



Reference Case



About Université catholique de Louvain (Catholic University of Louvain)

Since 1425, and through its 5000 professors, researchers and collaborators, the University commits to extend the boundaries of human knowledge, transmitting this knowledge, and thereby increasing the humanity of the human race. UCL is a centre of knowledge and innovation, a place of cultural celebration and invention, of achievement and extending the limits of human accomplishment.

Past Situation:

Although interest was given to project management for several years, few technical actions were taken in that field. Project durations and terms of reference were notably difficult to master. Project boards were appointed, but no repeatable processes were established.

Challenges:

The Bologne Agreement forced the academic organization to be thoroughly reengineered. Since then, the governance of the University imposes the consolidation of timely information extracted from information systems far more rigorous and complex than a few years ago. As an illustration, giving access to detailed information is now necessary to open the University to international students which accounts for 18% of the student population. At the same time, the University has undergone a merger program within all French-speaking catholic colleges in Belgium. It is aimed at coordinating master programs and accordingly improving the academic productivity.

In order to cope with these new challenges, the Prince2 project management method was introduced, and soon an automation tool appeared to be necessary in order to minimize the learning curve of the project population.

Solution:

The Prince2 processes and components were automated in PlanView Enterprise, reproducing the retained project management best practices by means of lifecycles from the project request, though the project planning, execution and control, until the project closure.

Standardized information is systematically collected for all requests and proposals before being submitted to the portfolio committee approvals. When a request is transformed into an approved project, all the so far captured information is further converted. Based on different project categories, standard work breakdown structures and appropriate specificities are adopted. In fact, the project community is guided and supported throughout the project lifecycle. This uninterrupted chain of communication provides a strong basis to project governance and ensures Prince2 alignment.

Main Benefits:

Through PlanView, UCL adopted a structured project management environment based on repeatable and measurable processes. It reduced the Prince2 learning curve by leveraging the process discipline and the cultural adoption. UCL now benefits from a central project and resource repository where all project and operational activities are planned, traced and controlled and where from real time capacity planning can be extracted.