

PM² Certification Handbook



ECVC | European Centre for
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This handbook provides candidates with comprehensive information about the ECVC PM² Certifications programme. It is designed to help candidates understand the available certification levels and select the certification that best corresponds to their knowledge, professional experience, and development objectives.

For each certification, the handbook presents its purpose and scope, key benefits, learning objectives, target audience, study materials, exam format and difficulty level, exam outline, and prerequisites. It also explains how the certifications support progressive development from foundational knowledge to applied capability and advanced expertise in the PM² Methodology.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to read this handbook in full before registering for a Certification Exam.

For all technical-related inquiries, please contact support@ecvc.eu.

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A. About ECVC

The European Centre for Vocational Certification (ECVC) is a leading authority in providing globally recognized certifications across a wide range of high-demand fields. Our mission is to empower individuals and organizations through cutting-edge, industry-relevant qualifications that reflect excellence and support professional success in today's competitive environment.

Rooted in European Union legislation, policies, and official publications, ECVC certifications not only meet global standards but are also closely aligned with the regulatory frameworks and policy guidelines that shape professional practices within the EU.

ECVC is more than just a certification provider, we are a dedicated partner in your professional journey. With a strong commitment to quality and innovation, we strive to make your certification experience both meaningful and transformative. Our programs are designed to strengthen your knowledge, enhance your skills, and support your career advancement.

B. Overview of the PM² Certification Programme

ECVC offers a comprehensive PM² certification programme for different EQF levels of education and experience. These certifications are developed and delivered in line with high quality standards, with all certification-related activities managed through the ECVC exam platform.

PM² Certifications assess candidates' understanding of the PM² Methodology, including the what, when, who, how, and why of its application. The exam questions are balanced in terms of both difficulty and coverage across the four pillars of PM²: Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, and Artefacts, as well as the PM² Mindsets. Candidates are expected to demonstrate a sufficient level of understanding of PM² concepts to apply the methodology effectively in their project work.

Together, the PM² certifications support gradual development in both knowledge and practical capability. They provide a clear path for candidates who want to understand PM², apply it more effectively in projects, and eventually support or train others. As shown in Figure 1, PM² certification levels by difficulty and application focus, the scheme progresses from foundational knowledge at Level 1, to applied capability at Level 2, and to advanced expertise at Level 3.



Figure 1: PM² certification levels by difficulty and application focus.

LEVEL 1

PM² Basic Certification

Designed for those starting their journey in project management, this certification shows that the holder understands the basic PM² concepts and can follow a PM² project and communicate clearly with project teams and managers.



PM² Agile Certification

Designed for those who want to apply Agile in PM² projects, this certification shows that the holder understands Agile principles, tools, and techniques in PM² and can lead projects with Agile effectively integrated.



LEVEL 2

PM² Essentials Certification

Designed for those seeking a solid introduction to PM², this certification shows that the holder understands the key PM² concepts and can work effectively as a member of a PM² project team.



PM² Advanced Certification

Designed for those who want to deepen their PM² knowledge, this certification shows that the holder understands both basic and advanced PM² concepts and can lead a PM² project or support it in an expert role.



LEVEL 3

PM² Essentials Certification

Designed for trainers and educators, this certification shows that the holder has an advanced understanding of the PM² Methodology and is able to teach PM² and prepare candidates for PM² certifications.



C. Overview of PM² Basic Certification



The PM² Basic Certification is a Level-1 certification and an obvious choice for anyone who wishes to start their journey in project management with a basic project management certification. It is designed to confirm candidates' basic understanding of general concepts of the PM² Methodology. The certification exam tests the level of the candidates' understanding mainly on the what and when of the PM² Methodology, and secondarily on the who and how. The exam questions are based on the four pillars of PM² and the PM² Mindsets, focusing more on Lifecycle and Artefacts and less on Processes, Governance and Mindsets.

For candidates to achieve the certification they must be familiar with these PM² concepts at an adequate level so that they will be able to follow the motions of a PM² project and communicate effectively with PM² team members and Project Managers.

