# Universitatea Tehnică a Moldovei

Android Application for Personal Budget Management
Aplicație Android pentru gestiunea bugetului personal

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# Abstract

# Rezumat

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# Introduction

Those first couple of years after university are an intensely action-packed, exciting time. The students have finished school, they've made plans to move out of their parents' house, and they've started a career and are getting paid. Maybe not as much as they'd like, and maybe not as much as some of their friends are making, but they're finally starting to see some cash roll in. Actually here is the beginning of that delicate time, beginning of the life as an adult, and it is the moment when you are finally in control of your money. The beginning of the financial life is no less delicate, and your wealth in your thirties and forties will be mainly determined by the financial decisions make right after university. A common problem encountered by young people at this time is wrong money management, this is a time when the desire for independence combined with optimism about the future drives everything. So, here appears the need of having more control over money, and a mobile application which will scan all kind of receipts and will make a kind of statistics of all expenditures accumulated may be will be the best choice of everyone who will care about the tracking budget correctly.

At the moment there a lot of applications helping you to track your expenditures but all of them require a manual input of all outgoings, which is somehow uncomfortable and requires more time to do. Also, given the fact that today's young generation is increasingly lazy and is always looking for easier solutions then such kind of application seems to be very attractive for them. Moreover it will be convenient to use it as well for older people, such as it's user interface will is very clear and simple to use for all groups of people in the society.

The main purpose of the Spending Tracker is scanning the receipts and showing a total amount spend by selecting a desired period, besides this it has a lot of other specific functionalities, such as displaying a statistic of expenditures by categories of stuff, categorizing expenditures by food, drinks, communal services, entertainment, fuel and others or categorizing by stores, advertising user when a product is cheaper in one store that in other, also it's possible to set a reminder of upcoming payment which serves people as a strong point in making themselves more responsible.

For users to access the application is necessary to install it on an Android platform, to open it and enjoy the user friendly interface which allows user to fast obtain a result. The first screen is a Welcome screen which informs users about the main functionalities of the application and get the user ready to start using it. Then the main fragment is opened which contains the total amount of expenditures for today by default, and the list of them. For scanning the receipt another action is required, by pressing the plus button there is opened another view which informs you about the process of scanning the receipt, for that is necessary to take a photo of the receipt, then all necessary information is stocked in a database for forward use. The application contains a spinner in the main fragment where can be fount all features: Spendings, Categories, Statistics and some History which includes the list with all the stuff and the amounts of them inside.

The current thesis consists of 4 chapters. Chapter 1 explains the application analysis, together with the general overview about the final product. A market research has been done, in order to define advantages/disadvantages of using the application and provide a better understanding over the resulting system. Chapter 2 contains a more complex description of the application, from archi-

tectural point of view. The application is examined from different approaches, using UML diagrams. Chapter 3 contains a brief explanation regarding the technologies used for the implementation process and how those technologies were linked to the application. Chapter 4 represents a review over the economical position of the product. It is presented an estimation of costs for developing the project and some economical prediction for the future use.

# 1 Description and Analysis of the Domain

Today,people live comfortable life,because of the favourable progress of technology. A lot of things that people had to do by themselves even few years ago become the work of machines today. It is essential to understand that during the next few decades or maybe sooner, the notion of work and whether it is handled by a human will be replaced by software, instead of using the ancient approach of doing everything individually. However someone believes that this progress make people lazy, saying people rely on machines too much, actually it makes human beings more active both physically and mentally, machines or high technology help people to complete tasks more quickly.

Time and money are those two key points which people are in rush for continuously and their right management are a priority nowadays. Here is the point of using technologies for repetitive operations, in such a way, mistakes are reduced or eliminated, and the time it takes to complete the task is greatly reduced. Diving deeper into the subject, an application which will manage the money and simultaneous will save the time by doing the action quickly is exactly what society needs.

Spending Tracker is a mobile application that comes with a solution for existing problem in the society, of managing right the budget and saving the time on doing that. Scheduling periodically the budget reviews and stick to a strict plan to bring the financial health of the family in line with the goals. So, such an application brings a lot of benefits to its users as:

- Gives control over user's money;
- Accelerates financial goals;
- Helps in organizing spending and savings;
- Enables saving for expected and unexpected costs;
- Enables to produce extra money
- Aligns priorities;
- Builds new habits;

# 1.1 The workflow of the system

In order to be able to access the Spending Tracker application, a user should first of all install it on an Android platform, which is made simply by pressing install button in Android Play Store. Once the application is opened, a Welcome screen is displayed. The Welcome screen serves as an introduction point for users such as there, in a pager are described the basic futures of the application, in such a way user is getting ready to use the application. Then by pressing start button, the main view is opened which contains the basic information about the expenditures of default today date. If to expend the spinner from the left top corner then can be observed the lists of all the features which the application offer to use.

The application itself offers some statistics about the amounts spend on different categories of stuff in different stores. User can see on what product he spends most and receive some advices

as an alert if it's case to save on something. The next action which can be performed is scanning of receipts which is made by pressing the bottom right corner plus button which opens another view with all necessary information about scanning the receipt. It's necessary to press another bottom button "TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR RECEIPT" which starts the phone video camera and capture a photo for forward use. After capturing when clicking "OK" button for storing data, an alerting windows may appear in case one product is cheaper in the current store than in others. Another moment that gives an additional credit to the discussed product is the fact that the user can choose the period for showing the total amount spend, it's possible to see amount for today, for the week or an entire month. Assuming that project is in its early development stage, a lot of useful functionalities are going to be added further.

# 1.2 Similar products on the market

The idea of creating the discussed application came first of all from the society needs. Often are tackled subjects like saving for the future, paying off debt and protecting what people have got and everyone is complaining about lack of knowledge in how to do all of enumerated actions.

Spending is highly individual stuff. Beyond the golden rule—spend less than you earn—it's hard to be prescriptive because expenditures are the result of so many individual decisions, many of which feel not significant as people make them. So, in order to solve the frequently asked questions by the people "to spend on this" or "don't spend on that", today exists plenty of mobile and web applications which try somehow to track people's outflows.

Assuming that, in order to create a good software, it is necessary to make a market research and find similar solutions to the problems that are being solved by that software, making a connection between the system to be developed and the missing features in the existing similar applications. The Receipt Scanner application was inspired from another existing ones but with lack of the basic functionality - automated scanner of receipt through the phone video camera, and storing all the content of receipt in a digital text which allows to perform a lot of actions on it forward. According a Forbes research [1] almost all of existing similar applications require a manual input of the expenditures, which is somehow inconvenient and requires more time to do.

If to analyse some actual examples of such applications, can be observed that all of them require a manual input, besides this they have a lot of other nice functionalities which can be used as well for the receipt scanner further.

