

REGIONAL REPORT – ROMANIA



“Unity through Diversity” or the Way to a Common Language in Project Management

A Romanian PMI Chapter and Roland Gareis Consulting Joint approach

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On May the 31st for half a day the PM community in Bucharest City met to exchange some topics over the just ended PMI EMEA Congress in Budapest and to treat some of the alternate visions, which make the way to a common PM concept more understandable and smooth.

Some 80 invitees took seats at the Howard Johnson Grand Plaza Hotel (shown in photo) where the host of the PMI Chapter, Mrs. Simona Bonghez and the co-presenter Mr. Roland Gareis, a reputed and renowned PM Consultant who lately opened a Consulting office in Bucharest. They challenged the audience with some of the points of view that were intensely debated at the Congress and which are still hot topics in Romania and elsewhere.



The first part of the session was allocated to the Congress sessions that reportedly had made a step forward for advertising the profession and addressing some of the issues largely taken with the occasion of other PMI Congresses around the world. Those issues included cultural clashes within the PM context, the need for qualified professionals to handle the growing size of projects and, particularly, the female Project Manager’s position in this picture.

The Romanian Chapter participants to the EMEA Congress briefly reviewed the entire panel of discussions to which they could attend over the three days Congress in Budapest, insisting on the most highly profiled subjects. The audience seemed to be more interested in the subjects of PMP valuation in the EMEA region, the way certified professionals either by PMI or IPMA can

survive in a more demanding environment of continuous growing size of nowadays projects, and what the Chapter could do for advertising the profession.

Project Management Standards

The standards section, the kernel of any certification process, and the basis on which any PMI or IPMA certification rely on, affected a considerable part of the presentation. Some of the old well known standards were addressed for the audience and for other guests. Some were not PMI related but with visible interest to the profession as well as a few of the newly introduced PMI standards such as Program Management Professional, Standard for WBS Practice, Standards for Scheduling or Extension for Construction of PMBoK 2003.

The current applicable PMBoK 2003 that is under review and alterations that this is about to take toward the new 2008 PMI Main standard was also discussed.

The Standing of the PM Profession

By far the most debated topic was the current standing of the PM profession. This really entertained the audience and fostered some of the key speakers to capture a long portion of the free discussion. Thanks to the double certification credential the PMI Romanian Chapter President holds, both PMI and IPMA, a comparative analysis of being a PM professional under these two institutions was extensively made for more than an hour in the group. It is a positive thing that people embracing two apparently different views over the PM as a profession and philosophy have the chance for advocating from a dual perspective the issues in front of a blend of attendees: PMI professionals, IPMA professionals and third non-allied individuals probably still pondering on which way to go with their credentials.

When Government is in the room represented by Agency for Professional Education the success should be guaranteed attempting to explain the benefits of being a certified professional. Things went hot when the Government official, although pleased to take a seat in the meeting and hearing the presentations, asserted that in fact for the Occupational Standard List under the Project Manager position less than a professional certification is required. Evidently the practitioners and professionals have asked themselves at this point of what good is it to get a valid globally recognized certification if in the domestic country you need far less that this to get promoted. This growing issue was quenched down by Roland Gareis, who stepped in with his presentation attributed to the process vs. project-oriented philosophy.

Presentation by Roland Gareis Consulting



The slides and speakers who took the floor with a microphone reviewed the PMBoK process approach with a fresh air brought by the professional and experienced Roland Gareis himself and his supporting team in Romania.

Although far beyond the startup phase (the Company started in 2005) the RGC (Roland Gareis Consulting), in fact a combination of long demonstrated Austrian experience during international exposure and a local synergistic pool of resources with academic and practical credentials, is well ahead of many

other consulting companies that only test the market prudently. It is laudable that when others still reluctantly stick the finger in the sea, RGC decisively entered the market so effectively, thanks to support accrued from reputed and renowned local consultants. And surely this is only the beginning since the critical mass is not yet attained with regard to the Company size. And surely this is not good news for TenStep or PMSolutions, which operate in Romanian branches. More than that, RGC seems to cover a wider range of the credentialing market by offering besides regular certification and short training courses, the full MBA program, RGC Diploma Courses for Project and Program Management and a better networking opportunity with the so called "PM Days". With exception of CODECS, a very active educational provider that organizes every year the "PM Congress", all the others inexplicable remains at very low profile with the media exposure.

It is also more laudable for RGC that they found a way to get into the Romanian market so rapidly and determined. People are still expecting the next move from the others but they have eyes only for the PMP or IPMA exam preparation or some small training contracts with the corporate. It might be paying off in the short term but the exposure in the market is minimum unless you get out of the box somehow. I am sure IPMA and other Consulting companies will not accept endless to stay low and we shall probably see soon similar events organized by these prestigious entities.

Time to Get Out of the Box

In fact it does not make any point to advocate for yourself from in-house. It seems far more important to start from outside by gaining disciples and adherence to the philosophy. The very same danger is chasing the PMI as well if they do not start from outside the box.

In my attempt to be an objective viewer I can state that it is not a pride being a professional and sharing this status inside your club with your fellows. It might be of high interest to advocate for the profession, for PMI or IPMA as the Code of Professional Conduct to ask of every member.



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