C.1. Key Benefits

For Organisations

The PM² Basic Certification helps organisations build a shared understanding of PM² project management among staff who support or participate in projects. Certified team members become more familiar with PM² terminology, lifecycle phases, artefacts, roles and communication practices, making it easier to work with Project Managers and project teams. This supports clearer coordination, better onboarding and more consistent participation in project delivery, especially in EU-funded projects, project administration and cross-functional teams where a common project management language is important.

For Individuals

The PM² Basic Certification gives individuals a clear starting point for developing project management knowledge using the PM² Methodology. It confirms basic understanding of PM² concepts, especially the project lifecycle, artefacts and team communication. The certification is useful for project team members, Project Management Assistants, administration staff, account managers, university students and participants in EU-funded projects. It strengthens professional credibility, helps candidates follow PM²-managed projects more confidently and provides a practical foundation for further project management learning or more advanced PM² certifications.

C.2. Learning Objectives

By completing this certification, candidates will be able to:

- Explain the basic purpose, structure and terminology of the PM² Methodology.
- Understand the four pillars of PM²: Governance, Lifecycle, Processes and Artefacts.
- Recognise the role of PM² Mindsets in supporting effective project work.
- Identify the main PM² lifecycle phases and understand when key project activities take place.
- Recognise the purpose of common PM² artefacts and how they support project planning, execution and control.
- Follow the progress of a PM²-managed project using basic lifecycle and artefact knowledge.
- Understand the basic roles and responsibilities of project team members and Project Managers.
- Communicate more effectively with PM² project teams using a shared project management vocabulary.
- Support project coordination, administration and documentation activities in a PM² project environment.

- Apply basic PM² awareness when participating in EU-funded projects or other structured project settings.

C.3. Target Audience

The PM² Basic Certification is a basic level certification designed primarily (but not exclusively) for non-Project Managers who participate in projects or aspire to play a role in project management:

- Project team members
- Project Management Assistants
- Project Administration Staff
- Account Managers
- University students
- Participants of EU funded project

C.4. Study Material

The exam questions are based on the four pillars of PM² and the PM² Mindsets, focusing more on Lifecycle and Artefacts and less on Processes, Governance and Mindsets.

The exam questions are based 100% on the European Commission's:

- PM² Guide v3.1, 2023

C.5. Exam Format & Difficulty Level

This is a closed book online proctored exam powered by ECVC examination platform:

- Multiple choice questions
- 45 questions per exam
- 45 minutes duration
- At least 35 questions need to be answered correctly to pass the exam
- One mark awarded for every correct answer
- No negative marking for wrong answers

- Difficulty level: Easy

* The PM² Basic Certification Exam is available on any date and time.

C.6. Exam Outline

The 45 exam questions are distributed in thematic categories as per the below table:

Thematic Category	No. of questions	Percentage
1. PM ² Pillars	35	78%
<i>Governance</i>	5	14%
<i>Lifecycle</i>	5	14%
<i>Processes</i>	5	14%
<i>Artefacts</i>	20	58%
2. PM ² Mindsets	10	22%
Total Number of Questions	45	100%

C.7. Prerequisites

No prerequisites. Self study.

D. Overview of PM² Agile Certification



The PM² Agile Certification is a Level-1 certification designed to confirm a candidate's understanding of the application of Agile principles, Tools and Techniques in PM² Projects.

The PM² Agile Certification exam focuses on the Agile aspects of the PM² Methodology covering the what, when, who, how and why of the Agile Extension of the PM² Methodology. The exam questions span the areas of Agile PM² Governance, Lifecycle, Agile Values and Principles, Agile Tools & Techniques.

Candidates who achieve the certification prove a level of understanding of the methodology required to lead a PM² project with Agile principles effectively integrated within the management approach.

D.1. Key Benefits

For Organisations

The PM² Agile Certification helps organisations apply Agile principles within a structured PM² project management environment. It supports better coordination between Project Managers, Team Coordinators, Scrum Masters, Agile teams, Project Owners, PMO/PSO members and business stakeholders. Certified professionals can help teams use Agile values, lifecycle practices, governance roles, tools and techniques while remaining aligned with PM² project structures. This is especially useful for IT projects and other project environments where flexibility, collaboration, iterative delivery and structured oversight need to work together. PM²-Agile expands PM² with specific methods, tools and techniques for teams adopting Agile and Lean principles in PM² projects.

