

# The Challenge of Egypt

An interactive  
Project Management  
workshop

The scenario plays during the fourth dynasty in ancient Egypt, about four thousand years ago. Zoser's pyramid has just been completed; work on Cheops' pyramid has yet to be started. Egypt was one of the most important civilisations of that time, and structures are built alongside the Nile that would continue to astonish people for millennia to come. How could the Egyptians do this?

We are going to find out in the interactive workshop, *The Challenge of Egypt*, in which we are going to build a pyramid ourselves. To do that, we are going back in time and will meet the pharaoh. He has given his vizier Hainunu instructions to build a pyramid, so that he can make the journey to the hereafter along with everything that is precious to him. Hainunu finds a suitable location for the pyramid, a quarry for the stone and a village for the workers. He also arranges the infrastructure between these locations. And it is your responsibility to get the job done. You will have to set up a project organisation, analyse risks and create a plan.



The Challenge of Egypt

## What has project management got to do with Egypt?

The ancient Egyptians built enormous structures in a fairly short time. This cannot be done without proper project management. How are you going to get millions of stones to the right place and to make sure that tens of thousands of people work as efficiently and effectively as possible? Obviously this didn't just happen all by itself. Furthermore, the process was continually subject to the changing demands of the pharaoh, the weather, diseases, wars, etc. You need to have the project management skills and instruments to deal with all of these issues.

During the four rounds of this interactive workshop, the most important aspects of best practises project management will appear and be experienced. This is done actively, and interactively. The building process for a pyramid will actually be simulated letting the participants experience the control elements of good project management. During the building

process, all participants have a role within the project management environment. The project team is given the task of building the pyramid within a fixed time. The process is affected by real-life events that actually occurred in that period of time. During the building process there will be several reflection moments to learn from the Egyptians and from the teams own experience. At the end of the project, when the pyramid has been built, there will be a project evaluation and all the instructive points will be listed.



# The Challenge of Egypt

*An interactive Project Management workshop*

## What will you learn during this interactive workshop?

- How the most important parts of project management theory are practised into practise.
- Setting up a project organisation with the associated roles, tasks and responsibilities.
- Analysing the project risks and finding countermeasures.
- Carrying out work packages in the role of team leader and monitoring progress.
- Monitoring the tolerances (budget, time, scope and quality) of a project or subproject.
- Resolving project issues.
- Managing the project in the role of project manager.
- Dealing with changes within the project.
- Dealing with the project board.
- Evaluating a project.
- Insight in the knowledge, skills and behavior to manage successful projects.



## Who is the interactive workshop aimed at?

There are four target groups:

### Management teams

You are a member of a management team in an organisation and you would like to know what the capabilities and benefits of structured project management approach are (e.g. PRINCE2), what the consequences are for your organisation and what it can mean for you. After this workshop, you can decide whether using a structured project management approach might help you and your organisation to make projects more successful.

### Project managers

In your role as project manager, you either want to work using a structured project management approach or you already do so. During *The Challenge of Egypt* you will find the answers to questions such as: What is my role as a project manager? How can I setup my projects? How do I control successful projects? How do I create an effective project organisation? How do I use a project board? How can I use PRINCE2 in the most effective way?

### Team leaders

The team leader plays a very important part in projects. During this workshop, you will learn what your tasks and responsibilities are within a large and complex project, and you will discover how you can manage your tasks within a project using the instruments which are part of the project management method you are using.

### Others involved in projects

Team members within project have to deal with all kind off standards, procedures, rules and workflows. In this workshop you will learn all about this.

## What level of knowledge is required from the participants?

Knowledge of project management theory is not required. Affinity with project management is desirable, of course.

## How does this workshop fit within your organisation?

The way in which The Challenge of Egypt fits within your organisation depends on how project management is applied. The following possibilities are perfectly reasonable:

- You use The Challenge of Egypt to setup a project management approach in your organisation (create awareness).
- You use it to test the quality and effectiveness of your current implementation of your project management method or approach (assessment).
- You see it as a way to put everything that has been learned in project management training courses into practice. After the project evaluation, you will have a valuable list of points for improvement to the implementation of your project management approach (supports knowledge transfer).
- You can use the workshop to develop desired project management soft skills in addition to the current knowledge of your project management method (PRINCE2).
- You have not yet implemented a project management method or approach and you see The Challenge of Egypt as an exploratory workshop to study the usefulness of one and to determine what the benefits of this method or approach may be for your organisation.

## Other features of the game simulation

- The team consists of eight to twelve participants.
- The team carries out various instructions. Some of the instructions are carried out as a team; others are done by those allocated the corresponding roles.
- The construction of the pyramid is actually simulated. The team leaders build a genuine pyramid and the project manager runs the project. The construction is affected by realistic natural events that the project team has to respond to.

## Making it all fit

Prince2 Accredited Training Organisations (ATO) can use this simulation within their regular and accredited training courses. They will use their own accredited course material to support the theoretical aspects of PRINCE2.

Project management experts can use this simulation as part of their projects. They can fit it in their own methods and projects to solve all kind of issues. Or they can use this workshop as a kick-off of their projects or as a workshop to analyse the current way of dealing with project management issues.

Project management training organisations can use this simulation in all kind of project management courses to create soft skills like communications, teamwork, control and leadership.



## Challenge of Egypt Certified Delivery Partner

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