



Project management and doctoral research (PhD as a Project)

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Summary

A short course (generic skill)

- „Project management and doctoral research“
- at postgraduate doctoral study.

The aim

- to strengthen the skills of PhD students in the field of PM
- with a focus on research and scientific projects
- and linking best PM practices with doctoral research.

Motivation

**Excuses are seldom
truthful, often handy,
and rarely productive.
Don't make excuses:
make things happen!**

QUOTEHD.COM

Rhoberta Shaler, PhD
Canadian Author

France

French woman aged 91 gets PhD after 30 years

Colette Bourlier, who awarded a high distinction for her thesis on immigrant workers, said it took so long because she 'took breaks'



Some problems

Lack of ...

- Well-defined scope of doctoral study
- Integration of study with research (projects)
- Clear milestones and deadlines
- Risk identification and risk mitigation
- Effective planning – especially of CC/SCI papers
- Communication with mentor

PhD research - principles and objectives

- Rule Book on doctoral studies at the University

Goals:

- creation of new and relevant skills, knowledge and practices;
- education of researchers;
- training of doctoral students;
- acquisition of knowledge, experience and skills, which should enable doctors of science and art creative research-based problem solving;
- internationalization of research at the University

Innovativeness of doctoral program

- interdisciplinarity, collaboration, partnership with industry and business sector.

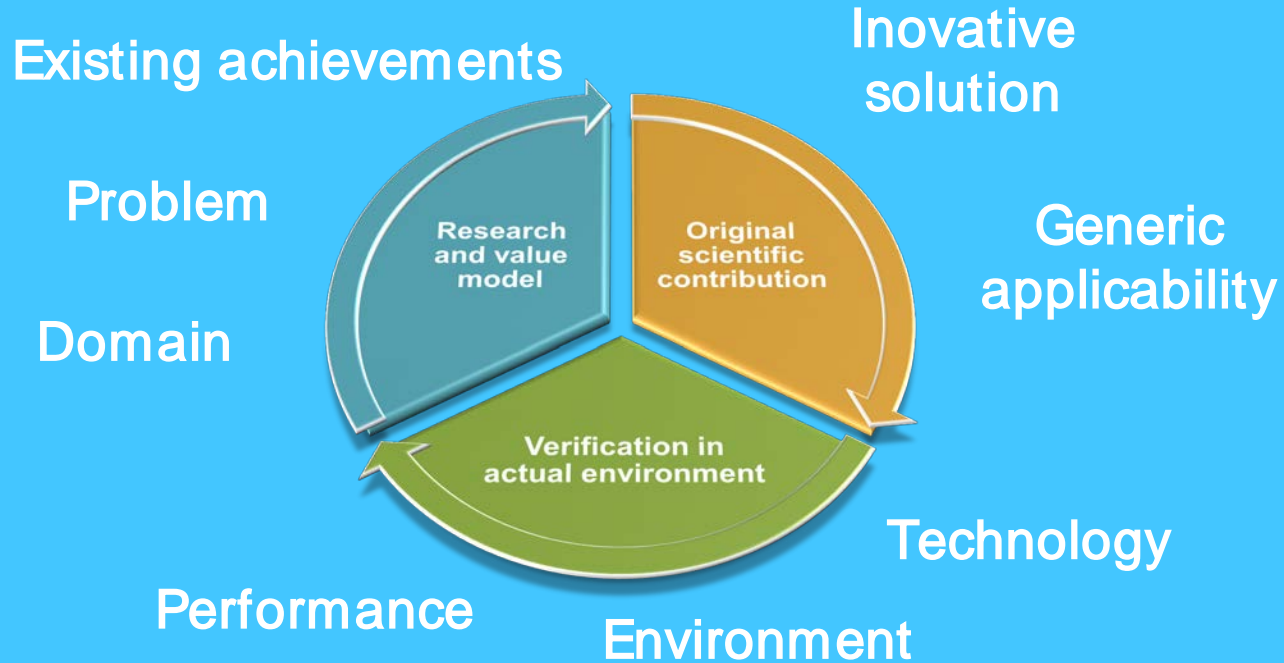
“I just want to get
a Ph.D. in love.”

Barbara de Angelis,
Lifehack Quotes

“I have 10k Euros
for the
enrollment. Make
me a Ph.D.”

PhD student candidate

Doctoral research



Vision of a (PhD) research





Discussion / assignment

- When and how a Phd dissertation research field is formally confirmed ?
- Define your research field, research challenges and area of interest !



PhD as a project



Project management concepts

Project

- A temporary endeavor to create a **unique** ...

Progressive Elaboration

- The iterative process of ...

