





**Lesson Plan** 

# «Time management: learning how to be more efficient and stress free »

Take time to save time!

1st part (3h)

#### **Overall aims:**

- 1/ Understanding your own relationship with time in order to create long lasting change
- 2/ Finding the right balance between the different spheres of your life
- 3/ Knowing how to use your time according to your priorities
- 4/ Being able to anticipate and plan your activities by focusing on the essential

7h (1 day or 2 half days: 3h+4h)

### Skills to be acquired:

The aim of this training is to allow clients to "live and feel" the different theories and tools available for time management. In order to reach all clients and find collective intelligence, different interactive teaching methods will be used. All the tools and theories used in this module will be gathered in a handout, given to the clients at the end of the session.







Title	Teaching objective	Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents/Re ssources
Welcome		Welcome clients and ask them to choose a picture which reflects their current relationship with time. Pictures will be displayed on a table for easy access.		5mn	Handout « photolanguag e », if needed
Presentation of the training, of the advisor and introduction to the rules of the group	Familiarize clients with the aims of time management	Framework of the day: Introducing the advisor and the objectives of the day  Insist on the skills to be acquired: The aim of this training is to allow clients to "live and feel" the different theories and tools available for time management. In order to reach all clients and find collective intelligence, different interactive teaching methods will be used. All the tools and theories used in this module will be gathered in a handout, given to the clients at the end of the session.  Suggest rules for the group for the entire day:  - Benevolence: everyone is free to speak up and to be listened to with kindness  - Respect: everyone respects what others are saying by actively listening and refrain from judging  - Self-respect: clients can refuse to participate in an activity, or isolate themselves if they feel it's necessary  - Confidentiality: guarantee, as much as possible, the confidentiality of what is being said during the day  - Agree on a time frame	Large group	10mn	Powerpoint : framework of the day
Presentation of the clients and their awareness about their relationship with time	Build the group and ensure benevolence  Foster confidence within the group	« The knot game » : Ice breaker This game builds the group and encourages clients to speak freely. It encourages friendliness and confidence within the group. This game creates a trusting environment, promotes listening skills and respect. It also symbolizes the knot that clients are coming to untangle in this training. Clients are untangling a knot within themselves with the help of their "allies". They find a partner for the next activity.	Large group	10 mn	Handout : « the knot game »







Title	Teaching objective	Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents/Re ssources
	Get clients to know each other  Raise client's awareness about their personal representation of time	<ul> <li>'Photolanguage' in pairs.</li> <li>Back to their seats: clients take the picture they chose at the beginning of the session, and pair with their partner from the previous activity</li> <li>They all have 5 minutes to introduce themselves to their partner, using the picture they have selected. Active listening is key because they will have to introduce each other to the whole group later</li> <li>After 5 minutes, they switch</li> <li>After 10 minutes of exchanges, crossed presentations (client A presents client B and vice versa) to the whole group. It is important to give only 2 minutes per client to introduce their partner, a timer will be very useful.</li> <li>It is possible, at the end of the session, to ask them to select another picture, and to review the differences between the 2 pictures.</li> </ul>	In pairs  Restitution in group	5 mn + 5 mn	Selection of about 30 royalty-free pictures which can be found online.  Timer
The different spheres of life	Help clients understand the concept of the spheres of life	The advisor explains the concept of the spheres of life	Large group	5mn	Handout « the spheres of life »
	Help clients identify the current (and the desired) balance between the different spheres of their life.	<ul> <li>2. "I draw the different spheres of my life" The three steps of this activity will be organized according to the testimony of Nathalie Van Laethem.</li> <li>Show the movie in 3 steps:</li> <li>Step 1: First part of the movie, stop at 2:22 Clients take a blank piece of paper and colored pencils, and draw the different spheres of their life as they are currently organized.</li> <li>Step 2: Second part of the movie, stop at 3:10 Clients take a second piece of paper, just like in the movie, and draw the different spheres of life, as they wish they were organized.</li> </ul>	Individual	40mn	Testimony of Nathalie Van Laethem on her use of the spheres of life: https://www.youube.com/watch?v=3FGV7U7N5K8&feature=youtu.be







