



*Enhancing VET for social impact: putting
social public procurement into practice*

Contract Management and Social Impact Monitoring

Module No 5

Malta Vocational
Training Curriculum



EUROPEAN CENTER
FOR SOCIAL FINANCE



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Unit 5.1: Introduction to Contract Lifecycle & Stakeholder Management

Unit 5.2: Financial Management & KPI Development

Unit 5.3: Social Impact Measurement & Evaluation

Unit 5.4: Conflict Resolution & Dispute Management

Unit 5.5: Integration – Putting It All Together

MODULE OVERVIEW (5-MINUTE INTRODUCTION)

Learning Outcomes:

- Navigate EU procurement legal requirements (Directive 2014/24/EU)
- Manage contracts professionally using recognized standards
- Measure social impact with GDPR compliance
- Resolve conflicts using evidence-based approaches
- Position yourself as a recognized Social Procurement Expert

Duration: 9 lessons across 5 units = ~6.75 hours

Format: Interactive, case study-based, EU-grounded

Key Concept: Contract management is not just delivery—it's active relationship management, professional monitoring, and strategic problem-solving.

Sources: EU Social Economy Action Plan (2021); Directive 2014/24/EU; OECD Best Practices

Why EU Legal Framework Matters?



Key Documents:

- Directive 2014/24/EU – EU procurement law (Articles 67–76 on social clauses)
- EU Social Economy Action Plan (2021) – Identifies training for SPEs as priority
- GDPR 2016/679 – Data protection in impact measurement
- Directive 2013/11/EU – Alternative dispute resolution
- OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement (2023)

UNIT 5.1 OVERVIEW

Introduction to Contract Lifecycle & Stakeholder Management

Learning Outcomes:

- *Describe the six phases of contract lifecycle*
- *Identify key stakeholders and their roles*
- *Understand contract scope and technical requirements*
- *Identify top contract risks*

Unit Duration: 90 minutes (2 × 45-min lessons)

Lessons: 5.1.1 Lifecycle Overview | 5.1.2 Stakeholders & Risk

Legal Context: Directive 2014/24/EU Articles 18, 67–76

Unit 5.1: Introduction to Contract Lifecycle & Stakeholder Management

Contract Lifecycle: Planning to Learning

Planning & Scoping (Weeks 1-4)

Capacity assessment, needs analysis, due diligence

Drafting & Negotiation (Weeks 4-8)

Bid preparation, contract review, legal check

Signature & Formalization (Week 8)

Approvals, kickoff meeting, systems setup

Performance & Monitoring (Weeks 9-52)

Service delivery, tracking, reporting

Closure/Extension (Weeks 50-52)

Final deliverables, financial close-out, evaluation

Lessons Learned (Weeks 52+)

Debrief, documentation, knowledge capture

KEY CONCEPT BOX:

Contracts are not static—they evolve through six interconnected phases requiring active management at each stage.

5.1.1 Contract lifecycle overview



Who's Involved? Stakeholder Roles & Responsibilities



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Key Stakeholders:

-  **Contracting Authority** – sets requirements, monitors, pays
-  **Service Users/Beneficiaries** – receive services, provide feedback
-  **External Monitor/Auditor** – verifies compliance, collects data
-  **Funding Body** – policy oversight, reports
-  **Subcontractors/Partners** – contribute services, coordinate
-  **Front-line Staff** – deliver services, collect data
-  **Finance Department** – tracks costs, manages payments

Successful contracts require clear role clarity and regular stakeholder communication.