S.M.A.R.T. goals

- specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely

Results:

- artifact, document, potential, ..., **knowledge**



Discussion / assignment

Describe

- time constraints,
- uniqueness
- progressive elaboration
- goals

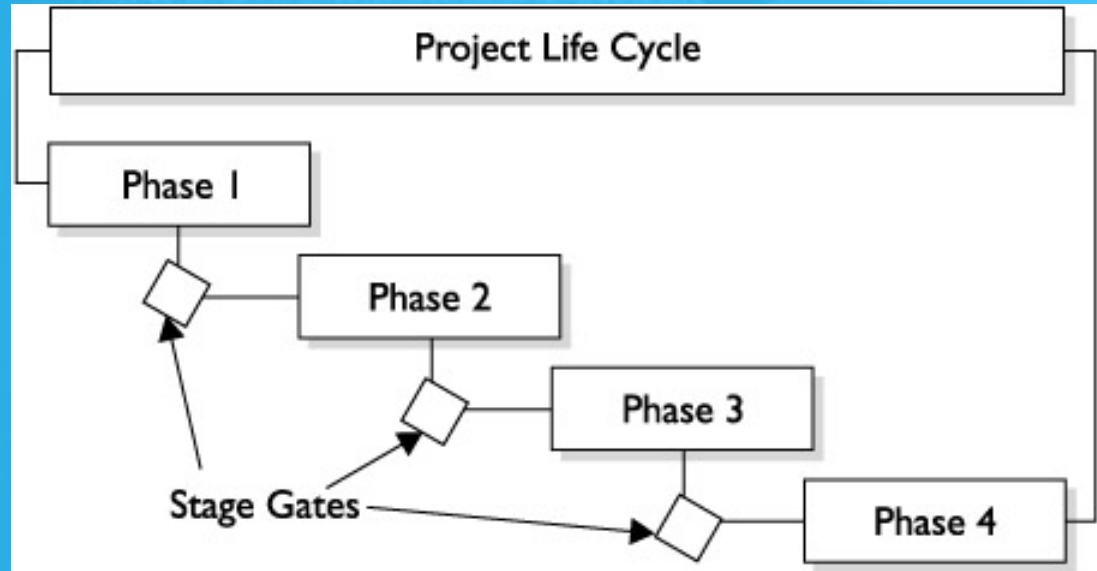
of your PhD dissertation

Scope and Creep

- Scope - project boundaries, work (not) to be done, deliverables
- Creep – scope, hope, effort, feature creep

Project phases

- Defining project phases & deliverables
- Monitoring project progress through the stages
- Gates: performance, deliverables, ...





Discussion / assignment

- Identify possible creep(s) of your PhD and appropriate mitigation(s)
- Define four main phases of your PhD
- How would phases be verified?
- How would mentor be involved?

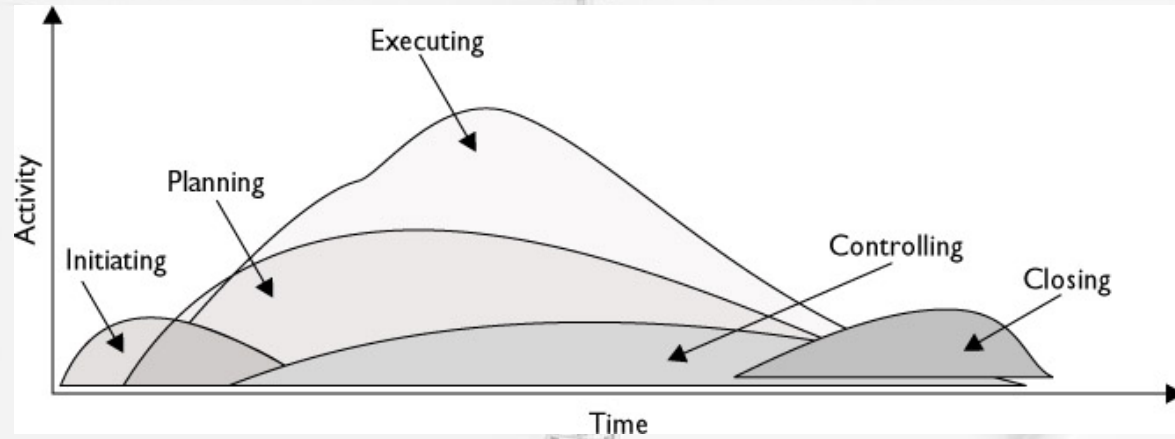
Discussion of results

(students fill templates,
an oral analysis follows)