**Dollarbird** - Add past or future income and expenses to a calendar that calculates the impact on people balance, as well as spending by category. The basic features are:

- Price: Free

Links to accounts: No

- Manual input: Yes

- Available on: iOS, Android

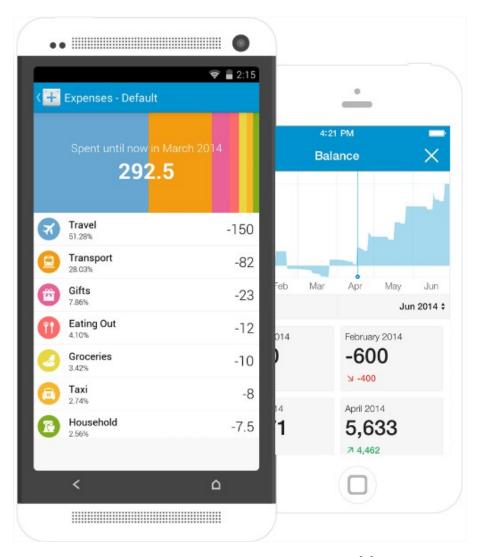


Figure 1.1 – Dollarbird Application, [6]

**Goodbudget** - Recreates envelope budgeting of yesteryear for the digital world. Set a budget for each category and spend from that designated category. When the money run out stop spending.Bellow are represent some basic features:

- Price: Free; \$45/year for unlimited categories, five years of history, to sync up to five devices

- Links to accounts: No

- Manual input: Yes

- Available on: iOS, Android

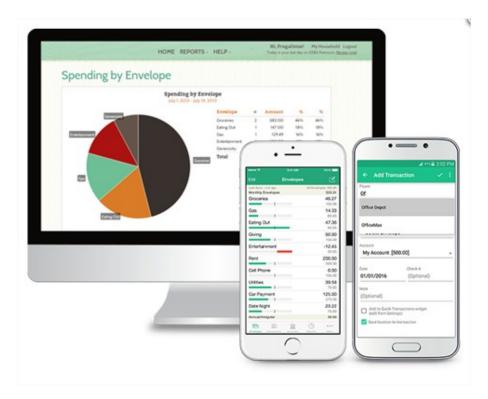


Figure 1.2 – Goodbudget application, [7]

**mvelopes** - Like GoodBudeget, mvelopes is a spin on classic envelope budgeting but with account integration. Some basic features are enumerated bellow:

 Price: Free; \$95/year to link unlimited accounts and to create more than 25 envelopes, as well as for a debt management tool

– Links to accounts: Yes

- Manual input: Yes

- Available on: iOS, Android

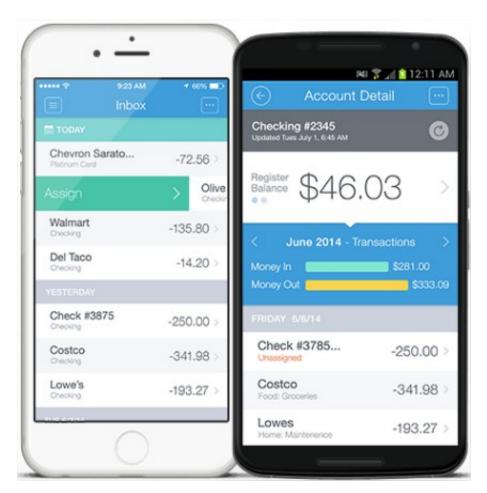


Figure 1.3 – Myelopes Application, [8]

So existing applications on market can serve as a prototype of the Receipt Scanner, with some improvement in that area of automating the process of manual input.

# 1.3 The development environment

Building an Android application comes down to two major skills or languages: Java and Android. Java is the language used in Android, but the Android part surround learning XML for the design of the application, learning the concepts of Android, and using the concepts programmatically with Java. The Mobile Vision Text API gives a powerful and reliable Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capability that works with most Android devices, that's why this is exactly technology which is used for recognizing easily all the text from a receipt.

When writing an Android application, there are some primary points which need to be taken in consideration:

Describing and modelling the application's domain which represents the universe of the application is the key point before starting. In this case, the domain represents an application that would allow scanning the receipts and will return a budget report, weekly, monthly or even daily. At this point need to be established what's in it, how many views and actions contains the application and what is the relation between them. This is like modelling a database structure to keep the entities and their relationship.

- Specifying what can happen in this domain is another key point, it is necessary to identify all the possible scenarios or actions that the elements of the domain can participate in.
- Choosing the right IDE(Integrated Development Environment) is not less important point. The most common IDE for Android development and that used for the current project is named Android Studio, it comes direct from the Google itself. It gives the main UI when code is entered, it highlights things which are wrong, offers suggestions and lets running and testing creations conveniently. It creates files, provides basic layouts and generally it saves a lot of time and effort.

# 1.3.1 Back-end implementation: Java for Android

For implementing the idea of Spending Tracker, Java for Android language was chosen. Such as the application from the start point was designed to be a mobile application, then there was not a better choice than to use Java, it's really the only option for native applications. It is one from the most popular programming languages, namely for its important core features as are:

- easy to learn and understand;
- designed to be a platform-independent and secure, using virtual machines;
- it's object oriented.

Android relies intensely on these Java fundamentals. The Android SDK includes many standard Java libraries as well as special Android libraries, as is Mobile Vision Text API for Android, the basic library used in developing Spending Tracker.

Spending Tracker application is based generally on OCR (Optical Character Recognition) used with Mobile Text API for Android. OCR gives a computer the ability to read text that appear in an image. The Mobile Vision Text API gives Android developers a powerful nd reliable OCR capability that works with most Android devices and won't increase the size of the application.[2]

Text recognition is the process of detecting text in images, video streams and recognizing the text contained in. When it is detected, than the recognizer determines the actual text in each block and segments into lines or words. The Text API recognize text in any Latin based language. [3]

In software applications, it is mostly required to store user's and application data locally, so that was stored for Spending Tracker as well. **Realm** is one of the way of storing data provided by Android SDK. Realm is a mobile database and a replacement for SQLite. Realm store data in a universal, table-based format by a C++ core. This is what allows Realm to allow data access from multiple languages as well as a range of ad hoc queries. Some key points for understanding better Realm are enumerated bellow:[9]

- faster than SQLite (up to 10x speed up over raw SQLite for normal operations)
- easy to use
- object conversion handled for user

- convenient for creating and storing data on the fly
- very responsive team

# 1.3.2 Model-View-Controller architecture

This chapter can be started with the best expression about MVC architectural patterns: "The only way to make the deadline—the only way to go fast—is to keep the code as clean as possible at all times.", said by Robert C. Martin, Clean Code: A Handbook of Agile Software Craftsmanship[?].

MVC is an architectural pattern which means **Model,View,Controller** and its aim is to provide kind of a "template" for organization of software system. The idea of MVC is that of dividing the software into three independent components:

- The component that stores system's state (whether this state persistent or not). This component is referred to as **Model**.
- The component that handles input-output from/to the client (the client might be a human user, but it doesn't have to). This component is referred to as **View**.
- The component that represents the logical functionality of the system, holds system's "business rules". This component is referred to as **Controller/Presenter**.

Bellow are represented interaction diagrams for that two similar architectural patterns MVC and MVP, the differences are not such significant, but for Android development, MVP is more suitable and next will be explained why so.

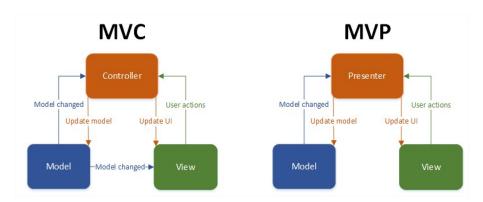


Figure 1.4 – MVC pattern integration with Android, [4]

MVP was proved to be more suitable for Android development due to very tight coupling between Activities and Fragments (which are MVP presenters) and various parts of Android framework. The "Model" part is fine - it is straightforward to implement a standalone model functionality in Android. The problems arise if to try to separate view and controller functionality. For example on Create() method, which is called by Android framework in response to framework's internal state transitions (these transitions might be related to user's actions in the app, but the app never calls on Create() directly). So can be created an impression that this method belongs to the "view" part of MVC because setContentView() is called along the way, but, in fact, setContentView() is a standard binding of a view performed by the controller.

In MVP, the view knows nothing about the model, and it is presenter's job to fetch the up to date data from the model, understand whether the view should be updated and bind a new data to the view. In MVP, the logic contained in MVC view, is located in the presenter, which makes the views very "stupid" – their sole purpose becomes rendering data that was bound to them by the presenter. Finally, good MVP model tends to just manage application's data state and notify presenters of any change, nothing more.

