

MODULE 3. DECISION MAKING  
IN CAREER PLANNING

**READY  
TO  
START**

**3. PODCAST – FROM DECISION TO ACTION:  
IMPLEMENTING YOUR PLAN**



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## 3. PODCAST - FROM DECISION TO ACTION: IMPLEMENTING YOUR PLAN

### Interview

**Host:** Hello, everyone, and welcome back to Decision Making in Career Planning, the podcast where we explore the different stages of decision-making and how to navigate them in both life and career. I'm your host, and today, we're discussing a critical phase in the decision-making process - implementation.

We've covered the earlier stages, from self-assessment to decision-making, but what happens after you've made the choice? How do you put that decision into action? To help us break it all down, we have our guest today, career counselor and expert, Katerina Zlatanovska Popova. Welcome Katerina!

**Katerina:** Thanks for having me with you! I'm excited to talk about this important topic.

**Host:** We're excited to have you! So, let's get right into it. After someone makes a decision—whether it's about their career or a big life change—what's the next step? How do they go from decision to action?

**Katerina:** Great question. Once a decision is made, the next step is implementation. This is when the individual starts putting their decision into practice by creating and following

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through on an action plan. For example, if someone has decided to pursue a new career path, this could involve acquiring new skills, applying for training programs, or even starting the process of job search. It's about taking that decision from the theoretical into the real world and making tangible moves toward the goal.

○ **Host:** So, it's about making the decision real by taking action. What do you think are the biggest challenges people face during the implementation phase?

○ **Katerina:** There are quite a few challenges that come up during implementation. First and foremost, even if someone has done a thorough self-assessment and research, real-life implementation can still throw some surprises their way. There can be interruptions, setbacks, and sometimes even reversals in the process that can be discouraging.

One common challenge is the sheer complexity of starting something new. Whether it's gaining new skills, changing an existing situation, or creating a new one, there are always factors you didn't fully anticipate. If too many unexpected hurdles come up, it might even indicate that the initial research was incomplete or that the goal was too ambitious from the start.

○ **Host:** That sounds tough. So even if someone feels prepared, they can still hit some roadblocks?

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- **Katerina:** Absolutely. And that's normal. Implementation is often where reality hits. It's one thing to make a decision in your mind, but actually acting on it—especially when it requires change—can be challenging. That's why having a clear, step-by-step action plan is so important. It helps to anticipate some of the difficulties, and it gives you a guide to follow, even when things get tough.
- **Host:** I love that—one step at a time. It sounds like having a solid plan helps make the whole process more manageable, even if things get tough.
- **Katerina:** Exactly. And it's also important to build flexibility into the plan. Life rarely goes exactly as we envision, so being prepared to adjust the timeline or rethink certain steps is crucial. Flexibility ensures that when roadblocks pop up, you don't feel like the entire plan has collapsed. You can adapt and keep moving forward.
- **Host:** That's really helpful. So, the key takeaway is to have a plan, but be ready to adjust as needed. Any final thoughts on how people can set themselves up for success in the implementation phase?
- **Katerina:** Yes, I'd say clarity and preparation are your best friends. Be clear on what you want to achieve and make sure your plan includes realistic steps. If you've done the self-

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assessment and research stages well, you should have a strong foundation. But always keep in mind that implementation is a process. Don't expect everything to go perfectly, and give yourself room to adjust if needed.

- **Host:** That's great advice! Thank you so much, Katerina Zlatanovska Popova, for joining us today and sharing such valuable insights on how to take that critical step from decision to action.
  
- **Katerina:** It was my pleasure!
  
- **Host:** And that's all for today's episode of Decision Making in Career Planning!

Stay tuned for the next episode, where we'll talk about how to stay motivated during the implementation phase—because taking action is just the beginning!

