# Practical Project for the [WordPress Basics Course @ SoftUni](https://softuni.bg/courses/wordpress-basics)

Create a **WordPress-based Web site** in Internet. It should use a modern responsive **theme**, hold a meaningful, original **content**, use one or several **WP plugins** and should be **published in Internet** on a custom **domain**.

## Requirements

### Site Topic by Choice

Use a **topic by choice** for your Web site. Below are a few ideas to consider:

* **Business site** for a company or non-profit organization.
* Personal **blog** – personal stories of you or a fellow of yours.
* Personal **portfolio** – list your projects or your fellow’s projects.
* **Event** web site – e.g. a site for certain conference, seminar, training, trip or another event.
* **Cause** web site – e.g. “*stop smoking*”, “*keep the nature clean*”, “*stop corruption*” etc.
* **Fan club** – e.g. a Web site of your favorite sport club / music artist / book / etc.
* **Hobby** site – e.g. a Web site about your hobby, like cooking, bicycling, mountains, dances, shopping, etc.
* **Still don’t have a topic?** Ask in your friends, e.g. post in Facebook: “*Does anyone need a free Web site?*”

### Live Site in Internet on a Custom Domain

Publish your project **live in Internet**, on a custom domain.

* Your project should be **public in Internet**. Use a **hosting** by your own (free or paid).
  + You may **purchase a hosting** from SuperHosting: <https://superhosting.bg>.
  + You may use a **free hosting** from: <http://freesubdomain.org>, <https://www.000webhost.com>, or another provider.
* Use your own **custom domain name** (free or paid).
  + You may **purchase a domain** from SuperHosting: <https://superhosting.bg>.
  + You may use a **free domain** from: <http://freenom.com>, <http://noip.com>, or another provider.
* You may **share your project** in the social networks to get external feedback.

### Modern WordPress Theme by Choice

Use a **modern**, **responsive**, good looking **WP theme** by choice.

* Use a **free** or **commercial** modern, responsive, good looking **WordPress theme**.
  + If your theme is **commercial**, ensure you have a license for it. Software piracy is not encouraged.
* Or build your own **custom WP theme**.
  + Use your own Web design, your own layouts, graphics, styles, branding, etc.
  + **Beware**: crating a custom WP theme might take a **lot of time**! Use a custom theme at your own risk.

**Examples** of good lookingmodern responsive **free WP themes**:

* Hestia – <https://themeisle.com/themes/hestia/>.
* Sydney – <https://athemes.com/theme/sydney>.
* Journal – <https://themefuse.com/wp-themes-shop/journal/>.

### Web Design, User Experience, Compatibility

Choose a **nice looking web design** with good **user experience** (UX).

* Your Web site should **look well**. Most of the design work will come from your **WP theme**.
* Using your **own web design** (creative art work) is allowed but **not required**.
* You may use free **images**, **icons** and other **site elements** from Internet.
* Use **modern user experience** (UX). Your site should be **easy-to-use**, with intuitive **UI**, with good **usability**.
* You may follow some **usability guide** / checklist (search in Google): <https://www.google.com/search?q=web+site+usability+checklist>.

Implement a **responsive design** to ensure the site looks well on all devices.

* Your site should open correctly and be fully functional at any modern device:
  + Standard **desktop** Web browser (computer / laptop).
  + **Tablets** (Android, iPad, Windows, Linux).
  + **Smartphones** (Android, iPhone, Windows Phone).

Ensure **compatibility** with **modern Web browsers**.

* Ensure your site works correctly in all popular **modern (HTML5-based) Web browsers**:
  + **Chrome**, **Firefox**, **Edge**, **Opera**, **Safari** (latest versions, desktop and mobile versions).
* You do not need to support old browsers like IE9.
* Most modern WordPress themes are **mobile-friendly** but ensure your site content and layout is mobile-friendly as well.