# 1.3.3 Front-end implementation in Android

Android front-end implementation could be defined in two ways:

- Declare UI elements in XML. Android provides a straightforward XML vocabulary that corresponds to the View classes and subclasses, such as those for widgets and layouts.
- Instantiate layout elements at runtime. The application can create View and View Group objects (and manipulate their properties) programmatically.

It is possible to use either or both of these methods for declaring and managing the application's UI. The advantage of declaring the UI in XML is that it enables to better separate the presentation of the application from the code that controls its behaviour. The UI descriptions are external to the application which means that application can be modified and adapted without modifying the source code and recompiling. Also, declaring the UI using XML makes it easier to visualize structure of UI, it's easier to debug problems.

In general, the XML vocabulary for declaring UI elements closely follows the structure and naming of the classes and methods, where element names correspond to class names and attribute names correspond to methods. [5]

# 2 Analysis of the application from architectural point of view

In the requirements phase, earlier, was built an abstract model of the problem, which identifies what objects, entities, views are involved, how they relate to one another and how they look like. Probably now is the moment to describe the software architecture more thoroughly, from the implementation point of view, describing all the most important interfaces, classes, interaction between user and system and last but not least - the interaction between system components. In order to characterize the Spending Tracker application system, a collection of models were used:

- Use Case model. It represents a set of use cases, actors, and their relationships. A use case represents a particular functionality of a system and it is used to describe the relationships among the functionalities and their controllers known also as actors.
- Activity model. It describes the flow of control in a system. It consists of activities and links. Activities are nothing but the functions of a system. Numbers of activity diagrams are prepared to capture the entire flow in a system.
- Sequence model. A sequence diagram is an interaction diagram. It is clear that the diagram
  deals with some sequences, which can be sequence of messages flowing from one object to
  another.
- Database model. It represents a static structure diagram which underlines which are the entities where data are stored in the system, and the relationships which exist between them.
   [13]

This is the chapter where the Spending Tracker application is analysed using the above described diagrams. This will help to get a more clear image and a better understanding about the entire system and about the components interaction.

# 2.1 Representation of the system via Use Case Diagrams

The description of the system from the architectural point of view can be started from the Use Cases diagrams which presents the interaction of the user as an actor in the system. The first diagram represented in 2.1 describes all the possible actions a user can perform, a logged in user which is a prerequisite for all use cases diagrams.

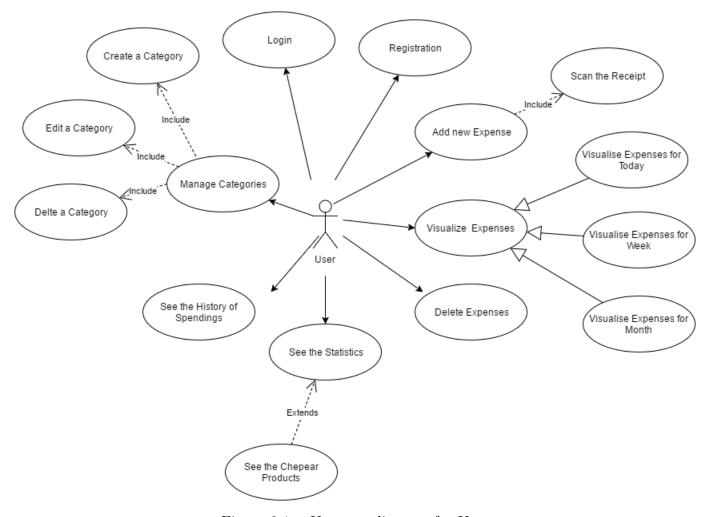


Figure 2.1 – Use case diagram for User

The primal activity of a user is login or registration activity in case the user installs the application for the first time. The next activity which should be performed before others is adding a new expense, an expense should be added in order to be able to perform all other activities as: Visualising expenses for today, for current week or for current month; deleting an expense; seeing the statistic which has an optional activity of seeing the cheaper products; or seeing the history of all expenses. Managing the categories represent another activity, it is independent and categories are predefined in the case of Spending Tracker application. They represents the existing stores in Chisinau. Categories can be created, edited and deleted as well.

The next diagram represent the activity of managing the categories. For accessing them, the left top spinner of the main page should be extended and Categories should be clicked from the list. See in 2.2 what activities can be performed on categories

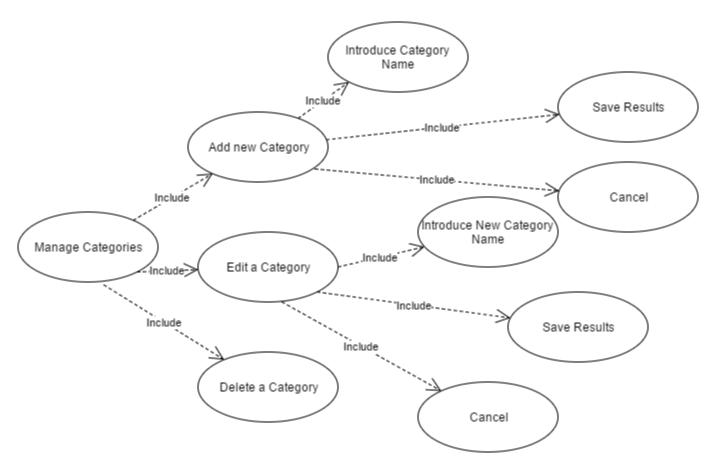


Figure 2.2 – Use case diagram for Categories

Managing categories are some very simple actions. Creating new category requires pressing the right bottom "plus" button which throws a window where is needed to introduce the category name, then the save button should be clicked or cancel in case of aborting the operation. The edit activity is almost the same, in the list of categories the desired category should be clicked and then a similar window is thrown as in case of creating a category, so the similar actions should be performed. For deleting a category is necessary keep pressing the desired category, after the selection the top right delete icon should be clicked.

The necessary activities to pe performed for registration process can be followed in the next 2.3 .The process of registration is a typical one and it requires introducing of mandatory fields as name, surname, password which have an optional control question case, also introducing of age and email are some mandatory action because they are used forward for performing some statistics according the expenses among different ages, email is used for sending a monthly report through it. Phone number is an optional field, it can be set in case the user want to receive a phone message according the monthly expenses.

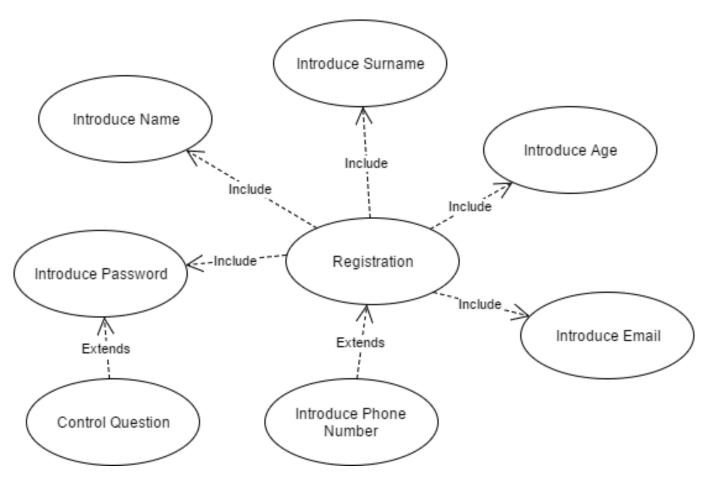


Figure 2.3 – Use case diagram for Registration

# 2.2 System Analysis using Activity Diagrams

Activity diagrams are those related to program flow and most often they are used for description of those business processes, they allow the functional thinking.

