EDGE-Skills

Project Manager Training

Trainer Script

Trainer Script: Companion material for the presenter

20 slides · vs10.5 · July 2026

This script accompanies the trainer slide by slide with background knowledge, context, and talking points that go beyond the keywords shown on the slides.

Co-funded by
the European Union

Slide 1

Title Slide: EDGE-Skills Project Manager Training

Welcome to the EDGE-Skills Project Manager Training. This session runs approximately 90 minutes and is designed specifically for project managers who need to onboard a concrete service or data offering into the EDGE-Skills data space.

We work with the Prometheus-X open source stack used across multiple EU projects. Important upfront: this is not an IT training. It is about your role as a PM: coordination, governance decisions, and the artefacts you own.

Technical configuration is the developer's job. You steer the process.

Slide 2

Overview: What This Training Is About

This slide presents four core messages. First: the onboarding process is PM-led (you drive it, not the IT department). Second: we follow a realistic project flow with real deliverables that map to PM responsibilities. Third, and this is the most common mistake in data space projects: governance comes before technology.

Those who start thinking about APIs and connectors first almost always fail. And fourth: data spaces are multi-stakeholder ecosystems. You coordinate across organisational boundaries, not just internally. This requires skills beyond traditional project management: negotiation, alignment, trust-building across independent parties.

Slide 3

Foundation: What Is a Data Space?

This slide presents the definition based on the DSSC Blueprint (Data Spaces Support Centre) and the emerging ISO/IEC 20151 standard. A data space is not a product you buy; it is an environment where independent participants share data sovereignly. The seven elements are central: environment rather than platform, trust through verifiable credentials, peer-to-peer communication via connectors, a governance authority that maintains rules, the DSP and DCP protocols plus the PDI (Personal Data Intermediary), machine-readable ODRL policies, and supporting services for onboarding.

On the right side of the slide: what a data space is NOT: not a data lake, not a central platform, not an API gateway, not blockchain-dependent, not a centralised identity provider. The key shift for PMs: you coordinate an ecosystem of independent participants, not a monolithic platform.

Slide 4

Context: Why This Matters for Project Managers

Three fundamental differences from traditional IT projects. First: multiple independent stakeholders with different priorities, governance models, and technical maturity levels. You cannot mandate adoption; you must negotiate and align.

Second: shared rules instead of central control. Rules are negotiated bilaterally or ecosystem-wide and enforced through machine-readable policies and contracts. PMs must understand this shift from command to coordination. Third: long-term operation, not just a pilot.

PMs must plan for the full lifecycle: onboarding, monitoring, updates, and eventual decommissioning. This is a fundamental mindset change from project delivery to ecosystem stewardship.

Slide 5

Ecosystem: EDGE-Skills and Prometheus-X

EDGE-Skills uses the Prometheus-X open source stack as a ready-to-use toolkit for education and skills use cases. It connects education providers, learners, and labour market actors through sovereign data sharing, without central data pooling.

The Prometheus-X building blocks: discovery via the catalogue, identity via verifiable credentials, contracts as bilateral or ecosystem-wide agreements, consent via the PDI (Personal Data Intermediary), monitoring and audit trails, and service chaining across participants.

The design principle is human-centric: individuals control how their data is used. As a PM, you need to understand how these building blocks fit together (you do not configure them yourself, but you decide how they are deployed).

Slide 6

Key Concept: Onboarding ≠ Deployment

This distinction is fundamental. An offering exists in the data space only when four things are simultaneously fulfilled. Value proposition: what problem does the offering solve, who benefits? Catalogue presence: is it discoverable with clear metadata, described as a product rather than just a dataset? Usage conditions: are policies, contracts, and consent rules defined and machine-enforceable? Connector-based access: is the offering technically reachable via the PDC with configured endpoints and protocols? Onboarding is a structured, PM-led process.

It is NOT a handoff to IT. Many projects fail because they confuse onboarding with deployment.

Slide 7

Architecture Concept: Think in Service Chains

In Prometheus-X, offerings are designed as composable services; they can be combined with other services across organisational boundaries to create end-to-end value. The example shows our reference use case: Schülerkarriere as the entry point provides anonymised student skill profiles.

