

Jennifer

Over several months in 2013 I was part of a returnee program and was taught about global learning, advocacy, the work of different charities and project management. The objective of the course was for each participant to start their own project or initiative with the tools they've learned in class. I had chosen to start a community garden in my neighbourhood where people from my area could plant, harvest and eat their own food as well as learn about sustainable gardening together.

The tools taught in the course were helpful for the endeavour. When it came to planning, I specifically remember the Gantt-Chart as a tool for time planning being immensely useful. So much so that I still use it to this day. Basically, whenever I have a lot on in my private life or I have to make plans for professional tasks, I draw a Gantt-Chart for it.

There was a steep learning curve when I started working with the tools. At first, they were rather abstract and it seemed absurd to invest all that time to fill in these charts and tables instead of getting "actual work" done. Half way through the planning phase I realised how important this step was and that the phrase "fail to plan and you plan to fail" could not be any more to the point.