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		> Step 3 : Last part of the movie : until the end			Pieces of blank paper (at least 2 per client)
					Colored pencils for each client
					Scotch tape, pushpins, or anything to display the papers on the wall
		OR 2. « Finding the balance between the different spheres of life and clarifying your goals" This is a second tool regarding the spheres of life, so as to offer an alternative to work on this topic, but also because the movie is in French and we do not know an equivalent in English. This second activity will allow the British people to have this activity, even without the movie.			Handout « Finding the balance between the different spheres of life and clarifying your goals »
	BREAK			15mn	J. J. J. J.
	Help clients find a way to properly balance the different spheres of their life.	<ol> <li>Individual work: clients find a challenge they feel they need to address, regarding the balance of the spheres of their life</li> <li>Following the previous activity, the advisor asks clients to write down on post-it notes the challenges and questions they might have about moving from one sphere to another.</li> <li>Then, they will chose the one they want to work on with the group. The participants will have to find a specific problem and present it to the group</li> </ol>	Individual	5 minutes to present	
		in the form of a sentence beginning with the word "how", and then write it down on a post-it note.		one's challeng	







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		<ul> <li>2. Possible ways of response to the specific problem</li> <li>Create groups of 3 or 4 clients</li> <li>One volunteer introduces her challenge to the group and what she wishes to change. She has 5 minutes to address the group.</li> <li>The first volunteer doesn't 'intervene anymore and listens to the group come up with possible solutions</li> <li>Every new idea is written down on a post it note which is placed around the first one. Every idea is then connected to the problem</li> <li>After 5 minutes of brainstorming, the first volunteer (the one who exposed her problem) can respond</li> <li>She chooses the idea which suits her best, and "commits" to work on this idea</li> <li>If this idea doesn't fix her problem, she can use one of the other ideas given during the brainstorming, or start another brainstorming</li> <li>When the brainstorming is over for the first volunteer, move on to the next one.</li> <li>Warning: the advisor needs to be very careful about the time and make sure that every group respects the time. She warns everyone every 5 minutes. A person in each group can be responsible for the time.</li> </ul>	Group of 3 or4 clients	e to the group, 5 minutes of brainstor ming	
	Encourage client to learn from one another by watching the work of the other participants	Showing of the « work » done during the morning:  - By the end of the morning, we can show on the wall the different works made by the clients, if they agree.  - It can be shown in the form of a long frieze:  Spheres of life tomorrow:  A  B			
		Solutions (with the Brainstorming) for a better balance:			







Title	Teaching objective	Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents/Re ssources
		Current spheres of life:			
		Participant A then B, then C etc			
		Clients can then go through the work of others at the end of the session. It can possibly lead to discussions.			
	LUNCH			1h	







### Lesson plan « Managing my time and my priorities »

## 2<sup>nd</sup> part (4h)

Title	Teaching objective	Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents/ Ressources
Welcome		If the session is divided into 2 half days, remind the clients of the 1st part, and introduce the second			
Presentation of the sociological laws of time management	Help clients put into practice some sociological laws with a moving debate	Moving debate on the sociological laws of time management  The advisor asks the whole group to gather at the center of the room.  The advisor will then say one of the following sentences and the clients will have to choose whether or not they agree with it. Those who do, go to the left side of the room, those who don't, go to the right side  The group is now divided into 2 groups  2 volunteers are asked to explain what made them go left or right  Then, the advisor explains the sociological law(s) illustrating this sentence  The group goes back to the center, and the advisor moves on to the next sentence  Sentences to say during the debate and sociological reference:  1. « I always start with the task I enjoy the most. »  Laborit principle  2. « If I have a lot of time to complete a task, I will take more time, and be more efficient"  Illich law, Parkinson law  3. « I often work late at night, even though I am a morning person! »		30 mn	Handout « The moving debate »  Handout « the sociological laws of time management »







European Regional Developm <b>Title</b>	Teaching	European Regional Development Fund  Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents
	objective				Ressources
		Swoboda-Fliess-Teltscher law			
The teacher and the bucket	Help clients understand,	The experiment of the teacher and the bucket:			
	through an experiment, the importance of organizing their time.	<ul> <li>2 possibilities for this experiment:</li> <li>Simply read the text below</li> <li>If possible, make the experiment. For this, you will have to prepare the necessary supplies. The impact will obviously be stronger. You will also have to remove from the power point the slide explaining the experiment, to keep it a surprise until the end.</li> <li>« A teacher at a University gives a lesson about time management. On his desk is a bag of sand, a bag of pebbles, a few big rocks, and a bucket. He asks a volunteer to put all of the items in the bucket. The student starts with the sand, then the pebbles, and when he tries to fit the rocks in the bucket, there is no more room left.</li> <li>"This is an example of bad time management", says the professor. "If you had put the big rocks first, then the pebbles, and then the sand, everything would have fit. This is exactly what time management is. By completing the most important task first, you leave room for the less important tasks, and then for the even smaller ones. If you start with the small ones, you spend so much time on them that you have no more time left for the bigger ones, let me show you."</li> <li>And the teacher fills the bucket again, first with the big rocks, then the pebbles, and finally the sand. He shakes the bucket, and everything fits. The moral of this story is that to better manage your time, you need to work on your biggest tasks first. Otherwise, you risk wasting your day with sand and never getting time to do what matters most."</li> </ul>	Large group	From 5 to 15 mn	Supplies for the activity: bucket, sand pebbles and rocks