The Skill Analytics Service as the transformation step maps skills to ESCO and identifies gaps. imc as the end service uses the insights for training programme design. As a PM, you must position your own offering within this broader service chain.

It is not enough to provide a dataset; you need to understand where it sits in the value creation flow.

Slide 8

Core Concepts: Four Elements PMs Must Understand

Four building blocks you need to understand as a PM (not technically implement, but know their function and significance). The catalogue is your product interface to the ecosystem. Poor metadata means no adoption, regardless of data quality.

The Prometheus-X Dataspace Connector (PDC) is the controlled gateway: it handles authentication, policy enforcement, and data exchange. You coordinate the setup but do not configure it yourself. Contracts and policies are ODRL-based and define who can use data, for which purpose, and under what constraints; they must be defined BEFORE technical integration.

Consent via the PDI (Personal Data Intermediary) gives individuals control over their personal data. This is a design decision, not just a compliance checkbox.

Slide 9

Reference Case: Skill Gap Analytics across Organisations

Our reference use case throughout this training: Schülerkarriere as data provider shares anonymised student skill profiles based on learning activities. The Skill Analytics Service as the transformation layer maps skills to ESCO and identifies competency gaps across regions and industries. imc as data consumer uses the analytics to design targeted training programmes.

The data flow model shows: data flows through semantic transformation and quality checks. Each step adds metadata and provenance. Results are re-offered as new data assets with their own usage conditions. This use case accompanies us through the following slides; each step refers back to it.

Slide 10

Step 1: Define the Data Offering

Concretely using the use case: Schülerkarriere defines what data it provides and under which conditions. What is offered? Anonymised student skill profiles based on learning activities and assessments. Who can consume it? Only registered analytics services within the EDGE-Skills data space, for example imc.

What format? Structured JSON with xAPI-based skill descriptions mapped to ESCO competencies. What conditions? Purpose-limited to workforce analytics. No re-identification. No onward sharing without consent. As a PM, you position the offering within the ecosystem value chain and assign operational ownership.

This is your first deliverable.

Slide 11

Step 2: Define Trust Boundaries

Using the use case: what are the boundaries when Schülerkarriere shares data with imc? Who operates what: Schülerkarriere maintains the data offering, the Skill Analytics Service is operated independently, each party is responsible for their own connector.

Who can access what: access is scoped per contract (imc can only access aggregated analytics, not raw student profiles). The connector enforces this at runtime. Purpose limitation: data may only be used for skill gap analysis and workforce planning, not marketing, profiling, or any other secondary purpose.

Onward sharing rules: results may be shared with imc's internal L&D teams, but not with third parties without new consent from the data subjects.

Slide 12

Step 3: Governance Comes First

Before technical integration begins, usage conditions must be clear and unambiguous. Connectors evaluate service calls against predefined contracts and policies. Four dimensions: who can use it: only authenticated participants with valid contracts and verifiable credentials, identity verified before any data flows.

For which purpose: ODRL policies define permitted purposes, the connector enforces them at runtime without manual checks. Onward sharing rules: policies specify whether results can be forwarded and under what conditions, all machine-readable.

Retention constraints: how long data may be stored, when it must be deleted, and what audit trail must be maintained. Using the use case: the contract between Schülerkarriere and imc specifies purpose equals workforce analytics, retention equals 12 months, no re-identification.

Slide 13

Key Principle: Consent Is Not an Afterthought

In human-centric data spaces, consent shapes service flows and user experience. It is a design decision, not only a compliance topic. Three aspects: personal data trigger: when student skill profiles contain personal data, GDPR consent is required before any processing.

This must be built into the service chain from the very start. UX impact: consent flows must be integrated into the user journey. Poor consent UX leads to low adoption and high dropout rates. Scaling implications: consent management must scale across thousands of users and multiple service chains.

Manual processes do not scale. Using the use case: students on Schülerkarriere must consent to their skill profiles being used by imc for analytics. The PDI manages this consent.