Bellow in the figure 2.4 is represented the flow of steps to be done in order to perform the registration process. There are some typical steps for a registration process which are similar from one application to other. After introducing all necessary fields a process of checking the name, surname and password fields follows in order to confirm that such a user does not exists, then other mandatory fields are checked to confirm that they are filled with text. After all checking processes, data is approved or not, depending on information introduced. Once the information is approved data is stored in database and user is moved to the main application page.

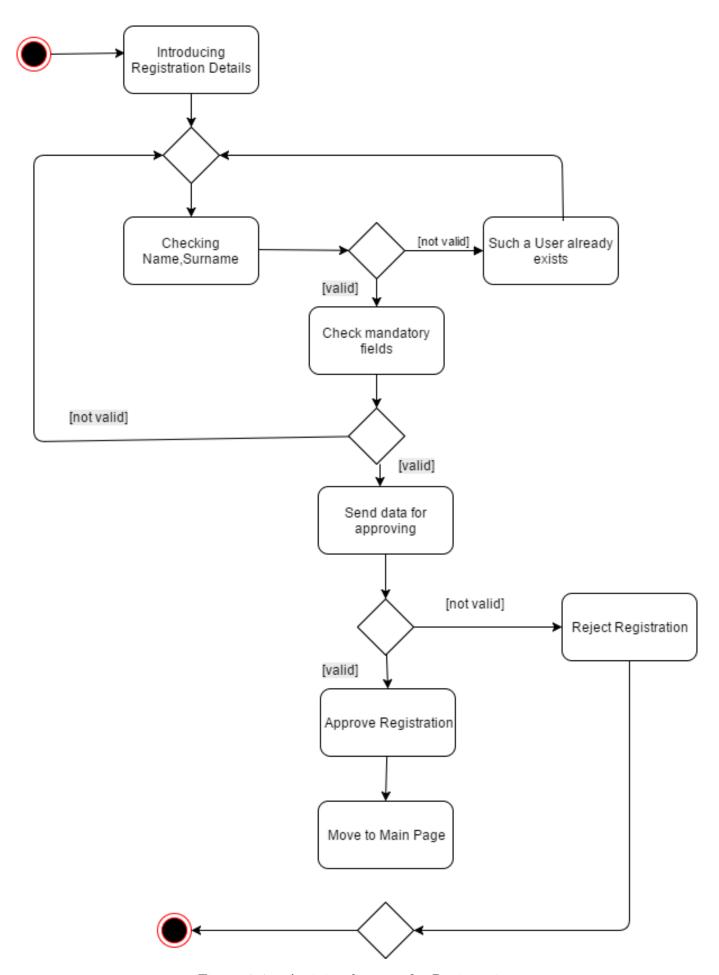


Figure 2.4 – Activity diagram for Registration

The next activity diagram represents the flow of scanning the receipt process. For adding new expense is necessary to scan the receipt by taking a photo of it, this actually is the primary functionality of the Spending Tracker application. First of all is necessary to go to the main page, where in bottom right corner the "plus" button is pressed which opens a new screen which the information about the process of scanning. The user is informed that is necessary to take a photo in order to scan the receipt. After pressing the button "Take a photo of your receipt", the android camera source is started and user must take a well focused photo of the receipt. After this follows a process of checking the recognized text, if text is not enough recognized the user must take a photo again. When results become valid, a category should be chosen in order to be able to save results to the database.

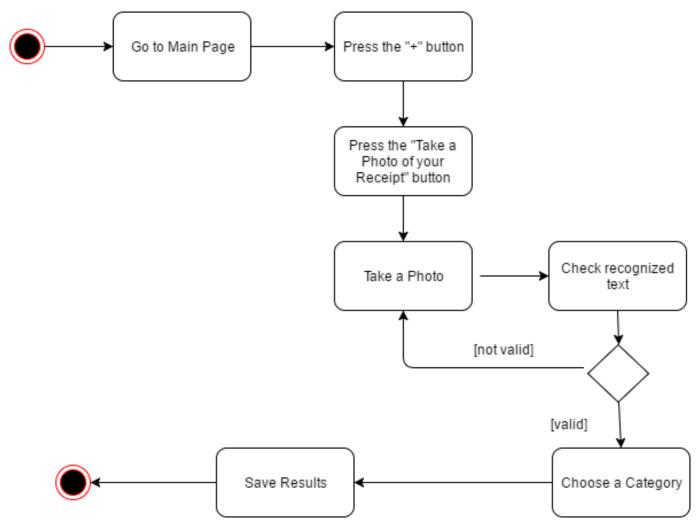


Figure 2.5 – Activity diagram for Scanning the Receipt

# 2.3 Process interaction analysis using Sequence Diagram

Sequence diagrams are that which emphasize the chronological course of exchanged information and this is exactly what is represented in next figure 2.6. The process of adding a new expense is described using sequence diagram in more detailed form. All the participating objects are enumerated with their own life cycle and basically this diagrams are easier to be understand for developers and readers.

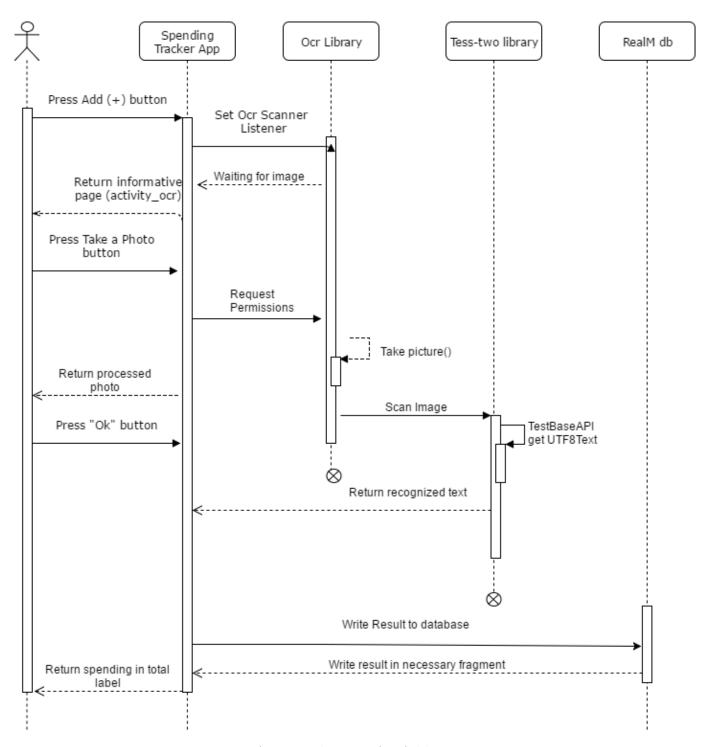


Figure 2.6 – Activity diagram for Adding new Expense

The Spending Tracker application contains three basic packages: application, ocr library and tess-two library, last two used primarily for receipt text recognition. Database model is included in application package. The actor, which can be of a single type in the Spending Tracker application is the first primary entity in the system. So, in order to add a new expense, user should press the "plus" right bottom corner on the main page of the application, at this moment the Ocr Scanner Listener is set and is waiting for an image and an informative page is returned to the user. The second page tells the user to press the next button "Take a photo of your receipt" in order to scan the receipt. This action requires the permission request which is done by Ocr library as well as taking photo action. After the photo was taken it is returned to the user. Then follows pressing the "Ok"

button which suppose scanning the image itself, this step is performed by the Ocr library with the use of tess-two library, it contains the TextBaseAPI which is getting the text from the image and move it to a digital form. Recognized text is returned to the application after which the results are written to the database. Now the information is returned in necessary field in the application and user can visualise the scanned expense.