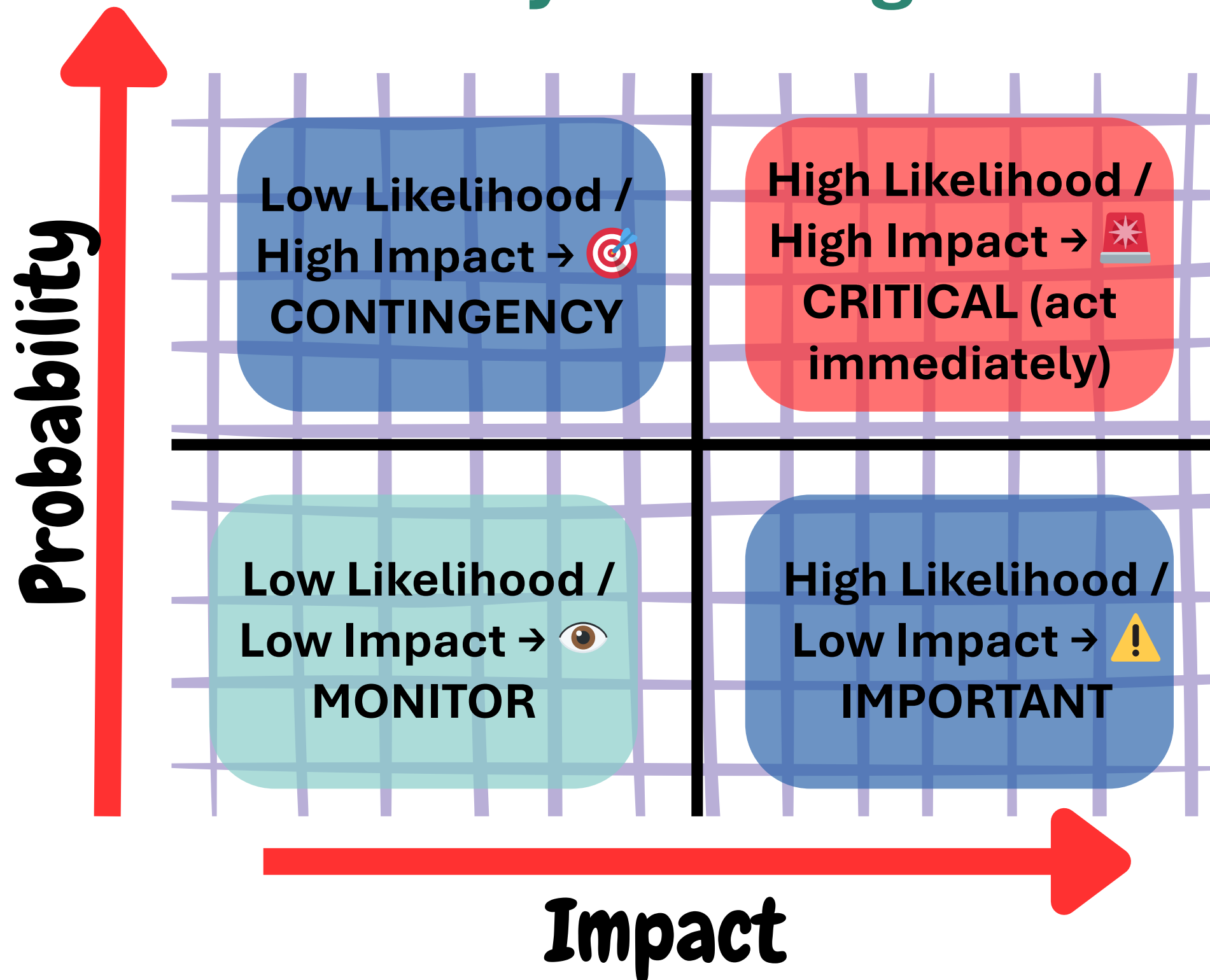
What's in a Contract? Understanding Scope & Requirements

Key Elements Every Contract Must Define:

- ✓ ☐ Service description and objectives (aligned with EU social clauses if applicable)
- ✓ ☐ Target beneficiaries and volume (e.g., "100 unemployed persons trained")
- ✓ ☐ Quality standards and technical specification (Directive 2014/24/EU Article 18)
- ✓ ☐ Timeline and milestones
- ✓ ☐ Budget and payment terms
- ✓ ☐ Performance indicators (KPIs)
- ✓ ☐ Social and environmental requirements (if reserved contract under Article 67)
- ✓ ☐ Data protection and GDPR compliance

Clear, specific contract scope prevents misunderstandings and enables effective monitoring.

Early Warning: Identifying Top Contract Risks



COMMON CONTRACT RISKS:

- Staff turnover or capacity gaps
- Payment delays
- Beneficiary recruitment shortfalls
- Budget constraints
- Market changes affecting service delivery
- Key stakeholder conflicts

Proactive risk identification and mitigation prevent small problems from becoming crises.

Contract Lifecycle: What You Need to Know

CONTENT (Checkmarks + Reflection Question)

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- ✓ Contracts have six phases requiring active management
- ✓ Success requires clear stakeholder roles and communication
- ✓ Contract scope must be specific, measurable, and aligned with EU requirements
- ✓ Early risk identification prevents crises
- ✓ Professional contract management is a legal requirement (Directive 2014/24/EU)

REFLECTION QUESTION:

"In your organization, which contract phase do you find most challenging?"

Financial Management & KPI Development

Money matters. Learn to manage budgets and measure performance like a professional.

Learning Outcomes:

- **LO 2.1: Develop realistic budgets aligned with contract value**
- **LO 2.2: Define SMART KPIs for financial and output monitoring**
- **LO 2.3: Create and interpret KPI dashboards**
- **LO 2.4: Understand financial reporting obligations**

Unit Details:

Duration: 90 minutes (2 × 45-min lessons)

Lessons: 5.2.1 Budget Planning | 5.2.2 KPI Definition & Dashboard

Legal Context: EU Structural Funds Framework; OECD Principle 4; Directive 2014/24/EU Article 86