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Title	Teaching objective	Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents/ Ressources
TOOL BOX  3 tools to manage your time	Understand how to make better lists and plan for the appropriate amount of time.	The advisor explains key elements in the handout "why make lists?"	Large group	Total : 1h	Handout « Why make lists? »
	With the mind map, break down the actions in activities, tasks and sub-tasks	<ul> <li>2. Make better lists with the Mind Map:</li> <li>On their own, clients make a list of everything they have to do for their business during a week. One thing on one post-it note (small ones)</li> <li>The advisor explains the difference between a task and a sub-task with this example: "for a business that sells seeds, there is a "communication" activity. One of the tasks within this activity is the creation of a website, and the subtasks are creating the graphic charter, content development, quotation requests for different providers, allotted budget, etc.</li> </ul>	Individual work	5 mn	Small Post it notes Handout "The mind map" Paper
		<ul> <li>This example can be completed with a brainstorming, you can ask the group to think about all the subtasks.</li> <li>The advisor suggests that clients draw a mind map of their own with the help of the example on the handout. They can then take their post-it notes and place them according to whether they are tasks or sub-tasks. There is no obligation to fill everything, this is an evolving tool. The important thing is to</li> </ul>	In group Individual work	5 mn	
		<ul> <li>focus on the different levels: activities, tasks, sub-tasks.</li> <li>When all the post-it notes have been properly placed on the map, the advisor asks clients to plan for the time they will need to dedicate to each sub-task.</li> <li>Clients are paired, exchange ideas about their map and complete it if necessary.</li> </ul>	In pairs	15mn 30mn	
	BREAK			15mn	







Title	Teaching objective	Content	Teaching method	Time	Documents/ Ressources
	2 – Learn how to prioritize: understand the difference between what is urgent and what is important in their sub-tasks	The Eisenhower Matrix:  1. Presentation of the matrix 2. Individual work: fill the weekly matrix and organize the sub-tasks from the previous activity	Presentation of the matrix with the whole group Individual work	20 mn	Handout « the Eisenhower Matrix"
	3– Learning how to schedule :	<ol> <li>Creating my schedule (paper or electronic)</li> <li>The advisor introduces the handout "the basics of my schedule".</li> <li>Ask clients to take the drawing they made about the different spheres of life and the Eisenhower matrix. Remember the sociological laws (if needed, use the handout).</li> <li>For those who have a diary, ask them to take it out, and for those who don't, suggest the handout:" My schedule".</li> <li>With the help of all these documents, clients take some time to fill their weekly schedule and plan for the activities they need to do for their business, but also for the other spheres of their life.</li> </ol> Gantt chart	Presentation with the large group  Individual work	30 mn	Handout:  « The basics of my schedule »  "My schedule"
		<ol> <li>In order to have a broader vision than just the weekly one, the Gantt chart will allow you to plan your activities and tasks for the long term</li> <li>The advisor introduces this tool and offers some explanations</li> </ol>		10mn	Handout: « The Gantt chart »
	Celebrate	<ul> <li>Ask clients to think of a task they have recently completed, and wish to celebrate. They write it down.</li> <li>Give an example to inspire them: "I made an appointment at the bank, I was well prepared for the meeting, and it went well."</li> <li>The group stands up and forms a circle</li> <li>Every client who wishes to participate (they have to volunteer) says her task and associates a gesture, a word, a chant, etc. of her choosing</li> </ul>		15mn	







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		<ul> <li>The group then reproduces this gesture or word which symbolizes the celebration</li> <li>Move on to the next participant.</li> </ul>			
Evaluation	Get clients to identify which tools they like and will use in the future	"I bring in my suitcase", "I put in the washing machine", "I throw in the waste bin"  With colored post-it notes, clients work on their own, then share with the group.  OR, on paper, individually, in writing (no sharing with the group)  - Suitcase: the things I have liked, that I found interesting, that I want to use in the future  - Washing machine: things that made me wonder, on which I need to think more  - Bin: things I didn't like, that I will not use.	Individual work 10 mn  Possible to have a group restitution of individual work, on a voluntary basis 10mn	10mn	Post it notes
Going further	Encourage clients to use the tools of this training at home and all along their project	Distribution of the handouts with all the tools and theories about time management Clients walk away with the work they have done during the training, especially the one about the spheres of life.			Distribution of all handouts