- 2.4 The Database Model of the system
- 2.5 Final stage of product development: Deployment Diagram

# 3 Implementation and development methodologies

# System Requirments

For the user to run and have a nice use of Spending Tracker application, it's necessary to have:

- A mobile device with an Anroid system with minimum version of 4.0.3, which means minimum API Level to be 15.
- A reliable internet connection for downloading application from the Play Store.

In this chapter the Spending Tracker application is analysed from the implementation point of view. For the beginning some quick notes about the most important libraries used will be mentioned, in order to make an overview of the entire implementation environment of the application.

Spending Tracker Android application is based on four main libraries:

# - Realm java [9]

A mobile database which is convenient for creating and storing data on the fly.

# - MpAndroidChart [10]

MpAndroidChart is a powerful and easy to use chart library for Android.

# - Android support libraries [11]

The Android Support Library is not actually a single library, but rather a collection of libraries which provide a wide range of classes for building app. Many of the classes are backward compatible implementations, but some of them are new features in their own right.

# - OCR Document API / Mobile Vision Text API, [2]

Using OCR Document API, the feature of reading text and numbers from any image, in the Spending Tracker app from the receipt, is easily added to any application without prior knowledge about OCR(Optical Character Recognition) technology.

More details about the implementation of each functionality of Spending Tracker application are described in the next subsections.

# 3.1 Realm Java

Realm Java gives the possibility to efficiently write the application's model layer in a safe, persisted and fast way.It is installed as a Gradle plugin as follows:

```
buildscript {
  repositories {
    jcenter()
  }
  dependencies {
    compile 'io.realm:realm-android:0.82.2'
  }
}
```

Listing 1 – Realm gradle plugin

Realm is a mobile first database that is built from the ground-up to run directly inside phones and tablets. It is kind of what user see is what is saved workflow, changes to the object in the user interface are automatically saved to the database if that object is a Realm managed object. Realm managed objects are equivalents of SQLite tables. For Java object to become a Realm managed, the class must either extend RealmObject or implement RealmModel interface. The Spending Tracker application have two entities which are managed by Realm object, Expense and Category. Bellow is represented the model of the Expense class:

```
public class Expense extends RealmObject {
    @PrimaryKey
3
    private String id;
4
    private String description;
    private Date date;
    private @IExpensesType int type;
    private Category category;
    private float total;
9
10
    public Expense() {
11
    }
12
13
    public Expense (String description, Date date, @IExpensesType int type, Category
14
      category, float total) {
      this.description = description;
15
      this.date = date;
16
      this.type = type;
17
      this.category = category;
      this.total = total;
19
    }
20
21 }
```

Listing 2 – Realm Expense model

Actually this is equivalent with creating a table in SQLite, but with Realm the data is in motion or live auto updated object. So when is updating any field of the class, is needed to open a Realm transaction at the point where the value is retrieved from the TextView or another entity. For example bellow is the method of getting expenses from the corresponding fields:

```
if (type != null) realmQuery.equalTo("type", type);
return realmQuery.findAll();
}
```

Listing 3 – Realm queries example

# 3.2 Android Support Libraries

Spending Tracker application is based on Android Support Libraries, which have few distinct uses.

- Backward Compatibility for newer APIs many support libraries provide backward compatibility for newer framework classes and methods. For example, the Fragment support class which is used in Spending Tracker as well, provides support for fragments on devices running versions earlier than Android 3.0 (API level 11).
- Convenience and Helper Classes also support libraries provides a number of helper classes, especially for user interface development. For example the RecyclerView class used in Spending Tracker app as well, provides an user interface widget for displaying and managing very long lists, useable on versions of Android from API level 7 and up.

For a better understanding about the usage of these libraries, some of them are described bellow each in a separate subsection, using the pieces of code from the Spending Tracker application.

# 3.2.1 Fragments in the Support Libraries

Fragments represent some modular building blocks which help in creating a responsive Android UI. They help in targeting different devices and screen sizes. Actually they constitute a part of the Activity presented to the user, they are used to display some section of the screen and to react to events that happen within this section.

Spending Tracker application is based on support library Fragment of the package:

```
com.android.support: support - v4:25.3.1
```

Almost each entity in the application is based on a Fragment, there are fragments for: categories, expenses, history, login screen and for date selecting as well. To explain a little lifecycle of fragments let get the Expense Detail Fragment example. This fragment inflates a view. But it does not do so in the on Create() method like you would do in an activity, but within the on Create View() method. Android passes the inflater needed to use for view inflation into the method, as well as the container for the view.

```
public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ViewGroup container,
   Bundle savedInstanceState) {
   View rootView = onCreateFragmentView(R.layout.fragment_expense_detail, inflater, container, true);
   bcWeekExpenses = (BarChart) rootView.findViewById(R.id.bc_expenses);
   return rootView;
```

6 }

# Listing 4 – View inflating in Expense Fragment

To return a layout from onCreateView(), it is inflated from a layout resource defined in XML, in the example above fragment\_expense\_layout.xml file is loaded by the Fragment.

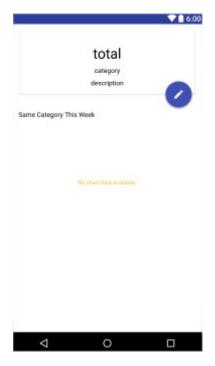


Figure 3.1 – Expense Detail Fragment layout

Since fragments can be attached or detached from an activity, there also exist onAttach() and onDetach() methods which are located in the MainFragment class in Spending Tracker app. After the fragment has been attached, can be used getActivity() within the fragment to get to the enclosing activity. This can be observed inside the onClick() method in the Expenses Fragment class.

```
public void onClick(RecyclerView.ViewHolder vh, int position) {
   if (!expenseContainerListener.isActionMode()) {
      Expense expenseSelected = (Expense) vh.itemView.getTag();
      Intent expenseDetail = new Intent(getActivity(), ExpenseDetailActivity.class)
   ;
      expenseDetail.putExtra(ExpenseDetailFragment.EXPENSE_ID_KEY, expenseSelected.getId());
      startActivity(expenseDetail);
} else {
      toggleSelection(position);
}
```

Listing 5 – Getting to the enclosing activity

The same it works for all other fragments in the project.

# Adding a fragment to an activity

There are two ways of adding a fragment to the activity layout, such as a fragment contributes a portion of UI to the host activity, which is embedded as a part of the activity's overall view hierarchy.

- Declare the fragment inside the activity's layout file.
- Or, programmatically add the fragment to an existing ViewGroup.

In the Spending Tracker application was used the second way. To make fragment transaction in the activity (such as add, remove, or replace a fragment), the APIs from FragmentTransaction must be used. The instance of FragmentTransaction from the Activity was obtained in the replaceFragment() method like this:

Listing 6 - Instance of Fragment Transaction

The Fragment is replaced then in another method which has the same name, specifying the fragment to add and the view in which to insert it.

```
public void replaceFragment(Fragment fragment, boolean addToBackStack) {
   replaceFragment(R.id.main_content, fragment, addToBackStack);
}
```

Listing 7 - Fragment replacing

By calling addToBackStack(), the replace transaction is saved to the back stack so the user can reverse the transaction and bring back the previous fragment by pressing the Back button. Once the changes with FragmentTransaction were made, commit() must be called for the changes to take effect.