Slide 14

Tool Spotlight: PDI (Personal Data Intermediary)

The PDI (Personal Data Intermediary) is the consent management component in the Prometheus-X ecosystem. Four core functions: consent receipts: machine-readable proof that consent was given, by whom, for what purpose, and for how long. These receipts travel with the data through the entire service chain.

Granular control: users can consent to specific uses (analytics yes, marketing no) and revoke at any time. Revocation propagates through the entire chain. Service chain awareness: consent is evaluated at each step in the service chain, not just at the entry point.

This ensures compliance across all participants. GDPR alignment: built-in support for right to access, right to erasure, and purpose limitation. PM responsibility: ensure consent flows are defined during onboarding, not retrofitted.

Slide 15

Step 4: Enter the Data Space

The offering becomes visible and usable through the catalogue and the connector. Three milestones: catalogue entry reviewed as a product: clear description with structured metadata, conditions visible, contact defined, lifecycle considered.

The catalogue entry is your product interface, not documentation. Connector environment defined: the PDC is configured with the correct endpoints, credentials, and policy enforcement rules. You coordinate with the technical team to ensure readiness.

Integration tested end-to-end: the full flow is verified (discovery, policy check, consent, data exchange, logging). You walk through each step to confirm it works as designed. For PMs, this is about coordination and quality, not configuration.

Slide 16

Step 5: Validate the Full Flow

Before declaring the onboarding process complete, you walk the entire story flow from discovery to execution. Five steps: discovery: the offering is findable in the catalogue with clear metadata. Policy evaluation: usage conditions, contracts, and permitted purposes are checked.

Consent check: for personal data, individual user permissions are verified. Service execution: the actual service call, data exchange, and transformation. Logging and accountability: audit trail, provenance tracking, and compliance documentation.

This is not a technical validation; this is your PM acceptance test. You are confirming the business process works end-to-end.

Slide 17

Failure Patterns: Where Onboarding Often Fails

Four typical patterns you need to know and avoid. First: starting with technology, jumping to technical implementation before governance, policies, and contracts are clear. This is the single most common failure. Second: treating the catalogue as documentation, underestimating the catalogue as a product marketing tool.

Poor metadata equals no adoption, regardless of how good the data is. Third: discovering consent too late, not considering consent implications early in service chain design. Retrofitting is expensive and error-prone. Fourth: unclear operational ownership, failing to assign clear responsibility for ongoing operation, monitoring, and updates.

Each of these points can sink an entire project.

Slide 18

Process: Decision Gates That Reduce Friction

Before moving to the next phase, each gate must be passed. This prevents rework and ensures alignment across all stakeholders. Gate 1: offering definition approved; value proposition clear, target consumers identified, data category defined.

Gate 2: governance readiness confirmed; contracts, policies, and consent rules are defined and machine-readable. Gate 3: catalogue entry validated; metadata complete, conditions visible, offering discoverable as a product.

Gate 4: operational ownership assigned; clear responsibility for monitoring, updates, and incident response. These gates are your project steering instrument. Without them, you risk being technically ready but operationally broken.

Slide 19

Exercise: Apply This to Your Own Context

Now it is your turn. Draft a simplified Offering Definition Card for a real or hypothetical service offering. The fields are: offering name (what is your offering called?), target consumer (who should use it?), data category (what kind of data?), one policy constraint (one key usage condition), and onboarding owner (who is responsible?). Take five minutes. Think about an offering from your own work context. If you do not have one, take the Schülerkarriere use case from a different perspective, for example as imc, wanting to re-offer the analytics results as a new data product.

Slide 20

Key Takeaways: What to Remember as a PM

Four central messages to close. First: data spaces are ecosystem projects, not IT projects. You coordinate across independent organisations with different governance models. Second: governance before technology. Clear rules, contracts, and consent flows must precede any technical integration.

Third: catalogue entries are product decisions. The catalogue is your product interface to the ecosystem; poor metadata means no adoption. Fourth: PMs orchestrate across organisations. Success depends on coordination, trust-building, and shared understanding, not control.

Thank you for your attention. Questions?