

## REGIONAL REPORT – ROMANIA – NOVEMBER 2007



PMI Romanian Chapter Insight:  
2<sup>ND</sup> Chapter's Conference and 5<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary  
of PMI in Romania

*By Florin Gheorghiu, PMP*

These are the days when a project management professional should feel the proud feeling of being part of a great group, showing a great respect and gratitude for those who dared to believe in ideas and concepts before others did, sharing the satisfaction of being in the same room with other people who embrace the very same passionate desire to accomplish something in the name of a common interest. An overwhelming sense of capturing everything in the morning ruled my thoughts when I first entered the Industry and Commerce Chamber of Romania Building (pictured) on October the 17<sup>th</sup> when PMI Romanian Chapter organized its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary from inception and 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress.

About fifty invitees, either PMI members or non-affiliated practitioners, trainers, project management product developers have taken a seat within a stylish Hall located at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor in the Building where the Chapter started its two day session. The elite group of participants was accompanied by a generous display of sponsors and partners among which to name only part of it were Microsoft, TotalSoft and, a newcomer, Kepler Rominfo, companies well within the project management field as product developers or integrators.

Yet Hungary was represented by two important figures: Dr. Istvan Gorgenyi with his parallelism between sports and sport teams and project management team, and StamfordGlobal, ERP of PMI represented by Andrew Harmati Regional Manager for Project



Management. If I add along with these the International Institute for Learning (IIL) who tried to promote what is known by all of us as a veritable guru in the branch-Mr. Harold Kerzner- anyone can see how significant and highly profiled the event was.

Moderated with a low profile attitude by **Simona Bonghez**, PMP, the President of PMI Romania Chapter, speakers and presenters from Romania, Hungary, Lebanon and Portugal one at the time got to the floor with their presentations. Either as conveying salute and congratulation messages for the anniversary or providing some insights of what it is like being a multicultural acting Project Manager, all speakers raised the bar to a level not seen before in the Chapter's meetings.



The most surprising moment was the presence of Alexandre Rodrigues, PhD, PMP and mentor of the 8<sup>th</sup> Region EMEA of PMI that includes the Romania Chapter as well. Dr. Rodrigues, who is also an International Correspondent of PMForum in Portugal, delivered a fresh and well-received speech. Unlike previous boring instances when people crowded one into the other to praise and congratulate some unfinished accomplishments, this time it was the opposite: decent messages about a well done job, support for the future, warm encouragement for the new arrivals, good advice originating from highly skilled project managers with a consistent international background and exposure.

I must add one thing that captured persistently my attention then and now: the annoying custom of marketing and promoting products and companies during a Chapter's anniversary day did not get into the room on October the 17<sup>th</sup>. And this thanks to the Chapter's President who specifically wanted to keep focus on the real community issues, who made the program so that the audience could keep the ears and minds tuned on the same frequency with the person at the microphone. It was definitely a success in approaching a well-balanced combination of messages and presentations ranging a wide span of issues, from today's status to the way ahead for PMI members and certified PMPs', to tools and techniques used for implementing projects and portfolios, to the unique issue of being a project manager for a humanitarian mission.

One presentation really fostered the room's audience and my interest too: Jimmy Char, PMP from Lebanon, who delivered a real and useful perspective of what it is like to be an international project manager working across many cultural boundaries and being in the spotlight of your international team and more, coping with an international client. A vivid and enough real to be believed presentation (as Rita would say "coming from the real life of project management") interrupted only by laughing people from the seats who probably recognized part of the story from their recent professional life. All in one, Jimmy Char (med) the audience and this is the reason why it is a pleasure for me to add his name in my news.



If I were characterizing the two day Congress and Anniversary events of the Chapter I would have to say: it was a balanced upward trend of overall quality. That's what I captured in my seat listening to the others and looking at the people's non-verbal languages and gestures, the positive trend. This is a great opportunity for the Chapter to advocate decently and unequivocally for the profession and attracting adherence from the public.

So almost one year from the chair taking over in her mandate, Simona Bonghez (pictured) managed to regain an old position lost when the Chapter ceased temporarily being active in the way that it should have been.

The Romanian PM community is gearing up for the next major event: PMForum, the fifth edition scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> of October at Marriott Hotel. Speaking about the trend continued with this edition, I have to announce and I hope I would not make any misleading message the presence of Michel Thiry, PMP, TVM, FAPM, PMI Fellow from Valense Ltd, Mike Poulson from Wilson Learning Europe, and Steve Armstrong from The Open University to name a few of the speakers enlisted for the Forum.

Definitely October is a busy month for us down here that work and sense the phenomenon in project management. Far from being bored or letting events pass away unobserved, these are the actions we would like to see more often arranged in the City and why not in the country as well. Isn't it all part of the lessons learned from the recent history kind of processes that we were taught to take advantages from? I believe we are all well on the same path and the sense of feeling so well together is growing.



*Florin Gheorghiu*  
*PM World Today Correspondent*



Mr. **Florin Gheorghiu**, PMP, is an International Correspondent for PMForum in Bucharest, Romania. Florin currently acts as a Professional Project Manager and Head of Engineering Department for a local based branch of Bucharest utility Company in the field of power and heat . He is also experienced working for EPC contracts within the construction industry for the industrial and real estate sectors. Florin has added much to its professional accruals when working on large power plant rehabilitation program financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD) and the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), and for Parsons Power (Gilbert Commonwealth), Lahmeyer International and Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L) as a project Consultant. Florin is a graduate of the Technical University of Bucharest in Power Engineering and the National School for Political Studies and Administration in Management. Mr. Gheorghiu can be contacted at [fgheorghiu2001@yahoo.com](mailto:fgheorghiu2001@yahoo.com). Additional information about Florin Gheorghiu can be seen at <http://www.pmforum.org/blogs/news/2006/11/florin-gheorghiu-becomes-pmf.html>