6 Komu



PM process groups

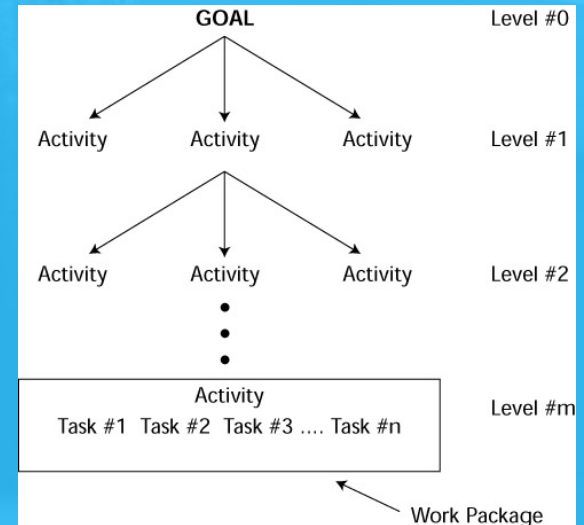


Discussion

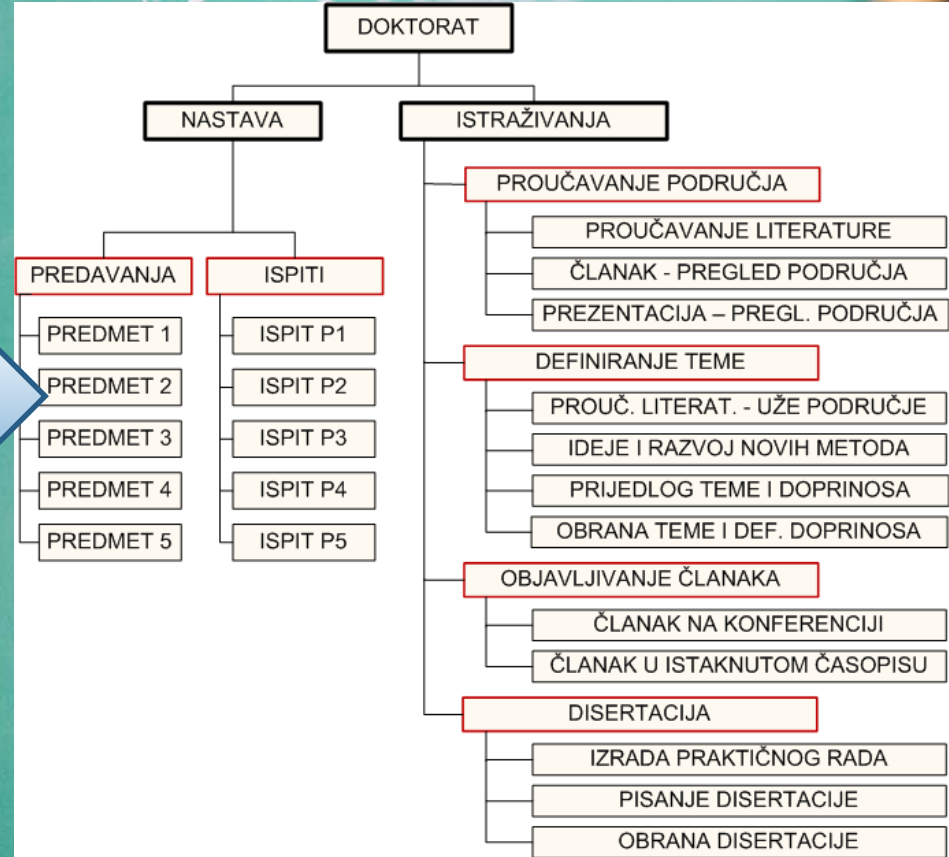
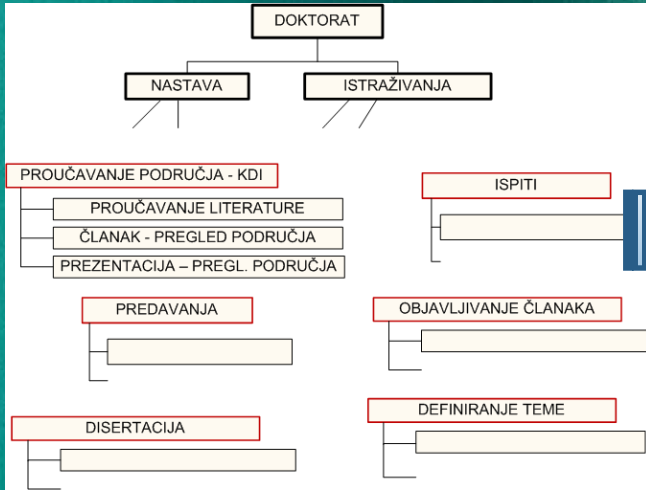
- PhD work processes?
- Critical ones?