Building a Realistic Contract Budget

Budget Structure

 Personnel Costs

Salaries, benefits, training

 Operations Costs

Rent, utilities, communications

 Program Costs

Materials, equipment, subcontractors

 Administrative

Management, compliance, audit

 Contingency

5-10% for unexpected costs

Cash Flow Basics

 Timing of expenditures vs. receipts

 Payment schedules from authority

 Working capital needs

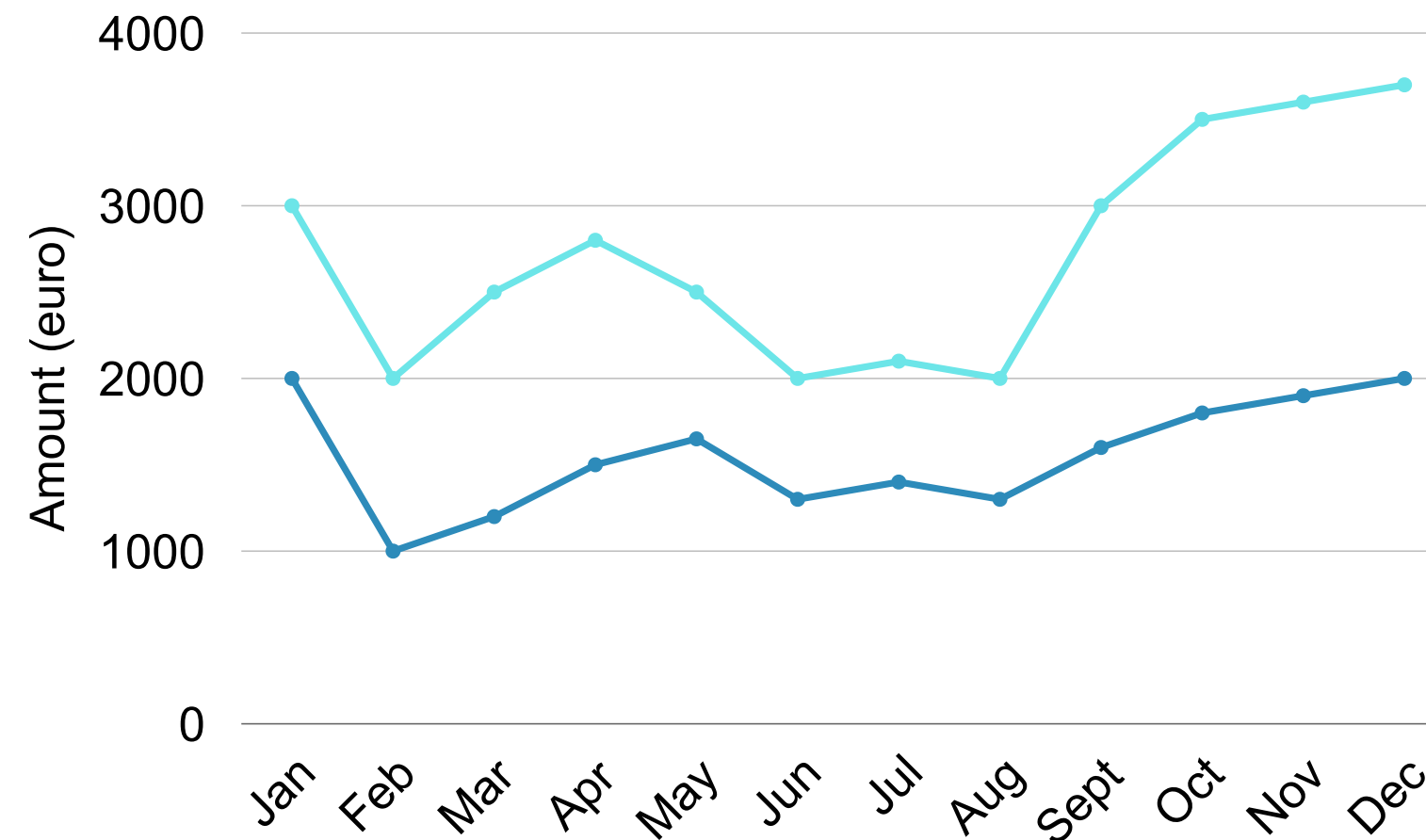
 Cash flow projections (monthly, quarterly)

Key Concept: Budgets must be realistic, justified, and aligned with contract deliverables.

Managing Money: When You Spend vs. When You Get Paid

12-month cash flow chart comparing income and expenses

Income Expenses



● Common Challenge:
Authority pays quarterly,
but you must pay staff
monthly.

✓ Solution:
Reserve working capital • Arrange
credit line • Request advance
payments

Practical Tips: Request advances • Plan invoicing schedule • Maintain contingency reserve • Communicate early with authority



Cash flow management is critical for organizational survival during contracts.



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Key Performance Indicators: The SMART Framework

S – SPECIFIC

Clear definition, no ambiguity

M – MEASURABLE

Quantifiable with available data

A – ATTAINABLE

Realistic within project scope and resources

R – RELEVANT

Connected to program objectives

T – TIME-BOUND

Clear deadline for measurement

✗ WEAK: "Improve participant outcomes"

✓ SMART: "80% of 100 trained participants will secure employment within 6 months"

✗ WEAK: "Reduce costs"

✓ SMART: "Maintain cost per trainee at €2,500 ±5% variance"

Key Concept: Vague KPIs are useless. SMART KPIs drive professional contract management

OUTPUT vs. OUTCOME KPIs – KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

OUTPUT KPIs (What you deliver – easy to measure) 📊	OUTCOME KPIs (Change in participants – harder to measure) ✨
Number of participants trained: 100	% of participants with improved job skills: 70%
Training hours delivered: 64	% of participants placed in employment (6 months post-training): 60%
Completion rate: 85%	Average income increase: €5,000/year
Cost per person served: €2,500	Participant satisfaction: 4.2/5.0

Contracting authorities increasingly want **OUTCOME KPIs**, not just outputs. This shows real impact.