For Individuals

The PM² Agile Certification strengthens an individual's ability to understand and support Agile delivery within PM² projects. It demonstrates knowledge of Agile PM² Governance, Lifecycle, Agile Values and Principles, and Agile Tools and Techniques. The certification is useful for Project Managers, Team Coordinators, Scrum Masters, Agile PM² team members, Project Management Assistants, PMO/PSO members, Project Owners, contractors' Project Managers, business managers and project management trainers. It helps professionals show that they can lead or support PM² projects where Agile principles are integrated into

the management approach. The exam specifically focuses on the Agile aspects of PM² and the Agile extension of the methodology

D.2. Learning Objectives

By completing this certification, candidates will be able to:

- Explain how Agile principles, tools and techniques are applied within PM² projects.
- Understand the purpose and structure of the Agile extension of the PM² Methodology.
- Describe the “what, when, who, how and why” of Agile PM² in a project environment.
- Interpret Agile PM² Governance and understand the roles and responsibilities involved.
- Connect Agile practices with the overall PM² project lifecycle.
- Apply Agile Values and Principles in the management and delivery of PM² projects.
- Recognise key Agile PM² ceremonies and understand how they support collaboration and delivery.
- Use Agile tools and techniques to support iterative planning, adaptive delivery and continuous improvement.
- Understand how Agile artefacts extend or support PM² project artefacts.
- Support or lead PM² projects where Agile principles are integrated into the management approach.
- Communicate effectively with Project Managers, Team Coordinators, Scrum Masters, Agile teams, Project Owners and business stakeholders.
- Apply Agile PM² knowledge in IT projects and other project environments that require flexibility, collaboration and structured governance.

D.3. Target Audience

Candidates who achieve the certification prove a level of understanding of the methodology required to lead a PM² project with Agile principles effectively integrated within the management approach.

- Project Managers/Leaders
- Team Coordinators (TeCo) / Team Leads
- Scrum Masters
- Agile PM² project team members
- Business Managers
- Project Management Assistants
- PMO/PSO members
- Project Owners
- Contractors' Project Managers
- Project Management educators & trainers

D.4. Study Material

The exam questions are based on:

- The PM² Methodology PM² Guide v3.1, 2023 (Appendix – Agile Extension)
- PM²-Agile-Guide (not all sections of this guide are examined:
 - Chapter 2: About Agile
 - Chapter 8: Tools & Techniques (8.2, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10)
 - Chapter 5: Iteration Planning, Daily Standup, Release, Review, Retrospective
 - Chapter 3: PM² Agile Overview
 - Chapter 6: Roles & Responsibilities
 - Chapter 7: Artefacts
 - Appendix B: B1-B4
- Material covered during the Agile PM² Training delivered by the PM² Alliance Affiliated Training Providers (see prerequisites).

D.5. Exam Format & Difficulty Level

This is a closed book online proctored exam powered by our online examination platform:

- Multiple choice questions
- 45 questions per exam
- 40 minutes duration
- At least 31 correct answers to pass the exam
- One mark awarded for every right answer
- No negative marking for wrong answers
- Difficulty level: Medium-High

D.6. Exam Outline

The 45 exam questions are distributed in thematic categories as per the below table:

Thematic Category	No. of questions	Percentage
1. PM² Pillars & Mindsets	10	23%
2. Agile PM² Specific	35	77%
<i>Agile PM² Governance</i>	5	11%
<i>Agile PM² Lifecycle</i>	5	11%
<i>Agile Values and Principles</i>	12	26%
<i>Agile Tools & Techniques</i>	13	29%
Total Number of Questions	45	100%

D.7. Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for the PM² Agile Certification Exam but it would be helpful to have at least one of the following:

- Achievement of the PM² Basic Certification
- Agile PM² preparation training delivered by a PM² Certified Trainer

Familiarity with EU regulatory sustainability frameworks (e.g. CSRD, EU Taxonomy, SDGs)

E. Overview of PM² Essentials Certification



The PM² Essentials Certification is a Level-2 certification and a popular entry point to the world of PM² Certifications. It is designed to confirm candidates' understanding of key concepts of the PM² Methodology. The certification exam tests the level of the candidates' understanding on the what, when, who and how of the PM² Methodology. The exam structure is based on the four pillars of PM² and the PM² Mindsets.