# 3.2.2 Activities

The Activities are crucial components of an Android application. Generally, one activity implements one screen in an app. Most apps contain multiple screens, which means they comprise multiple activities as happens in Spending Tracker application as well. For the app to be able to use activities, the activities and certain of their attributes must be declared in the manifest. For example, here are declared two activities from Spending Tracker app:

```
1 <activity
2    android:name=".ui.login.LoginActivity"
3    android:configChanges="orientation"
4    android:label="@string/app_name"
5    android:screenOrientation="portrait"
6    android:theme="@style/AppTheme.NoActionBar.TransparentStatusBar" >
7    <intent-filter>
```

Listing 8 – AndroidManifest.xml

The only required attribute for this element is android:name, which specifies the class name of the activity. The rest of attributes define activity characteristics such as label, icon, or UI theme. There are also implicit requests which are declared using <code>;intent-filter;</code> attribute, in the <code>;activity;</code> element. The definition of this element includes an <code>;action;</code> element and, optionally, a <code>;category;</code> element. These elements combine to specify the type of intent to which your activity can respond. In the above example from Spending Tracker, for the first activity android.intent.action.MAIN means that this activity is the entry point of the application, when the application is launched, this activity is created. Category parameter gives additional information about the action to execute, <code>category.LAUNCHER</code> means it should appear in the Launcher as a top-level application.

Over its lifetime, an activity goes through a number of states. A series of callbacks can be used for handling transactions between states, such as are: onCreate(), onStart(), onResume(), onPause(), onStop(), onRestart(), onDestroy(). The most trivial one is **onCreate()** callback. Bellow is presented an example from the MainActivity of Spending Tracker application.

```
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
3
    initUI();
4
    setUpDrawer();
    setUpToolbar();
6
    if ( savedInstanceState != null) {
      int menuItemId = savedInstanceState.getInt(NAVIGATION_POSITION);
      mainNavigationView.setCheckedItem(menuItemId);
9
      mainNavigationView.getMenu().performIdentifierAction(menuItemId, 0);
10
    } else {
11
      mainNavigationView.getMenu().performIdentifierAction(R.id.nav_expenses, 0);
12
    }
13
14 }
```

Listing 9 – onCreate() callback of MainActivity

This callback must be implemented, it fires when system creates the activity. This callback initializes the essential components of the activity. This is where **setContentView()** must be called to define the layout for the activity's user interface.

# 3.3 Optical Character Recognition on Android – OCR

Android can perform OCR very efficiently and correctly using the official Optical Character Recognition API of Android and the Mobile Vision library. Google has introduced recently **Mobile Vision APIs** [12], which provide a very easy to use programming interfaces through which can be scanned Faces, Barcodes, QR Codes and Text without writing huge amount of code. And the best part is that these can be used offline as well. To enable the application to use Mobile Vision APIs, this dependency is needed to be added in the build gradle file:

compile'com.google.android.gms: play-services-vision: 9.4.0+'

# Introducing an Android OCR Library - Text Recognition API

This Google powered API contains features like multiple language recognition, the Text API recognize text in any Latin based language. Also the text can be parsed from a stream of frames i.e. a video and displayed on the screen in real time. In Spending Tracker application the things are kept simple and the text is scanned from the photo of the receipt. All this is done offline by the Google Play services itself, i.e. no internet connection is required after once it has been set up in the application. The Text Recognizer segments text into blocks, lines, and words.

- a **Block** is a contiguous set of text lines, such as a paragraph or column;
- a **Line** is a contiguous set of words on the same vertical axis;
- a Word is a contiguous set of alphanumeric characters on the same vertical axis

Bellow is represented an example of each of these in descending order:

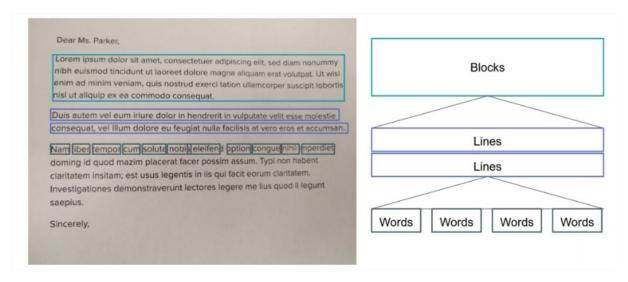


Figure 3.2 – Text Recognizer Example [3]

- 3.3.1 Tesseract library
- 3.3.2 Easy OCR library
- 3.4 User's experience handling the product

# 4 Economic Analysis

# 4.1 Project description

Spending Tracker is an application developed for different target groups, for young people which face problems at the chapter of correct money management and as well for older people, who want to monitor all expenses, such as it's user interface is very clear and simple to use for all groups of people in the society. The main task of the application is scanning the receipts and displaying the total expenses for different periods, depending on user's choice, and for different stores, which present categories in the statistics bar chart. Such as it does not require a manual input introducing, it presents a major advantage for its users. This application ensures managements of two most important values in the life: money and time. It saves time by offering that simple possibility of scanning the receipt, and it saves money of course because the main purpose of the application is tracking right the budget, by monitoring day by day all the expenses, and making some decisions according the correctness of their spending.

It is worth mentioning that such applications already exist on the market but they're lack of the most functionality the Spending Tracker has, automatic receipt scanner by taking a photo of the receipt. Also, it's strong point is the simplicity in use, it does not require connection to a bank account or other dubious actions as can be observed in other existing applications on market. It offers exactly what needs every person, nothing more, a user friendly interface and a quick result displaying.

Before proceeding to the implementation of the system, it is necessary to analyse the project budget, this will help to find a justifiable economical point of view over the system. In order to understand and decide if the product is workable on the national market, it would be better to elaborate an overview of the expenditures and incomes after releasing the application. Given that fact, the economic analysis should be one of the first steps in starting development of any product, whose final result would be a general overview on the elaboration of the system.

This chapter represents the analysis of all expenses necessary to elaborate the application, starting from materials/non-materials used for long term, time schedule establishment and indirect expenses. After that, the days necessary for development should be estimated, should be established the working team and of course each team member salary. Only after this starting analysis will be clear what steps should be performed further in order to have a gain. Even this chapter is last, it is in fact the most important one in real life, because economic analysis is a means to help bring about a better allocation of resources that can lead to enhanced incomes for investment or consumption purposes, it is best undertaken at the early stages of the project cycle to enable decision makers to make an informed decision on whether to undertake a particular investment given various alternatives and their corresponding costs.

# 4.2 Project time schedule

Taking into account that the Spending Tracker application is quite complex and have in the requirements list many features to be implemented, it would be better to plan a time schedule. In order to get the better results faster, and also a considerable income, will be tried to be used **Agile Software Development**. In such a way the product will be delivered faster, maybe not implemented at all, a process of frequent feedbacks will be adopted for excluding risks of a single-pass development when all the requirements are implemented. The future modifications can be treated as improvements for the base application which represents a benefit of Agile.

# 4.2.1 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) are very suitable for analysing the system before starting the implementation, such as it gives a brief overview about expectations or possible problems that can appear during the lifetime of the system. They can inform later steps in planning to achieve the expected objectives. By understanding the weaknesses of the product, threats can be managed and eliminated that would otherwise catch the unawares. Bellow is represented the strategic planning method, used to evaluate Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threads that can involve the given system.

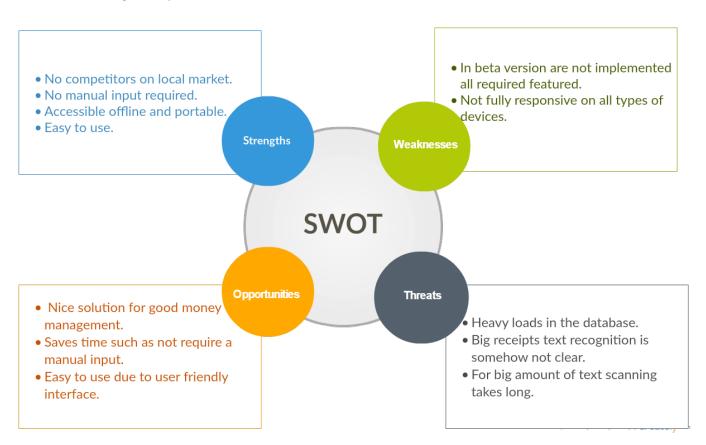


Figure 4.1 – SWOT Analysis

Referring to the SWOT analysis, the most important factors which can affect the product can be detected. However the SWOT analysis does not necessarily offer solutions. They only allow people at the earliest stage of development to understand better the business, to address weaknesses, detect threads, take advantage of the strengths, develop business goals and strategies for achieving them.

