the project management training company

FACT SHEET

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SIMULATION SIMULTRAIN®

STS Sauter Training & Simulation SA
Av. de la Gare 10
1003 Lausanne
Switzerland

part of the hemsley group

www.sts.ch
office@sts.ch
+41 21 510 11 50

FEATURES

SimulTrain® is a multi-media Project Management simulator, which allows the trainees to experience – within a few hours – typical situations and challenges encountered in most projects. Each team of 3-4 participants runs, in the role of its Project Manager, a midsize project in an accelerated mode.

Various situations arise during the simulation, which require fast decision-making. However, decisions must take into account all the **project parameters**, i.e. **cost**, **schedule**, **quality**, but also the **human factors**. SimulTrain® allows users to integrate the **Key Performance Indicators** of a project as a whole and understand their interaction.

The debriefing and analysis of the performance indicators and project status report in plenary session enable the comparison of the different strategies chosen by the teams, and favour emulation and exchange - key components of the quality and efficiency of the simulation.

With its intuitive and user-friendly interface, SimulTrain® is an engaging training tool that provides participants with an environment close to reality. It drastically increases both the attractiveness and efficiency of project management training.



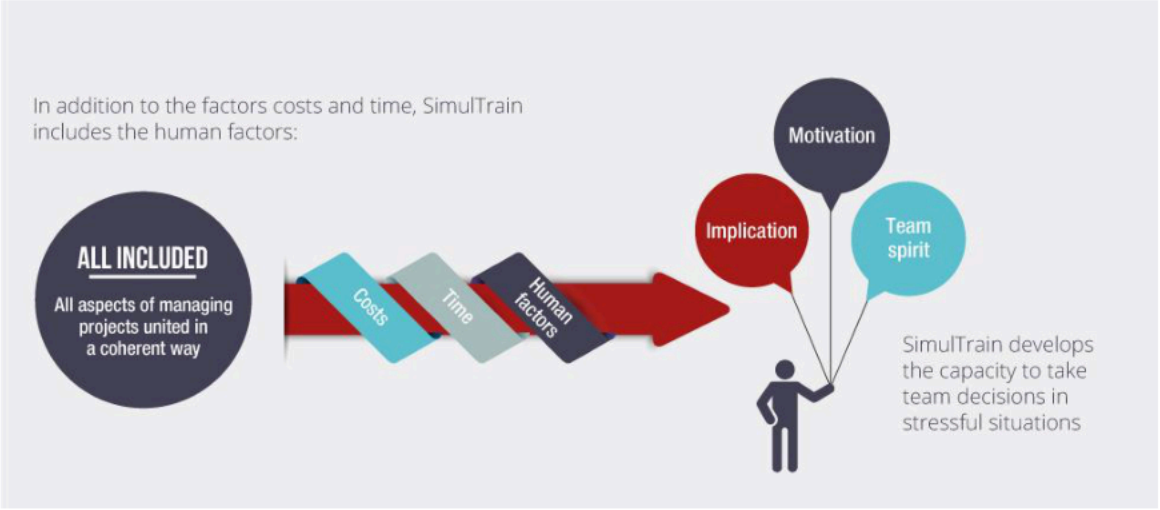
With SimulTrain®, the users:

- Are immerged in a realistic project environment, with its related stress and unpredictable situations;
- Learn to work in teams, consulting and taking decisions in a short time frame;

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- Note the impact of their decisions on the key performance indicators and the success of the project.

One of the characteristics of SimulTrain® is that it enables the training participants to experiment in an interactive and lively form the impact on the Key Performance Indicators - KPI (cost, deadline, quality, risk and motivation). The training participants are able to assess the direct impact of their decisions on these indicators and understand the direct relation between the KPIs through the simulation.



They also receive feedback and explanations on their decisions and interactions with the simulator that enables them to understand how to influence each indicator.

SCENARIOS & OPTIONS

SimulTrain® includes a variety of **scenarios** – type of projects – that can be chosen according to the training environments:

- E-com — Development of an online service
- Product — Development of a high-tech product
- Oil & Gas — Plan Refinery Construction
- Marketing — Introduction of a product to the market
- Event — Organization of a tournament
- Reorganization — Redesign a company structure

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Beneath the standard functions, SimulTrain® offers several options which a trainer can chose. These **options** make the project management simulation more or less complex:

- **Risk Management**: The participants have to deal with risks that may jeopardize the project throughout the project.
- **Plan Changes**: After the first period, the scope of the project changes – upon order of the management. Therefore, some activities are cancelled, some project team members are no longer at disposal and the project budget is cut.
- **Difficulty Level**: For the performance indexes “Budget”, “Schedule”, “Quality”, and Motivation”, the levels can either be increased or decreased to make the simulation more or less challenging.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

When using SimulTrain®, participants work in groups of four people on each simulator. **They learn in three ways**:

- **from the simulation itself**: whenever the groups make a decision, the simulated people involved in the project will react and give feedback.
- **from the inevitable interactions** that take place within their four-person group. Each person may play very specific roles which unavoidably triggers conflict.
- **from debriefing** – which is an important integral part of the simulation - with the trainer and profound analysis of improvement fields.