The exam questions are balanced in terms of difficulty and distribution in the 5 areas of Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets. For candidates to achieve the certification they must demonstrate their understanding of the PM² concepts in an adequate level so that they will be able to work effectively as a member of a project team of a PM² project.

E.1. Key Benefits

For Organisations

The PM² Essentials Certification helps organisations build a stronger project management foundation across staff who lead, support or participate in

projects. Certified professionals understand the key concepts of the PM² Methodology, including Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets, which supports more consistent project planning, coordination, documentation and communication. This is useful for project teams, PMO/PSO members, contractors and EU-funded project participants who need a shared methodology. PM² is designed to help teams manage projects effectively and deliver solutions and benefits to organisations and stakeholders.

For Individuals

The PM² Essentials Certification strengthens an individual's ability to work effectively as part of a PM² project team. It confirms understanding of the “what, when, who and how” of the PM² Methodology and provides a solid entry point for professionals who want structured project management knowledge. The certification is useful for Project Managers, Business Managers, Project Owners, Portfolio Managers, project team members, Project Coordinators, Work Package Leaders, PMO/PSO members, educators, contractors, university students and participants in EU-funded projects. It also supports further progression within the PM² certification pathway.

E.2. Learning Objectives

By completing this certification, candidates will be able to:

- Explain the key concepts and structure of the PM² Methodology.
- Understand the “what, when, who and how” of PM² project management.
- Describe the four PM² pillars: Governance, Lifecycle, Processes and Artefacts.
- Apply the PM² Mindsets to support effective project teamwork and professional project behaviour.
- Understand PM² Governance roles and how responsibilities are organised within a project.
- Identify the main PM² lifecycle phases and their purpose in project delivery.

- Recognise key PM² processes and understand how they support project planning, execution, monitoring and closure.
- Use PM² artefacts and templates to support project documentation, communication and control.
- Communicate effectively with Project Managers, Project Owners, PMO/PSO members and project team members.
- Work effectively as a member of a PM² project team.
- Support project coordination, documentation and reporting activities in a structured PM² environment.
- Apply PM² knowledge in different project contexts, including EU-funded projects, business projects and cross-functional organisational projects.

E.3. Target Audience

The PM² Essentials Certification is suitable for anyone leading or participating in projects, regardless of their specific domain of application:

- Project Managers
- Business Managers
- Portfolio Managers
- Project team members
- Project Management Assistants
- PMO/PSO members
- Project contractors
- Participants of EU funded projects
- Project Coordinators and Work Package Leaders
- Project management educators and trainers
- University students

E.4. Study Material

The exam questions are based on:

- The PM² Guide v3.1
- Key PM² Artefacts template

E.5. Exam Format & Difficulty Level

This is a closed book online proctored exam powered by our online examination platform:

- Multiple choice questions
- 70 questions per exam
- 60 minutes duration
- At least 50 correct answers to pass the exam
- One mark awarded for every correct answer
- No negative marking for wrong answers
- Difficulty level: Low – Medium

E.6. Exam Outline

The 70 exam questions are distributed in thematic categories as per the below table:

Thematic Category	No. of questions	Percentage
1. PM ² Pillars	54	78%
<i>Governance</i>	15	22%
<i>Lifecycle</i>	5	7%
<i>Processes</i>	18	26%
<i>Artefacts</i>	16	23%
2. PM ² Mindsets	8	11%
3. General PM ² Knowledge	8	11%
Total Number of Questions	70	100%

E.7. Prerequisites

No prerequisites. Self study.

F. Overview of PM² Advanced Certification



The PM² Advanced Certification is a Level-2 certification designed to confirm a candidate's understanding of both basic and advanced concepts of the PM² Methodology, not only at an individual concept level, but also at the level where interrelations and interdependencies exist.