# 4.2.2 Defining objectives

The main objective of the project is to improve the personal budget management for all types of users, meaning different categories of ages and working domains. Also as it will be most based on local environment, meaning local stores, its purpose is to spread among the society. As the application is provided as free product, it is expected to gain users very quickly.

#### 4.2.3 Time schedule establishment

There are some steps to be performed in order to reach the final result of Spending Tracker application:

- Planning Form some ideas about the design of the project, build some sketches and diagrams, determine amount of needed resources.
- Analysis This step is about analysing the performance of the software at various stages and making notes on additional requirements.
- **Design** Building the architecture of the project.
- **Development** Creating the application itself, based on the initial requirements.
- Testing This can be done by performing debugging,in order to ensure the correctness of the functionality, also at this step is done manual testing.
- Maintenance Once the software passes through all the stages without any issues, it is to undergo a maintenance process wherein it will be maintained and upgraded from time to time to adapt to changes.

A key initial task for the project management team is to prepare a proper timetable which will set a concise deadline for every step enumerated above. Of course, the planning period can be considered a flexible one such as changes are allowed at this step during all life cycle of the project if it's necessary. In the Table 4.1 are represented all the general steps involving the development of the project. The following annotations were used: PM – Project Manager, BA - Business Analyst, D - Designer, BD – Back-End Developer, QA - Quality Assurance Engineer.

Table 4.1 – Time schedule

Nr.	Activity Name	Duration (days)	People involved
1	Planning requirments and activities schedule	7	PM,BA
2	Perform market analysis	5	PM
3	Writing Business Requirment Document	5	BA
4	Elaborate UML diagrams	3	PM,BD
5	Building application design	5	D
6	Implementing back-end functionality	21	BD
7	Testing application	7	QA
8	Bug fixing process	7	BD
9	Bugs verification process	2	QA
10	Writing documentation	2	BA,BD
11	Production realese	1	PM,BA,BD,QA
12	Feedback / Maintance	-	PM,BD
13	Total time required for system development	73	

The table above presents a sketch for the first beta version of the application. Each activity was estimated in time and in human resources as well. For the beta version of the Spending Tracker application was estimated a total volume of 73 working days. There are 6 specialists supposed to work on project:

- Project Manager (PM) 16 days
- Business Analyst (BA) 8 days
- Designer (D) 5 days
- Back-End Developer (BD) 31 days
- Quality Assurance Engineer (QA) 10 days

Above is represented the approximate amount of spent time for each specialist.

# 4.3 Economic motivation

Establishing economical motivation is a natural process for the IT projects, such as it is based on several key points which should be taken in consideration as are concurrences in economic relationships and social needs, which suppose a wide research space. Taking into account the conditions of a low degree of determination of the marketing environment, of high prices' volatility, a common business-plan doesn't allow the exact foreseeing of the final results of the business. In this context, one of the basic instruments are considered choosing the methods, the right positions and index for the economical proofs. Realization of this goal conditions a large number of scientifically research, subordinated to the primary goal and formulated by means of the following objectives:

- Studying the theoretical and methodical aspects of the business-planning in the conditions of the concurrency on the market;
- Systematization, determining the methodology and specifying the index for the economical proof of the business-plans in IT;
- Study and analysis of the actual practice of economical proofs of the business-plans for IT in Republic of Moldova;
- Developing methodological concepts of the proofs of the decision of investment in the conditions of risk and incertitude;
- Studying the evaluation criteria of the business-projects' efficiency and elaboration of a mechanism of complex evaluation of these.

# 4.3.1 Tangible and intangible asset expenses

Spendings and initial budget are the key factors which are met at the very beginning of the project, by imposing some limitations on the complexity of the system and defining its boundaries. This chapter describes the evaluation of approximate amount of money needed for the development of Spending Tracker application, in order to ensure the correct management of financial resources. For the beginning in the Table 4.2 will be listed all the physical stuff used for the project. Touchable assets are defined as any assets that have a physical form.

Table 4.2 – Tangible assets

Material	Specification	Measurement unit	Price per unit(MDL)	Quantity	Sum(MDL)
HP Pavillion	AMD processor	Unit	9000	1	9000
Samsung Galaxy A5	Android minimum API level 15	Unit	7800	1	7800
Total					

The tangible assets were estimated to a HP Pavillion laptop, and one Samsung Galaxy A5 mobile phone, for debugging the application. Bellow in the Table 4.3 are presented all intangible assets which mean all those that do not process a physical form. So, this table will represent all the software needed for building the application and costs for the licences.

Table 4.3 – Intangible assets

Material	Specification	Measurement unit	Price per unit(MDL)	Quantity	Sum(MDL)
Licence	Enterprise Architect	Unit	1800	1	1800
Account	Google Play Developer Console	Unit	470	1	470
Total					

First of all the licence for Enterprise Architect Desktop Edition is needed in planning requirements stage, when modelling the architecture of the system. Android Studio IDE used for development is free, so no licence is needed for it. Finally for deploying the application on Play Store, a Google

Play Developer Console account is needed. There are other additional expenses which should be taken in account as well. They represent the direct expenses used for work facilitation during project development. The Table 4.4 represents the direction expenses:

Table 4.4 – Direct expenses

Material	Specification	Mesurement unit	Price per unit(MDL)	Quantity	Sum(MDL)
Whiteboard	Universal Dry Erase Board	Unit	700	1	700
Paper	A4	100 sheets	60	1	60
Pen	Black pen	Unit	7	5	35
Total					

Summing up all the expenses from all three tables can be calculated the approximate total amount of expenses for Spending Tracker application.

$$T_e = 16800 + 2270 + 795 = 19865 \tag{4.1}$$

# 4.3.2 Salary expenses

In this chapter it's time to discuss the remuneration of each employee during the process of development. Let's assume the following salaries per day for each specialist:

- Project Manager 500 MDL per day
- Business Analyst 400 MDL per day
- Designer 300 MDL per day
- Back-End Developer 500 MDL per day
- Quality Assurance Engineer 400 MDL per day

Given the above information can be built the table of the expenses for human resources for the whole project.

Table 4.5 – Salary expenses

Employee	Working days	Salary per day(MDL)	Salary fund(MDL)
Project Manager	16	500	8000
Business Analyst	8	400	3200
Designer	5	300	1500
Back-End Developer	31	500	15500
Quality Assurance Engineer	10	400	4000
	32200		

The social services fund should not be forgotten such as from the total salary fund a part of money is retrieved. According https://salarii.md/ where can be found all taxes for the current

year, can be observed that the social fund constitutes 23%, medical assurance - 4.5%. Bellow is computed the social service fund, according the relation (4.2):

$$FS = F_{re} \cdot T_{fs}$$
  
= 32200 · 0.23 (4.2)  
= 7406.

where FS means salary expense,  $F_{re}$  represent the salary expense fund and  $T_{fs}$  is the social service tax which is approved each year. The medical assurance fund is computed bellow:

$$MI = F_{re} \cdot T_{mi}$$
  
= 32200 \cdot 0.045  
= 1149,

where  $T_{mi}$  is the mandatory medical insurance tax also approved each year by the law of medical insurance. So, the total expense fund is calculated as sum of all calculated indicators:

$$WEF = F_{re} + FS + MI$$

$$= 32200 + 7406 + 1149$$

$$= 40775.$$
(4.4)

where WEF is the work expense fund, FS is the social fund and MI is the medical insurance fund. The final result shows the total work expense fund.