VISUALIZING PERFORMANCE – THE DASHBOARD

KPI	Target	Actual	Trend	Status
Participants trained	100	55	55%	●
Completion rate	85%	92%	↑	●
Job placement	60%	52%	87%	●
Satisfaction score	4.5/5	4.2/5	→	●

Key Concept: A good dashboard lets you see contract health at a glance. Monthly review is standard EU practice.

KPI NAME & DEFINITION

What are you measuring?

TARGET

What did you commit to?

ACTUAL

Current performance vs. target

TREND

↑ Improving | → Stable | ↓ Declining

STATUS

● On track | ● At risk | ● Off track



KEEPING TRACK – MONITORING SCHEDULE & REPORTS

MONITORING FREQUENCY

MONTHLY

Internal dashboard updates for your team

QUARTERLY

Formal report to contracting authority with supporting data

ANNUAL

Comprehensive evaluation and financial statement

WHAT TO MONITOR:

- ✓ Financial metrics: spending vs. budget, cost per unit
- ✓ Output metrics: volume, quality, delivery timeline
- ✓ Operational metrics: staffing, equipment, systems
- ✓ Risk indicators: early warning signs

Key Concept: Regular monitoring enables early intervention when things go off track.

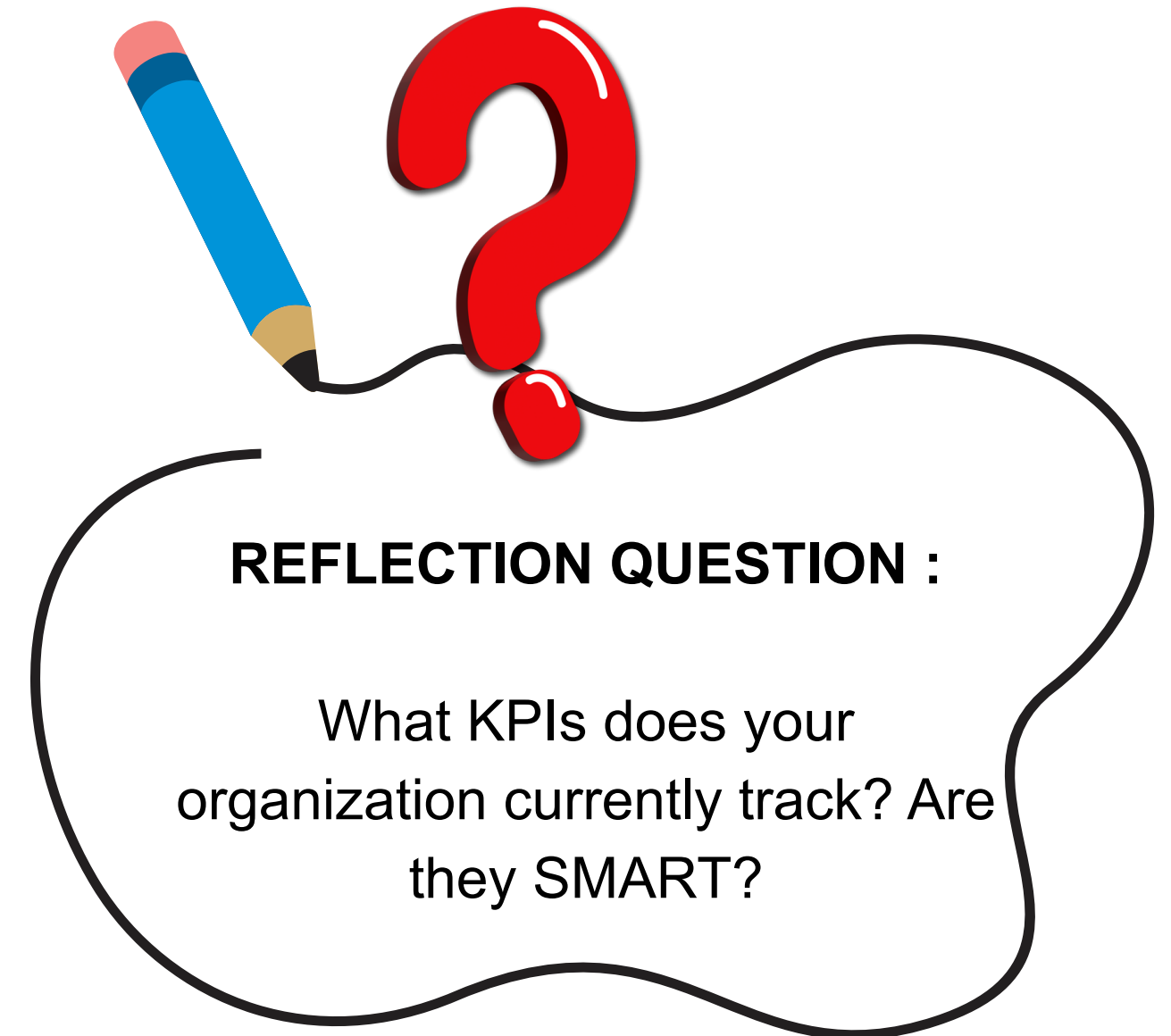
REPORTING TEMPLATE:

1. SUMMARY (1 page)
Key metrics, status, action items
2. DETAILED DATA
Tables and charts
3. NARRATIVE EXPLANATION
Variances, lessons learned
4. ATTACHMENTS
Supporting documents, receipts, evidence

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT – KEY TAKEAWAYS

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- ✓ Realistic budgets aligned with contract scope
- ✓ Cash flow planning prevents financial crises
- ✓ SMART KPIs drive professional monitoring
- ✓ Output AND outcome KPIs show real impact
- ✓ Regular monitoring (monthly/quarterly) is non-negotiable
- ✓ Dashboards enable quick, visual health assessment



REFLECTION QUESTION :

What KPIs does your organization currently track? Are they SMART?