The exam questions span the 5 areas of Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets and focus on the more applied aspects of the PM² Methodology, covering the full breadth of the what, when, who, how and why of the PM² Methodology.

Candidates who achieve the certification prove a level of understanding of the methodology required to lead a PM² project effectively (or support a PM² project from an expert's position).

F.1. Key Benefits

For Organisations

The PM² Advanced Certification helps organisations strengthen their internal capability to lead and support PM² projects with a more applied understanding of the methodology. Certified professionals can connect Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets, and understand how these areas interact in real project situations. This supports better project planning, coordination, quality management, risk management, deliverables acceptance, transition and business implementation. It is especially useful for organisations managing complex projects, EU-funded projects or project environments where teams need structured methodology, stronger decision-making and

reliable project control. PM² is designed to help managers deliver solutions and benefits by managing the full project lifecycle effectively.

For Individuals

The PM² Advanced Certification strengthens a professional's ability to lead PM² projects effectively or support them from an expert position. It demonstrates understanding of both basic and advanced PM² concepts, including the “what, when, who, how and why” of the methodology, as well as the interrelations between governance, lifecycle, processes, artefacts and mindsets. The certification is valuable for Project Managers, Business Managers, project team members, Project Management Assistants, PMO/PSO members, contractors' Project Managers, EU-funded project coordinators, educators, trainers and graduate project management students who want to show advanced PM² competence.

F.2. Learning Objectives

By completing this certification, candidates will be able to:

- Explain both basic and advanced concepts of the PM² Methodology.
- Understand the full “what, when, who, how and why” of PM² project management.
- Interpret the interrelations and interdependencies between PM² Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets.
- Apply PM² concepts in practical project leadership and project support situations.
- Lead a PM² project effectively using the methodology's governance model, lifecycle structure, key activities and artefact templates.
- Support a PM² project from an expert position by applying advanced methodological understanding.
- Use PM² Governance to clarify roles, responsibilities, decision-making structures and stakeholder involvement.

- Manage the PM² project lifecycle from initiation through planning, execution, monitoring and control, and closure.
- Apply PM² processes to support structured planning, coordination, monitoring, control and project completion.
- Use PM² artefacts and templates to support documentation, communication, decision-making and project control.
- Apply PM² Mindsets to support professional project behaviour, collaboration and value-oriented delivery.
- Understand and apply cross-thematic advanced management topics, including quality management, risk management, deliverables acceptance, transition management and business implementation.
- Communicate PM² concepts clearly to project teams, business stakeholders, PMO/PSO members, contractors and management.
- Apply PM² knowledge in complex project environments, including EU-funded projects and organisational project settings.

F.3. Target Audience

The PM² Advanced Certification addresses the certification needs of anyone leading projects or supporting projects from a position of advanced knowledge:

- Project Managers
- Business Managers
- Project team members
- Project Management Assistants
- PMO/PSO members
- Contractors' Project Managers
- Project Coordinators of EU funded projects
- Project management educators and trainers
- Graduate students (in the field of Project/Management)

F.4. Study Material

The exam questions are based 100% on the following European Commission's publications:

- PM² Guide v3.1, 2023
- All PM² Artefacts templates
- PM² Tools & Techniques (PM² Guide 3.0, Appendix C)

F.5. Exam Format & Difficulty Level

This is a closed book online proctored exam powered by our online examination platform:

- Multiple choice questions
- *70 questions per exam
- *60 minutes duration
- At least 50 correct answers to pass the exam
- One mark awarded for every right answer
- No negative marking for wrong answers
- Difficulty level: Medium-High

**Note: for holders of the PM² Essentials Certification, the PM² Advance Certification exam is comprised of 45 questions with a duration of 40 minutes (At least 31 questions need to be answered correctly to pass the exam).*

F.6. Exam Outline (non-PM² Essentials Certification holders)

The 70 exam questions are distributed in thematic categories as per the below table:

Thematic Category	No. of questions	Percentage
1. PM² Pillars	35	50%
<i>Governance</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14%</i>
<i>Lifecycle</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7%</i>