SimulTrain® trains project management technical and behavioral competencies. In particular, SimulTrain® trains the following **technical competencies**:

- using project management tools for **planning** and **monitoring** progress,
- identifying the project team with agreed roles and responsibilities as well as **allocating adequate resources** to activities,
- monitoring project status, **communicating** it to **stakeholders**,
- identifying, **analyzing**, planning responses, monitoring and **controlling** project **risks**,
- **managing human** and **material resources**,
- verifying that **quality** is monitored and controlled,
- **managing changes** in a professional manner.

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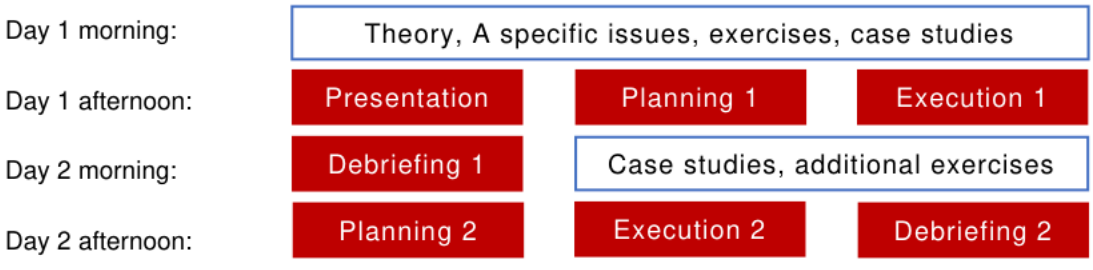
In addition, the project management simulation focuses also on **behavioral skills**:

- **leading** the projects and teams to success,
- taking accountability for delivering the project,
- **creating a team** environment that promotes **high performance**,
- **motivating** and **mentoring** project team members,
- effectively resolving issues and **solving problems**,
- **managing conflicts** in a professional manner,
- **actively listening**, understanding, and responding to **stakeholders**,
- accurately **reporting** on project status.

INTEGRATION IN A TRAINING

SimulTrain® is conceived as group-based training tool, ideally integrated in classroom training activities with several groups working simultaneously on the simulation. The competitive aspects between the groups, but also the debriefing with an experienced trainer are integral key elements of simulation and of the learning journey of the participants.

For a two-day training, we recommend the standard version – the simulation with 2 periods. A two-period simulation gives enough time to embed the simulation in a workshop. In a typical workshop, the trainer introduces shortly to the major elements of project management theory, deals with specific issues that are related to the participants' experiences and conducts case studies and/or exercises in addition to the simulation.



This model of a workshop structure needs to be adapted to the curriculum of the training program. It is up to the trainer to integrate the project management simulation in its training program in a way that makes sense. It is recommended that the trainees have already a sound understanding of project management and understand the particular terms in project management.

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DEBRIEFING

The debriefing sessions are integral parts of the simulation and the learning journey of the training participants. They allow to rise certain issues which the learners struggled with and to look into it in more details. In addition, they give the opportunity to the training participants to practice their presentation skills and reporting competencies.

The trainer can set up this element according to the training needs. The trainer, however, must assure that any mistakes that had a negative effect on the indicators are raised and discussed in a way that allows the teams to correct them in the following simulation period.

For the debriefing, the trainer and the learners have access to the dashboard with a variety of indicators as well as on the “Learning Points”. The simulation software generates – at the end of the simulation – a report that gives an overview of the scores achieved and summarizes the points for which the team took a good solution as well as the items in which the team members could improve. It also lists the decisions taken during the simulation and shows the answer chosen by the team – a good basis for discussion in the plenary.

TRAIN – THE – TRAINER

If you are interested in using SimulTrain, we require you to participate in a free Online Train-the-Trainer session of about 2 hours. These sessions are scheduled regularly. You can find the dates **here**.

DEMO VERSION

For further information on SimulTrain and to test the demo version, please visit our **website**.

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