Unit 5.3: Social Impact Measurement & Evaluation

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- ✓ LO 3.1: Develop a theory of change for contract activities
- ✓ LO 3.2: Design outcome and impact indicators aligned with SDGs
- ✓ LO 3.3: Plan data collection methods in GDPR compliance
- ✓ LO 3.4: Use impact measurement frameworks (SROI, IRIS, ToC)

UNIT DETAILS:

Duration: 90 minutes

Lessons: 5.3.1 Theory of Change | 5.3.2 Data Collection & Frameworks



 *Prove your impact. Learn to measure social change like a professional.*

The Three Levels of Change: Understanding the Difference



OUTPUTS

What you deliver?

100 trained | 50 jobs created | 10 mentors hired

Timeline: Immediate
Measurement: **Easy** ✓



OUTCOMES

How people change?

70% improved skills | 80% more confident

Timeline: 3–6 months
Measurement: **Moderate** ✓✓



IMPACTS

Community change

Lower unemployment | Reduced poverty

Timeline: 1–3 years
Measurement: **Difficult** ✓✓✓

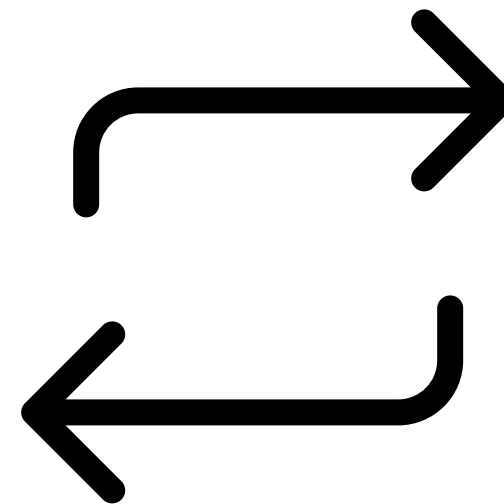
Key Concept: All three levels matter. If outputs are poor, outcomes won't happen. If outcomes aren't sustained, impacts won't materialize.



Your Roadmap from Activities to Impact: Theory of Change

THEORY OF CHANGE FORMULA

IF we do these **ACTIVITIES**
→ **THEN** participants achieve these **OUTCOMES**
→ **WHICH** lead to these **IMPACTS**
→ **BECAUSE** of these **ASSUMPTIONS**



Key Concept: A good theory of change is testable. You can identify which assumptions might be wrong and adjust.

Example: Job Training Program

Activities: 40-hr training + 8-hr job coaching

Outputs: 100 trained | 80 complete | 50 placed

Outcomes: €5,000 income increase | More confident

Impacts: Lower unemployment | Community resilience

Assumptions: Jobs available | Employers hire | Wages improve well-being

Making Impact Measurable: From Vision to Indicators

Impact Indicator: A specific, measurable indicator that shows progress toward your hoped-for impact

Process

1. Define your hope-for impact vision
2. Break into measurable outcomes
3. Select SDG-aligned indicators
4. Specify baseline, target, method

Key Concept: Good impact indicators are aligned with international frameworks (SDGs) so your impact is comparable across organizations and countries.

EXAMPLE – EMPLOYMENT TRAINING :

HOPED-FOR IMPACT:

Reduce community unemployment and increase economic opportunity

KEY OUTCOMES:

- Participants gain job skills
- Participants secure employment
- Participants earn sustainable income

IMPACT INDICATORS (aligned with SDG 8 – Decent Work):

- SDG 8.5.1: Average earnings of employed trainees vs. non-trainees
- SDG 8.8.1: Employment rate of program graduates (target: 60%)
- SDG 1.1.1: % of participants escaping poverty (target: 40%)

Legal Requirement: Protecting Data Privacy (GDPR)

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation, EU 2016/679) - the law protecting personal data in Europe.

WHY IT MATTERS?

When you collect survey data, interview participants, or track employment outcomes, you're collecting personal data.
GDPR compliance is **MANDATORY**.