<i>Processes</i>	10	14%
<i>Artefacts</i>	10	14%
2. PM² Mindsets	5	7%
3. Cross-thematic advanced management topics (Quality, Risk, Deliverables Acceptance Transition, Business Implementation)	30	43%
Total Number of Questions	70	100%

F.7. Exam Outline (PM² Essentials Certification holders)

The 45 exam questions are distributed in thematic categories as per the below table:

Thematic Category	No. of questions	Percentage
1. PM² Pillars	14	32%
<i>Governance</i>	4	9%
<i>Lifecycle</i>	2	4%
<i>Processes</i>	4	9%
<i>Artefacts</i>	4	9%
2. PM² Mindsets	2	4%
3. Cross-thematic advanced management topics (Quality, Risk, Deliverables Acceptance Transition, Business Implementation)	29	64%
Total Number of Questions	45	100%

F.8. Prerequisites

No prerequisites. Self study. However, it is recommended to first achieve a PM² Essentials Certification.

G. Overview of PM² Trainer Certification



The PM² Trainer Certification, a Level-3 certificate, is designed to attest a Trainer's or Educator's master level understanding of the PM² Methodology and their ability to teach PM² and prepare candidates for the PM² Certifications.

G.1. Key Benefits

For Organisations

The PM² Trainer Certification helps organisations ensure that PM² training is delivered by trainers with mastery-level knowledge of the methodology and the ability to explain both basic and advanced PM² concepts. This supports more consistent, high-quality PM² training across teams, training providers and project environments. Certified trainers can also support better training programme design, candidate preparation and methodological alignment.

For Individuals

The PM² Trainer Certification strengthens the professional credibility of trainers, educators, coaches and designers of PM² training programmes. It demonstrates mastery-level understanding of all aspects of the PM² Methodology, including PM² Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets, as well as the ability to explain the PM² certification process clearly.

The certification is valuable for professionals who want to teach PM² or prepare candidates for PM² certifications.

G.2. Learning Objectives

By completing this certification, candidates will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery-level knowledge of the PM² Methodology.
- Explain basic and advanced PM² concepts clearly to learners and certification candidates.
- Teach the main PM² areas, including Governance, Lifecycle, Processes, Artefacts and Mindsets.
- Explain the purpose and use of PM² Artefact Templates and Management Plans.
- Design high-quality PM² training programmes for different learner groups.
- Apply Train-the-Trainer knowledge, including adult learning and instructional design principles.
- Prepare learners for PM² certification exams and explain the certification process clearly.
- Adapt PM² training delivery to the needs of professionals, organisations and project teams.
- Support learners in understanding both individual PM² concepts and how they connect in practice.
- Deliver PM² courses with confidence, structure and methodological accuracy.
- Promote correct understanding and professional use of PM² in project management education and practice.

G.3. Target Audience

- PM² Professional Trainers
- PM² Educators
- PM² Coaches

- Designers of PM² training programmes

G.4. Study Material

The exam questions are based on:

- PM² Guide v3.1, 2023
- The PM² Artefacts Templates and Management Plans
- The TtT Course Notes

G.5. Exam Format

This is a closed book online proctored exam powered by our online examination platform:

- Multiple choice questions
- 30 questions per exam
- 40 minutes duration
- At least 22 correct answers to pass the exam
- One mark awarded for every right answer
- No negative marking for wrong answers
- Difficulty level: Medium-High

G.6. Exam Outline

The 30 exam questions are distributed in thematic categories as per the below table:

Thematic Category	No. of questions	Percentage
1. PM² Pillars		
<i>Governance</i>	2	7%
<i>Lifecycle</i>	2	7%
<i>Processes</i>	2	7%
<i>Artefacts</i>	2	7%

2. PM² Mindsets	2	7%
3. TtT Specific	20	65%
Total Number of Questions	30	100%

G.7. Prerequisites

There are various formal prerequisites for the successful completion of the PM² Trainer Certification:

1. PM² Essentials Certification
2. PM² Advanced Certification
3. PM² Expert Certification
4. PM² Agile Certification
5. Valid PM² Alliance Membership
6. Project Management domain knowledge
7. Training/teaching experience
8. Completion of the PM² Alliance TtT Programme



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