## 1 Project

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| **School** | School of Applied Management, Westminster Business School |
| **Name (Project Sponsor)** | Dr Phill McGowan |
| Position | Head of School |
| **Name (Project Lead and main contact)** | Dr Maria Christina Georgiadou |
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## 2 SCC bUDGET

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| **How much were you awarded in total?** | £150 x 7 = £1,050 (bursary for seven PG students) |
| Amount of grant for current year (2023/24) | £1,050 |

## 3 THE PROJECT

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| **Project Title** | Social Value of inclusive innovation and stakeholder engagement in built environment projects |
| **PROJECT SUMMARY**  *Please include a 200-word summary of your project.* | This project was also funded by a QHT Small Grant (2023-24). It examines the ‘social value’ of inclusive innovation and stakeholder engagement in delivering sustainable built environment projects (addressing UN Sustainable Development Goals 9, 10, 11 and 13). There is little evidence of inclusive, participatory stakeholder engagement at an early design stage. A key component is the stakeholder matrix, which helps to understand the main actors involved and how they should be engaged (methods, frequency, intensity). However, this is an outdated, industry-led approach which overlooks active input from communities and end-users (particularly ethnic minority groups, disabled and young people), with environmental, social and financial implications that can span generations (climate vulnerabilities, public health hazards, lack of accessibility, social exclusion, programme delays, costly retrofits, impacts on reputation).  The project seeks to provide Construction Studies students with a unique opportunity to develop their employability, problem-solving skills and gain professional experience in the areas of stakeholder engagement, inclusive innovation, and user-centric design by creating a novel learning laboratory between:   * Postgraduate students from the MSc Construction Project Management * Academic staff (Dr Maria Christina Georgiadou, Mr Sorin Zahan, Dr Afolabi Dania) * A non-academic partner (Dr Sarah Fitton, Aurora Engagements) * External industry professionals (stakeholders) from Dr Fitton’s (Aurora Engagements) clientele. |
| Project Start Date | October 2023 |
| Completion Date | 31 July 2024 |
| **PROJECT AIMS & OBJECTIVES**  Please show how the project aims & objectives for each year have been met. | Aurora Engagements Ltd (https://auroraengagements.co.uk/) is a consultancy specialising in social value and stakeholder engagement in the built environment. **Dr Georgiadou and Dr Fitton provided training to 7 MSc Construction Project Management students and a network of contacts and current projects from Dr Fitton’s clientele. The students were selected with an Expression of Interest via the Students as Co-Creators scheme.**  More specifically, **three multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted on 27th March (Westminster), 28th March (Manchester), and 25th June 2024 (Westminster).** These workshops aimed to engage students with industry professionals and examine various perspectives of inclusive stakeholder engagement in current built environment practice. 23 external stakeholders attended from organisations including Arup, the Environment Agency, The University of Westminster, the Open University, Orbital Economics, Useful Projects, Jacobs, East Hertfordshire Council, Buckinghamshire Council, Filip Advisory, HLM Architects, Deloitte, Viola Clause and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Liverpool. |
| **PROJECT IMPACT** | The 7 SAM PG students were engaged as active researchers (cocreators). Female students from all backgrounds (including two BAME students) were primarily sought to address the gender inequality in the construction industry. The seven students helped to gather evidence of collaborative, early stakeholder engagement processes, mapping the benefits this brings to projects and end-users.  Students were involved in delivering the three multistakeholder workshops and fieldwork activities. The students were involved in a discussion to co-design an enhanced stakeholder matrix fostering a more collaborative approach to stakeholder management. They also conducted a thorough literature review on current issues affecting stakeholder engagement in the UK construction industry.  Although the number of students might seem low, the University staff members involved in this project lead the built environment, sustainability, project management, and strategic project management modules at Levels **6 and 7** at the School of Applied Management. The staff have taken on board the findings to **enhance curriculum design and authentic assessment** of those modules. This project has also enabled the development of strong contacts with the industry for engagement on these modules through **case studies, site visits and authentic learning** opportunities in 2024/25. |
| **PROJECT EVALUATION** | The project produced significant findings on embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) practices in the built environment. This strategic area impacts Teaching and Learning, Research and Knowledge Exchange and Public/ Community Engagement across University, Colleges and Schools. |

Signed by

Dr Maria Christina Georgiadou

Date

30/07/2024