LAWFUL BASIS (Article 6)

You must have permission to collect data:

- Consent
- Contract
- Legal obligation

 **TRANSPARENCY (Article 13)** You must tell participants:

- What data you're collecting
- Why you're collecting it
- How you'll use it
- How long you'll keep it
- Their rights (access, deletion)

SECURITY (Article 32)

You must protect data:

- Encrypted storage
- Limited access (passwords)
- Secure deletion procedures

Tools for Measuring Social Value: SROI, IRIS, Theory of Change

Aspect	SROI (Social Return on Investment)	IRIS (Standardized Indicators)	Theory of Change (Logic Model)
What it measures	Financial value of social outcomes	Progress on social and environmental goals	Whether your logic model worked
Typical formula/structure	Total social value ÷ program cost = SROI ratio	Menu of 100+ indicators (e.g., employment, education, health, environment)	Track activities → outputs → outcomes; test assumptions
Example indicator	€500,000 ÷ €100,000 = 5:1 ratio (For every €1 invested, €5 of social value created)	% of employees earning living wage	Did participants who completed training actually get jobs?
Best use case	Demonstrating cost-effectiveness to funders	Social enterprises wanting comparable metrics	Understanding WHY impact happened or didn't
Data & complexity	Moderate (requires monetization of outcomes)	Moderate (standardized but requires adaptation)	Moderate–High (requires qualitative & quantitative data)

How to Gather Impact Data: Methods & Tools

METHOD 1 – QUANTITATIVE

Pre/Post surveys: Questionnaire at start and end of program

Administrative data: Track employment, earnings from records

Comparison groups: Compare trainees vs. non-trainees

Follow-up surveys: Contact participants 6 months post-program

METHOD 2 – QUALITATIVE

Interviews: 1-on-1 conversations with participants

Focus groups: Group discussion with 6–8 participants

Case studies: Detailed story of one participant's journey

Observation: Watch program in action

METHOD 3 – MIXED

METHODS (Both Combined, Most Powerful):

60% employment rate (quantitative)

+ Video testimonial from participant (qualitative)

= Powerful evidence

Social Impact Measurement: What You Need to Know

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- ✓ Understand outputs, outcomes, and impacts—they're different
- ✓ Theory of change is your logic model from activities to impact
- ✓ GDPR compliance is mandatory when collecting personal data
- ✓ Choose measurement framework based on your audience: SROI for funders, ToC for learning
- ✓ Combine quantitative + qualitative data for powerful evidence
- ✓ Build evaluation into program from Day 1
- ✓ Align indicators with EU SDG Framework for comparability



REFLECTION QUESTION :

What social impact does your organization create? How do you currently measure it?



Unit 5.4: Conflict Management & Professional Resolution

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- ✓ LO 4.1: Recognize conflict signals and early intervention opportunities
- ✓ LO 4.2: Distinguish between positions and interests
- ✓ LO 4.3: Apply interest-based negotiation and mediation strategies
- ✓ LO 4.4: Navigate formal dispute resolution under EU law

UNIT DETAILS:

Duration: 90 minutes

Lessons: 5.4.1 Conflict Prevention & Early Intervention | 5.4.2 Negotiation & ADR



Conflicts happen. What matters is how quickly and professionally you address them.

Conflict Is Normal: Common Causes & Early Intervention

COMMON CAUSES OF CONTRACT CONFLICT:

- **Scope Creep**
Requirements change mid-contract without budget adjustment
- **Payment Delays**
Contracting authority delays payment; provider faces cash flow crisis
- **Performance Gaps**
Service doesn't meet agreed quality or volume standards
- **Stakeholder Miscommunication**
Different groups have different expectations
- **Resource Constraints**
Team changes, budget cuts, external shocks
- **Change Management**
New regulations, policy shifts, unforeseen circumstances

EARLY INTERVENTION CHECKLIST:

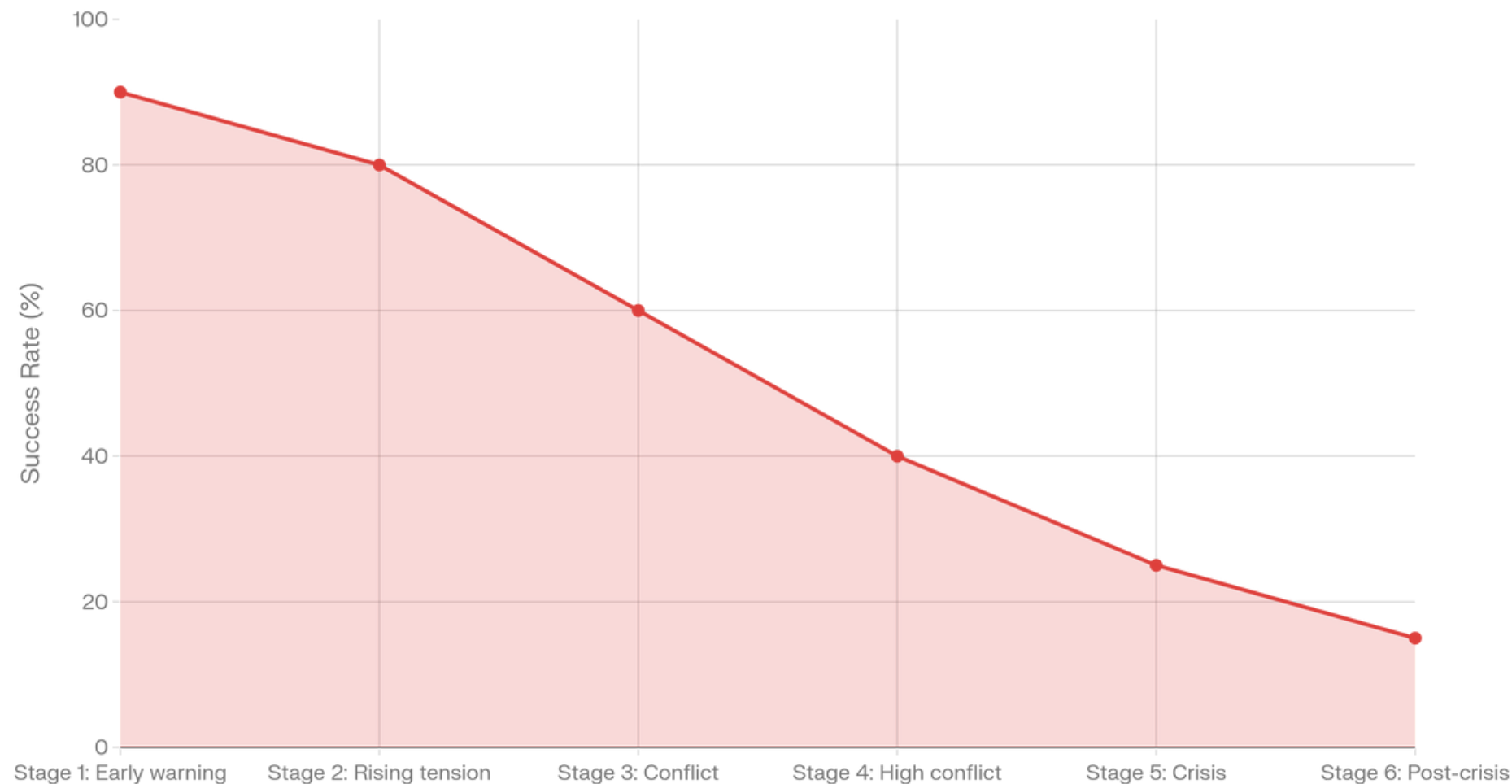
- ✓ Document the issue (email summary)
- ✓ Schedule 1-on-1 conversation with key stakeholder
- ✓ Listen first, explain second
- ✓ Propose 2–3 concrete solutions
- ✓ Agree on next steps and timeline
- ✓ Follow up in writing

Key Concept: Most conflicts start small. Early, informal conversation prevents escalation.

Conflict Escalation Curve: Intervention Success Rates

6-Stage Escalation Curve: Success Rates

Early intervention critical as resolution probability drops 83%



STAGE 1 – AWARENESS (Success rate: 90%)

Issue is noticed but not yet discussed

→ Informal conversation, clarification

STAGE 2 – DISCUSSION (Success rate: 80%)

Parties talk but haven't formalized complaint

→ Structured dialogue, problem-solving

STAGE 3 – DISAGREEMENT (Success rate: 60%)

Parties have conflicting positions stated in writing

→ Mediation, interest-based negotiation

STAGE 4 – ESCALATION (Success rate: 40%)

Issue goes to management/legal level

→ Formal negotiation, ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

STAGE 5 – LEGAL ACTION (Success rate: 20%)

Formal dispute filed; legal costs mount

→ Litigation, arbitration

STAGE 6 – BREAKDOWN (Success rate: 5%)

Relationship is damaged; contract may terminate

→ Termination clause, penalties

Interest-Based Negotiation: Position vs. Interest

5 STEPS TO INTEREST-BASED NEGOTIATION:

LISTEN & CLARIFY

Ask: "What's most important to you?" "Why?"

IDENTIFY SHARED INTERESTS

Look for common ground: "We both want success"

SEPARATE PEOPLE FROM PROBLEM

Attack the issue, not the person: "Let's solve this together"

GENERATE OPTIONS

"Let's brainstorm 3–5 possible solutions"

AGREE ON MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Document what you agreed to and timeline for review

POSITION VS. INTEREST:

POSITION (What they say):

"We're not paying for incomplete work."

INTEREST (Why they really care):

Quality assurance | Budget protection | Trust in supplier

INTEREST (What they really need):

Clear quality standards | Transparent reporting | Early warning if delays occur

INTEREST-BASED SOLUTION:

"Let's define measurable quality milestones and weekly progress reports so we catch issues early."



Key Concept: Behind every position is an interest.
Find it, and you find the solution.

Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Mediation: A neutral third party helps two parties find a mutually acceptable solution.



WHEN TO USE MEDIATION:

- Relationship is important (you'll continue working together)
- Both parties are willing to collaborate
- Issue is complex and involves multiple perspectives
- You want to preserve the relationship
- One party is unwilling to negotiate
- Legal violation is involved (may need arbitration/court)

MEDIATOR ROLE:

- ✓ Listens to both sides without judgment
- ✓ Clarifies positions and interests
- ✓ Suggests creative solutions
- ✓ Facilitates dialogue
- ✓ Helps draft agreement
- ⚠ Does NOT decide who is right or wrong

Aspect	ADR / Mediation	Litigation
Cost	€500–2,000	€5,000–50,000+
Time	1–3 months	1–3 years
Relationship	Often preserved	Often damaged
Confidentiality	Private	Public record
Control	Parties decide	Judge decides
Outcome	Win–win possible	One winner, one loser

Key Concept: Mediation costs money upfront but saves thousands € in legal fees and preserves relationships.