### Original, High-Quality Content

Use **meaningful, original, high-quality content**:

* Your web site should have **original content**, which is non-empty and non-lorem-ipsum.
* Ideally, write your **own unique, valuable content**: texts, photos, video, etc.
* You may copy photos, videos and text portions from Internet, but don’t mirror an entire existing Web site.

### Use WP Plugins

You are required to use at least 2 **WordPress** **plugins** in your Web site. Examples of popular plugin use scenarios:

* Use a **caching plugin** to speed-up your site load time.
* Use a **SEO plugin** to improve the site SEO.
* Use an **anti-spam plugin** to reduce the spam in the comments.
* Use a **social-share plugin** to enable sharing of your articles and pages.
* Use a custom **tag cloud plugin** to improve your site navigation and SEO.
* Use a **slider plugin** to enable creating sliding content for your landing pages.
* Use a **gallery plugin** to show images in certain Web pages.
* Use an **e-commerce plugin** to sell products from your Web site.
* Use any other **WP plugin**, that helps to build your Web site.

## Forbidden Techniques and Tools

* Use **WordPress** to run your Web site.
  + Using any other CMS system (like Drupal or Joomla) is forbidden!
  + Using any other Web site publishing platform (like Wix.com or Google Sites) is forbidden!
* Install and run your **own WordPress** site instance.
  + Use a **Web hosting** with cPanel or some other admin panel.
  + Use a **custom domain** e.g. mydomain.cf or mydomain.noip.com.
  + You are allowed to host your Web site on your **own environment**, e.g. install and configure Linux + Apache + PHP + MySQL + WordPress; or deploy WordPress in Heroku or other **public cloud**.

## Personal Project (Not a Teamwork)

You should **develop your project yourself**.

* This project cannot be developed as a teamwork, it is your **own course project**.
* You may **get help** from friends / colleagues, but do not copy their entire project.
* Your project should be your **own work**. Do not plagiarize!

## Deliverables

Students participating in this project should submit the **URL of their projects**.

## Sample WordPress Projects

Just to get an idea of what is expected from your WordPress practical project, look at these **sample WordPress sites**:

* SoftUni Tech Fest – [http://techfest.softuni.bg](http://techfest.softuni.bg/)
* Nakov's Blog – [http://www.nakov.com](http://www.nakov.com/)
* Intro Programming Books – [http://www.introprogramming.info](http://www.introprogramming.info/)
* Together in Class – [https://zaednovchas.bg](https://zaednovchas.bg/)
* CourseLab – [http://courselab.net](http://courselab.net/)
* DEV.BG – [http://dev.bg](http://dev.bg/)
* Association of Software EngineersSE – [http://www.ase.bg](http://www.ase.bg/)
* 2DoIT Conference – <http://2doit.co/agile/>

## Public Project Defense

Each student will have to deliver a **public defense** of its work in front of the SoftUni trainers, assistants and students.

The students will have **only ~10 minutes** for the following:

* **Demonstrate** the Web site content and functionality (very shortly).
* Demonstrate the site in different screen sizes (**responsive design**).
* Demonstrate the site **admin panel** and how it works internally: theme, pages, posts, layouts, media, etc.

Hints for better presentation:

* Be **well prepared** for presenting maximum of your work for minimum time.
* **Open all project assets** beforehand to **save time**: open your site in the browser, open your site admin panel in another browser, etc.
* Test how to connect your laptop with the **multimedia projector** before the defense to save time.
* Please be **strict in timing**! You might get less score if your time is not spent the right way.

## Assessment Criteria (Score)

* **Live in Internet + Domain** (published Web site in Internet, on a custom domain) – **0…4** score
* **Site Structure** (theme, layouts, navigation, widgets, menus, technical implementation) – **0…6** score
* **Design, Usability, Responsive, Compatibility** (good looking site, modern, responsive) – **0…4** score
* **Meaningful Content** (original, high-quality content, not “*lorem ipsum*”) – **0…4** score
* **Use of Plugins** (correct use of WP plugins) – **0…2** score
* **Bonus** (extra, non-required work, bringing more value to site users) – **0...5** score