustainable" growth in the European Union Countries. The PCM will lead to a cultural change and acquisition of competences (such as knowledge, skills and above all attitudes) by social organisations, in order to give priority to sustainability on a long-term vision and to manage and to implement projects relevant to the needs of the context and of the stakeholders. The participatory approach and the logical framework approach are particularly important, even if difficult to apply. The organisation

should spend more time and attention to the phase of analysis as an interactive learning process; besides its results can easily be transcribed in a operational and relevant plan.

- Interesting to learn how to manage projects but it was surely needed more thinking concerning the transfer of expertise to participants.
- It is crucial to have people with background in these kinds of workshops who can relate to actual experiences in order to back up some points and be as close to reality as possible.
- Overview of European funding programs. Most important outcome for me is what I learned about PCM, how to use PCM "tools" / models for social sector projects (project life cycle, SWAT analysis, differentiation between aims - objectives).
- Pay attention to the harmonogram of the planned project; importance of quality of project partnership; goals of the planned project has to correspond with goals of the program very closely That project management is a broader subject matter than I thought. The collaboration with the organisations and the reach exchange of knowledge that we gain.
- The difficult question of terminology and the different types of objectives the general structure of the training have been revised, so that more participation and contributions from partners is visible
- the relevance of a detailed project work the importance of realistic and clear objectives
- the workshop was a good starting point to shape and test the modules 79.2
- Unique experience, very interesting LTTA presentations and conversations. The exchange of ideas were really helpful.
- Very clear presentation, well-structured and easy to understand, very constructive, very strong team, very passionate however more solid collaboration is needed.
- What I will remember from the event is that EU financing is not as difficult as it seems, that writing a successful proposal needs to be rigorous, and structured. It will definitely be useful for my organisation should they wish to start building European funded projects.

Q6-8 The PCM course and modules

As with the LTTA experience, participants were very favorably disposed towards the PCM course itself and the module content and structure. The median 'agreement' ratings fell consistently between 'agree' and 'strongly agree' with all positive statement options:



Q7. Do you have any comments on the topics mentioned above?

- accordingly, with the LTTA program, the participation from partners increased progressively during the whole training process, and reached the top with the group-work sessions and the following plenary debate
- I don't have comments
- I wonder whether the content was as useful for experts on European funding as for me. Also I wonder whether it would have been possible to have more time in "little groups" to work on certain topics after the theory: for example : in a group of 5 , you have 1h to build a problem tree and solution tree. In this way, you can put in practice what you just learned in theory.
- it has been hard to enter to the culture PCM, but once entered, it became easier to comprehend
- Not everyone was listening all the time and since we were a big group, noise from the group as well as from AC was disturbing at times.
- People who attend the sessions should stay on the project till the end of it
- time to work on course items & content: I would have preferred to have had more time to apply the presented content, e.g. through practical exercises.

Q8. Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

All good

- No, I was pleased so no suggestions needed here.
- No
- Everything was great - no remarks
- I don't have suggestions
- all suggestions to improve the LTTA training program and modules have been shared during the plenary sessions

More practical work

- Everything was perfect, maybe some more practical issues like more workshops will be better
- as said in comment question 7: more practical exercises to "integrate" theoretical learning content.
- I need more on problem tree - solutions tree - logical framework
- It would be important to integrate to the course training techniques that provide a better insight in project-cycle management
- More practical workshops and interaction within presentations in order to check people understand the practical application of what is presented.
- More exercises on the SMART method, for example how to measure social work where the progress takes more time then it's the duration of the project
- I think it would be useful to spend more time for practice and working groups that facilitates understanding and learning. The work group is useful also to explore some of the mean topics and tools. For example, it would have been helpful to try to establish a problem tree and convert it into solution and strategies or to complete a logframe matrix.

More preparation/organization/integration

- As I said before I wish my organisation had prepared me more in advance for this course.
- We decided to improve the training with the contribution from all the partners which will be responsible to integrate their suggestions in the modules.
- Allocation of tasks
- Maybe it could be useful include link to websites of Erasmus+ and others.
- Include a slide as an example linked to topic, just to make clearer the theoretical modules
- It might be interesting to present in more detail the various funds and examples of projects.
- more clear objectives and scopes in the future

Facilities

- More variation in food at lunches would be nice, not enough space for everyone to sit by the table.
- For the location, it's better to find a place easily reachable with direct flights, trying to shorten the numbers of days
- The LTTA that was held in Syros island was a unique experience. My suggestion would be to actually "open up" to this kind of transnational meetings since they are really promising. Exchanging experience and ideas as well as taking advices from experienced partners or receiving tips from someone that has already attempted what you are about to can lead up to extraordinary results.