Conflict Protocol: 4 Steps from Prevention to Resolution

STEP 1 – PREVENTION (Week 1–4, Start of contract)

Actions:

- ✓ Define roles and responsibilities clearly in contract
- ✓ Establish communication schedule (weekly check-ins)
- ✓ Set clear performance standards and quality metrics
- ✓ Identify potential risks and mitigation strategies

STEP 2 – EARLY INTERVENTION (Week 4–8, If issue arises)

Actions:

- ✓ Schedule 1-on-1 conversation with affected party
- ✓ Document issue in email
- ✓ Propose 2–3 solutions
- ✓ Agree on action plan and timeline
- ✓ Set follow-up meeting

STEP 3 – ESCALATION (Week 8–12, If not resolved)

Actions:

- ✓ Schedule formal meeting with management + mediation
- ✓ Review contract terms and obligations
- ✓ Revisit interests (not just positions)
- ✓ Consider third-party mediator if needed
- ✓ Document agreement

STEP 4 – FORMAL RESOLUTION (Week 12+, If still unresolved)

Actions:

- ✓ Formal notice of dispute
- ✓ Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) or arbitration
- ✓ Legal review if necessary
- ✓ Documentation for potential court proceedings

Key Concept: Document everything. Early intervention resolves 80% of conflicts before escalation.

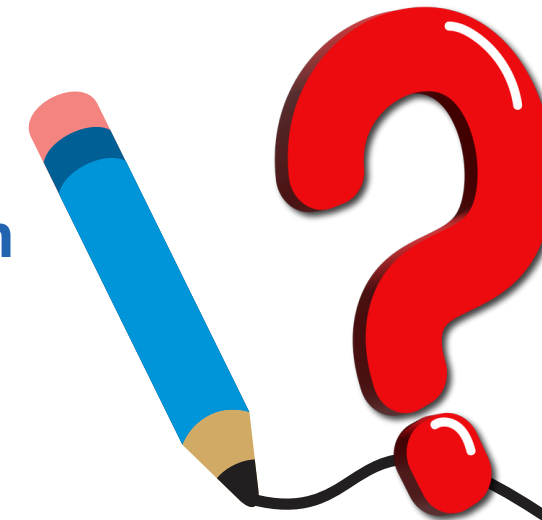
TEMPLATE – CONFLICT LOG:

Date: [____]
Issue: [____]
Parties: [____]
Action Taken: [____]
Target Resolution Date: [____]
Status: ● Resolved | ● In Progress | ● Escalated

Conflict Management: What You Need to Know

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- ✓ Most conflicts can be prevented with clear communication and documentation
- ✓ Early intervention (within weeks) has 80–90% success rate
- ✓ Listen to understand interests, not just positions
- ✓ Interest-based negotiation often finds win-win solutions
- ✓ Mediation is cheaper and faster than litigation
- ✓ Formal conflict protocol ensures systematic, professional response
- ✓ Directive 2013/11/EU requires ADR consideration in many disputes



REFLECTION QUESTION :

Tell about a conflict you've experienced in contract work. How was it resolved? What did you learn?

Your Foundation: Modules 1–5 Complete

You've built essential technical skills in contracts, finance, and impact measurement. Now you're ready to apply these competencies at scale—through strategic partnerships that amplify your reach.

One journey of 8 modules

✓ What You've Built

Module 1: SPP Foundations

Module 2: Legal & Regulations

Module 3: Enterprise Needs

Module 4: Bid Preparation

Module 5: Contracts & Impact

FOUNDATION PHASE



INFLUENCE PHASE



SYSTEMIC CHANGE

→ What's Ahead

Module 6: Partnerships

Module 7: Social Impact Assessment

Module 8: Advocacy

MODULE 5 SUMMARY – BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

UNIT 5.1 – CONTRACT LIFECYCLE & STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT

You learned 6 phases, stakeholder roles, contract scope, and risk management.

→ You can now manage contracts professionally from start to finish.

UNIT 5.2 – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & KPI DEVELOPMENT

You learned budgeting, cash flow planning, SMART KPIs, and dashboards.

→ You can now track financial performance and prevent crises.

UNIT 5.3 – SOCIAL IMPACT MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION

You learned theory of change, outcome/impact indicators, and GDPR compliance.

→ You can now prove the social value your programs create.

UNIT 5.4 – CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & PROFESSIONAL RESOLUTION

You learned conflict prevention, interest-based negotiation, and ADR strategies.

→ You can now resolve disputes professionally while preserving relationships.



REFLECTION QUESTION :

1. Which of the 4 competencies feels strongest for you? Which needs development?
2. What's one action you'll take in the next month to apply Module 5 learning?

Checkpoint: Are You Ready for Module 6?

Self-Assessment Reflection

✓ **Contract Management:**

Can you describe the 6 contract lifecycle phases?

✓ **Financial Stewardship:**

Could you create a SMART KPI dashboard?

✓ **Impact Measurement:**

Can you explain outputs vs. outcomes vs. impacts?

✓ **Conflict Resolution:**

Can you apply interest-based negotiation?

Module 6 shifts focus from **managing contracts** to **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**. You'll learn to:

- Identify cooperation models between sectors
- Develop sustainable, long-term relationships
- Apply collaborative management techniques
- Build trust across institutional boundaries