

# Project Plan

This page serves to structure the Team Charter of the 3rd project of Semester 2 at Fontys ICT & Media Design

## 1. Project Definition

- The project focuses on developing a new website for the **BELCO Alliance**, a nonprofit collaboration between five European universities.
- The website will serve as a **central information hub**, linking to **existing exchange programs** run by member universities.
- Unlike the BELCO Education page, this platform **does not promote BELCO-owned programs**, but rather facilitates visibility of already established university exchanges.
- The site will clearly showcase the **mission, goals, partnerships**, and **opportunities** of the alliance.
- A modern, accessible, and user-friendly design (from previous project) will improve communication and promote **international collaboration**.

### 1.1 Client:

- **BELCO Alliance** – A nonprofit partnership between universities in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, and Denmark. BELCO supports international education through joint research, short academic modules, and mobility programs.
- Website: **belco-edu.com**  
Mission: Promote academic internationalization via university-driven exchange programs and collaborative academic offerings..

### 1.2 Team :

- **Position: Project Manager**

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- **Position: Front-End Developer; Checkpoint Writer**

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### 1.3 Current situation

- The current BELCO Alliance website lacks structure, visual appeal, and clarity.
- Key sections are either **non-functional** or **missing**.
- Information about university exchange programs is **not properly represented or linked**.
- The website fails to communicate the **purpose and reach** of the alliance.

## 1.4 Problem description

The [Belco-edu.com](https://belco-edu.com) website serves as a digital hub for fostering collaboration among members, partners, and stakeholders. However, the website is currently not fully functional and lacks essential content, limiting its ability to effectively showcase the alliance's mission and initiatives.

### Key Challenges:

1. **Incomplete Functionality** – Some sections of the website are not fully operational, engagement and accessibility.
2. **Content Gaps** – Crucial information about the alliance, its projects, and opportunities for collaboration is missing or insufficiently detailed.
3. **User Experience Issues** – Without a seamless and informative experience, visitors may struggle to understand how they can contribute or benefit from the alliance.

## 1.5 Project Goal

- Create a **fully functional**, modern, and engaging website for BELCO Alliance.
- Provide **clear structure, intuitive navigation**, and **direct access to exchange programs** from university partners.
- Improve overall **usability, aesthetic**, and **alignment with BELCO's mission**.
- Increase awareness and international participation in alliance initiatives.

## 1.6 Deliverables

- A redesigned, responsive BELCO Alliance website (HTML/CSS/JS).
- Figma-based UI prototypes and mockups.
- Pages presenting BELCO's **mission, partners**, and **linked exchange programs**.
- Accessibility improvements (WCAG compliance).
- Final project documentation with usage guide and update instructions.

## 1.7 Non-deliverables

- No student enrollment systems or backend development.
- No third-party integrations (LMS, CRMs, etc.).
- No branding or logo redesign unless specifically requested.
- No ongoing site maintenance after delivery.

## 1.8 Constraints

- Limited original content and assets.
- Timeframe restricted to academic semester.
- Client availability may vary, affecting feedback cycles.
- Dependency on timely content delivery from client (e.g. exchange program links, partner info).

## 1.9 Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
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<b>Delayed Content</b>	Set early internal deadlines for receiving client-provided material.
<b>Scope Creep</b>	Stick to defined deliverables; require formal approval for extras.
<b>Design Misalignment</b>	Share mockups early and get regular client feedback.
<b>Platform Limitations</b>	Use simple, flexible technologies and document constraints clearly.

## 2. Development Phasing

### Phasing Schedule

Week	Weekly Goals
<b>Week 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up Next.js project; explore folder structure; configure routing</li> <li>- Research &amp; implement shared layout: Navbar, Footer</li> <li>- Try implementing 1–2 key pages (Homepage, Programs) with dummy data</li> <li>- Explore authentication (NextAuth) + data model setup (MongoDB schema)</li> <li>- Review results; write decision summary with challenges &amp; recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2A</b>  In case Research went well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finish remaining page scaffolding (Partners, Blog, Articles, Account)</li> <li>- Integrate MongoDB (content for Blog/Partners pages)</li> <li>- Implement login/register flow + user session state</li> <li>- Admin dashboard (add/delete content)</li> <li>- Polish UI, finalize placeholder content, deploy on Vercel</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2B</b>  In case research was insufficient. Develop with strictly HTML CSS JS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create folder structure and navbars for both sites</li> <li>- Develop BELCO Alliance site (Homepage, Programs, Blog, Partners)</li> <li>- Develop BELCO Education site (simplified structure)</li> <li>- Refine layouts, apply responsive styling</li> <li>- Review, compress assets and folders, prepare for handoff</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct informal user testing with peers/stakeholders</li> <li>- Fix navigation/UX issues, improve accessibility</li> <li>- Optimize performance, clean code</li> <li>- Prepare final presentation/demo</li> <li>- Submit all deliverables + usage guide and update instructions</li> </ul>

## 3. Target Audience

- **Students** – Exploring international exchange options through their home universities.
- **BELCO Members** – Coordinating and promoting academic mobility and module collaboration.
- **Future Partners** – Institutions interested in joining BELCO or aligning with its mission.