Hanken Project course in Corporate Social Responsibility and Humanitarian Logistics - spring 2025

Hanken School of Economics has for over ten years organized an annual project course, where students work in groups of 3-4 on a project for real case organization. Throughout the years we have had a wide range of different organizations represented: multi-national corporations, start-ups, NGOs, research institutes and so on. What all projects have in common is a focus on questions related to environmental and/or social sustainability. For projects with a humanitarian logistics focus, the case should be focused on widely defined humanitarian/emergency response themes. Participating as a case organization is free of charge.

Course aim: To immerse students in questions related to social and environmental responsibility by using, analyzing, and solving real-world problems provided by case organizations.

> *"The project filled a gap for us in our knowledge and was something concrete and which could be practically used. The results were used in different management meeting, sparking discussions and curiosity. Overall, being involved in the Project Course helped us along the way in building our own understanding of sustainability issues"*
>
> -Mentor from Danske Bank

Course description

The course is a master's level course of 10 ECTS and is taught in English. The students work in **groups of 3-4 persons** with a project for an organization involving 200h of work per student (**100h for delivering the project to the organization**, 100h for the academic part, including contact hours, presentations, and the final report). The course runs annually each spring and aims to give students a chance to gather valuable working experience and knowledge about a specific issue in relation to social and/or environmental responsibility by allowing students to work on a project for a case organization.

The course is aimed at master's level business students and Corporate Responsibility (CR) module students who already have basic knowledge of humanitarian logistics and CSR. The project course participants are a mixed cohort ensuring diversity in background, knowledge, and education. The CR module is a 2-year study module offered to a group of 40 external participants belonging again to a mixed cohort of students and working professionals.

The student group is supported by 1-2 academic mentors throughout the project.

The next course iteration will be held January-May 2025.

Participating as a case organization

The project course has been very valuable for both students and organizations throughout the years, based on the feedback we receive, and we are sure that this will continue to be the case.

Below, you can see an approximate timeline for the course, as it has been in previous years (we reserve the right to make changes to the 2025 iteration).

Course timeline 2025

October 31st: 1. Organization project briefs have been decided and agreed upon by organization contacts and the course examinator. The brief outlines the project idea and students choose which project they want to work on based on the brief. 2. Organization mentors have been chosen by the case organization (each organization needs to have 1-3 mentors that serve as contact-points for the student group and the course administration).

November 1st - November 30th: The application to the course is open. Students choose their top 3 projects that they would want to work on.

December 10th: Students have been allocated to their project and organization mentors and the student group are put in contact by the course administration.

January 21st -23rd: Project course kick-off. The mentors from each organization present their project for the whole course. The student group and organization mentors have their first meeting directly after the kick-off presentation by the mentors.

January-May: Student group and organization mentors meet minimum of 3 times between January and beginning of May.

May 1st: Student final deliverable is ready. The final deliverable to the organization is often a report with literature review but can also be something else.

May 5th – 7th: Student group presents their final project and findings at the course final presentations. 30min – 10min for feedback

May 14th: The organization mentor(s) fill out the course feedback form (takes 5 min) and grade the students.

This is a general outline of the course timeline for case organizations (students will have several other sessions to participate in and deliver). The details can be discussed, and we are flexible with accommodating the needs of the case organizations so that participation is as fruitful to you as possible.