# 4.4 Individual person salary

Now, once the total expense fund is calculated, it's time to calculated the net salary of each individual should be determined. Having project manager's salary of 500 MDL per day and his total work days constituting 16 days. The gross salary for project manager is:

$$GS = 500 \cdot 16$$
  
= 8000, (4.5)

where GS is the gross salary computed in MDL. Knowing that social fund for 2017 represents 6%, then the tax paid for that is equal to:

$$SF = 8000 \cdot 0.06$$
  
= 480, (4.6)

Medical insurance tax represents 4.5% this year, so the result is:

$$MIF = 8000 \cdot 0.045$$

$$= 360.$$
(4.7)

Now,can be calculated the amount of taxed salary, but before that the Personal Exemption is needed. According https://salarii.md/modificari-taxe-si-scutiri-salarii-2017/ [14] the personal exemption for 2017 year constitutes - 10 620 MDL, monthly personal exemption - 885 MDL but for 16 working days of project manager the personal exemption seems to be - 708 MDL. Then

the taxed salary is calculated as follows:

$$TS = GS - SF - MIF - PE$$
  
=  $8000 - 480 - 360 - 885$   
=  $6275$ . (4.8)

where TS is taxed salary, GS - gross salary, SF - social fund, PE - personal exemption. Finally, the total income tax should be calculated, which is 7% for yearly income under 31140 MDL (2017) and 18% for income over 31140 MDL (2017). If to calculate the total income tax for a month then 7% is taken for monthly income under 2595 MDL and 18% for the total monthly income over 2595 MDL. For 16 working days for project manager, the income tax have to be:

Taking into account that monthly project manager salary is greater than 2595 MDL then the Total Income tax for 16 working days of project manager is:

$$IT = TS - ST$$

$$= 2076 \cdot 0.07 + (6275 - 2076) \cdot 0.18$$

$$= 145.32 + 755.82 = 901,$$
(4.10)

where IT is the income  $\tan TS$  - the taxed salary and ST - the salary  $\tan T$ . With all these information now it's possible to calculate what have to be the net income of project manager:

$$NS = GS - IT - SF - MIF$$

$$= 8000 - 901 - 480 - 360$$

$$= 6259,$$
(4.11)

where NS is the net salary, GS - gross salary, IT - income tax, SF - social fund, MIF - medical insurance fund.

# 4.4.1 Indirect expenses

Other expenses which are of course included in the process of project development involves production consumption. In the Table 4.6 bellow are described the spendings like electricity, internet access, office water and public transport.

Table  $4.6-\,$  Indirect expenses

Material	Specification	Measurement unit	Price per unit(MDL)	Quantity	Sum(MDL)
Internet	Star Net	Pack	200	1	200
Water	Apa-Canal Chisinau	m^3	9.2	20	184
Electricity	Union Fenosa	KWh	2.16	500	1080
Total					

# 4.4.2 Wear and depreciation

When speaking about economic analysis, it is vital to understand the influence of time over the product. Usually, it happens that a depreciation in value can appear, that's why it is a value that should be calculated and taken into account. As a tuple, with the depreciation, the wear will be calculated. Depreciation will be computed uniformly for the whole project duration, so that there are no accountancy issues. As a matter of fact, a business plan divided for 3 years should be compartmentalized into 3 uniform parts according to each year. Normally wear is computed regarding to the type of asset. The computer mentioned above as tangible asset can be used for a period of 3 years. Licenses will last for a single year. Straight line depreciation will be applied. First step is to sum up tangible and intangible assets, while the salvage costs of each of the items at the end of their period of use, has to be subtracted:

$$TAV = \sum (AC - SV)$$

$$= (16800 - 5000) + (2270 - 1000)$$

$$= 13070,$$
(4.12)

where TAV is the total assets value, AC – assets cost, SV – salvage value. In order to get the yearly wear, divide total asset value by the period of use of assets, being 3 years.

$$W_y = TAV/T_{use}$$
  
= 13070/3 (4.13)  
= 4360,

where  $W_y$  is the wear per year, TAV – total assets value,  $T_{use}$  – period of use. Relation (4.13) included tangible assets which will last for 3 years and intangible assets which last only one year. The initial value of assets in MDL was:

$$W = W_y/D_y \cdot T_p$$
= 4360/365 \cdot 120
= 1433

# 4.4.3 Product cost

At this point, it is time to compute the product cost which includes direct and indirect expenses, salary expenses and wear expenses as shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 – Total Product Cost

Expense type	Sum (MDL)	Percentage (%)
Direct expenses	795	1.48
Tangible expenses	16800	31.4
Intangible expenses	2270	4.24
Salary expenses	32200	60.19
Asset wear expenses	1433	2.68
Total product cost	53498	100

#### 4.4.4 Economic indicators and results

At the moment, all the expenses for the development of the project were computed. Now is time to consider how the application should be included on the market. As mentioned above, the target group which is meaningful for the given project represent the academic infrastructures, including teachers and students. So, as starting investors, should be considered universities' administrations. There is no optimal price established for the initial project, so a indicator of 25% on top of the production cost will be used, in order to determine what the real cost the application should have.

$$GP = C_{total}/N_{cs} + P_p$$

$$= 53498/100 + 0.25 \cdot 5349.8$$

$$= 6687,$$
(4.15)

where GP is the gross price,  $C_{total}$  – total product cost,  $N_{cs}$  – number of copies sold,  $P_p$  – chosen profit percentage. This is not the price of the end product, since it is necessary to add sales tax (VAT), which represents 20% and is added to the gross price.

$$P_{sale} = GP + TX_{sales}$$

$$= 6687 + 0.2 \cdot 6687$$

$$= 8024,$$
(4.16)

where  $P_{sale}$  is the sale prices including VAT, GP – gross price,  $TX_{sales}$  – sales tax. The net income is computed by multiplying gross price and the number of expected copies to be sold, which will be

$$I_{net} = GP \cdot N_{cs}$$
  
= 8024 \cdot 100  
= 802400, (4.17)

where  $I_{net}$  is the net income, GP – gross price,  $N_{cs}$  – number of copies sold. Moreover it is necessary

to compute the gross and net profit. The indicators are GPr – gross profit and NPr – net profit.

$$GPr = I_{net} - C_{production}$$
  
 $= 802400 - 53498$   
 $= 748902$   
 $NPr = GPr - 12\%$   
 $= 91702 - 12\%$   
 $= 659034,$  (4.18)

where  $I_{net}$  is the net income,  $C_{production}$  – cost of production. The profitability indicators are  $C_{profit}$  – cost profitability,  $S_{profit}$  – sales profitability computed in MDL.

$$C_{profit} = GPr/C_{production} \cdot 100\%$$

$$= 659034/53498 \cdot 100\%$$

$$= 0.12\%$$

$$S_{profit} = GPr/I_{net} \cdot 100\%$$

$$= 659034/748902 \cdot 100\%$$

$$= 88\%.$$
(4.19)

# 4.5 Economic conclusions

Analysing the project from the economical point of view brings several conclusions. The economical analyse is one of the key points which should be done at the very beginning of the project, such as this kind of research gave the possibility to understand better the strengths and weaknesses of the system and where to pay attention more in order to avoid risky external factors that could create undesired problems. All the computations of direct and indirect expenses, tangible and intangible resources, workers salaries are extremely important, they must fit perfectly into the initial predisposed budget. The next step not less important is selling the product, the application should be maintained and improved significant in the near future, for gaining as many users as possible.

# Conclusions

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