Project planning

- Rolling wave planning
- Work breakdown structure (WBS)
- Activity, Work package, Task
- Project milestones



Brainstorming – main PhD WBS activities

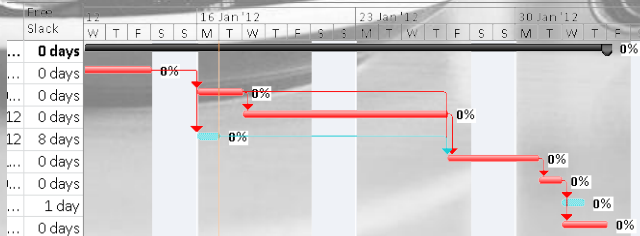
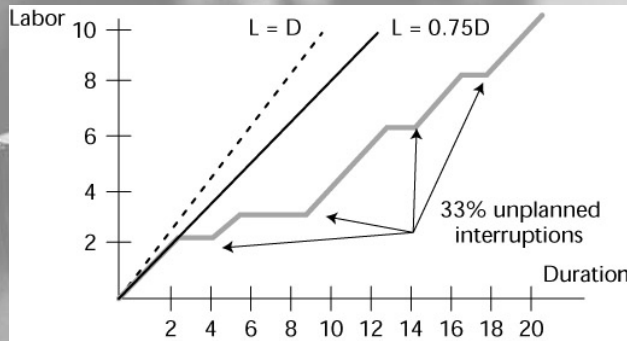
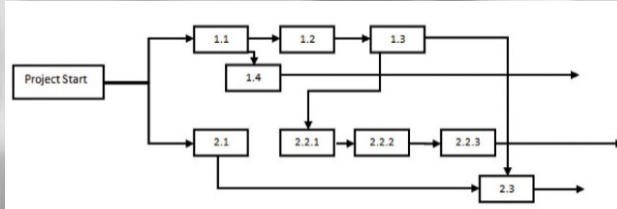




Assignment

- Define milestones for each year of your PhD study !
- Estimate time (deadline) of publication of your CC/SCI indexed paper !

Project scheduling

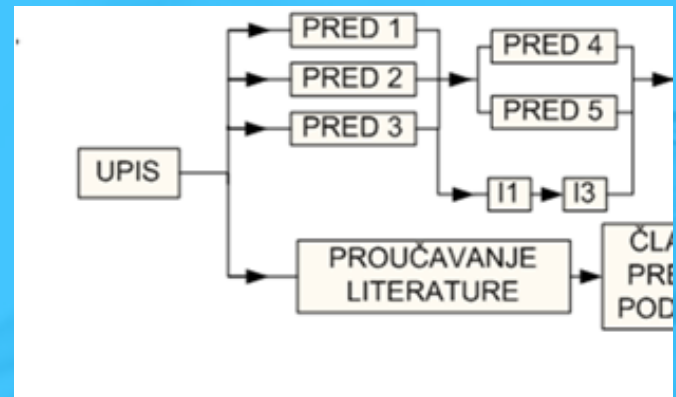


- Project Network Diagram (PND)
- Time, effort, duration estimation
- Ganttogram



Assignment

Draw the network diagram for your PhD WBS!



Project communications management

Communications planning

- within project (team) in general
- between PhD student and mentor

Information distribution

- Communication channels
- Communication matrix and frequency

Performance reporting

- Formats and volume of information

Manage stakeholders

- Meetings and performance reporting

Risk management

- Risk identification
- Risk analysis, including consequences
- Risk resolution planning
- Risk monitoring



Assignment

Identify risks of PhD as a project!


Analyse consequences (delays, costs, etc.)

Define strategy (Plan B) for each risk - trigger, resolution, time frame

Sve poljvale, vrlo metodični retrospektivni proces
prace doktorate, tj. doktorskog studija u
općini.

Predavaje ocjenjujem korisno, tj. vrlo korisno.

VRLO ZANIMLJIVO I KORISNO. PREDLAŽEM:

1. VIŠE VREMENA (BAR 2 x 3h) → JOŠ VIŠE PRIMJERA
2. MOGUĆNOST POHTAANJA RANIJE TIJEKOM STUDIJIA
(VEĆ NA 1. g.)
3. 

PREDAVANJA SU BILA IZNIMNO KORISNA I ZANIMLJIVA;
INTERAKTIVNOST JE DOBRO DOŠLA DA SE MALO ZAPITAMO I DA
SI POSVJESIMO BITNE STVARI O TIJEKU DOKTORSKOG ISTRAŽIVANJA.

TREBALO BI ISTAKNUTI VIŠE KONKRETNIH PRIMJERA, ZNAČI ONIH
KOJI SE DIREKTNO TIČU DOKTORATA. PRIMJERI KOJI SU PREGLEDNIKI, ICI
VEŽANI ZA POSLOVNU DOMENU, MISU PREVIŠE KORISNI. PRIMJER: ZA
RIZIKE U PROJEKTU NAVESTI PRILATAN PROBLEM I ODGOVLAČENJE
RECEPZIJE (HVALA FERTALJ!)

The outcome

- 2 sessions x 2 hours
- 3 teachers
- 16 students
- High satisfaction
 - *useful,*
 - *interesting,*
 - *motivating ...*
- Dissemination to other universities

