

# Project Control

Sequences and events do not always occur in project work as originally planned. There will be deviations between the planned (“PLAN”) and the real project course (“ACTUAL”). Project control includes all activities necessary to:

- Process the project within the scope of the planning values
- Improve the project planning continuously
- Approach the goal "step-by-step".

To ensure efficient project control it is necessary to monitor the progress of the project continuously. Planned activities are compared with actual accomplishments. The monitoring process primarily concerns deadlines, costs and objectives. As long as they have been carried out carefully and regularly, these aspects should reflect the actual project in the project status report. Working conditions as well as the motivation of employees, management behavior, etc. can also be a part of the project control.

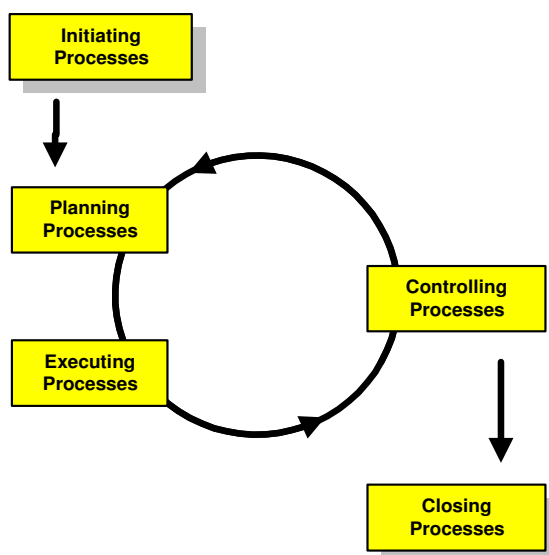
In general the monitoring and control process consists of three phases:

- Recording of the ACTUAL status
- Analysis and interpretation of PLAN/ACTUAL deviations
- Introduction of corrective actions.



Missed the goal?  
That shouldn't happen to us!

Project control model



Project control also means that all corrective actions must be checked with respect to their effect on the goal standard (Magic Triangle).

How are project planning and project control related? Project planning can in theory only anticipate the actual project sequence. Review and control in the Executing phase can only be as good as the planning was.

The better the planning is, the less you have to improvise in order to get the project back on the right course.

**The better the planning, the greater the surprise!**  
**But note: Plan only as much as necessary,**  
**not as much as possible.**

The control of a project lies in the hands of those responsible for the project.

That means: The steering committee is responsible for integrating the project into the entire company; the project manager is responsible for the project, and the team members for the work packages.

Project control is an ongoing task during the entire course of the project. The sooner you detect deviations between the planned and the actual course of the project, the simpler and less expensive it will be to correct the problem. At the very latest you will have to assess at each milestone, whether:

- Partial goals have been achieved
- It has to be continued with modified goals
- Corrective actions have to be taken.