

REGIONAL REPORT - GREECE



While Greece heads to elections at 16th of September, Project Management is evolving & the country burns!

By Theofanis Giotis

Greek elections don't affect the Greek Project Management Standard!

Greece is heading towards early elections at 16th of Sept. 2007. But, it seems that elections don't affect the development of the Greek Project Management Standard. As previously reported, at the beginning of August, Mr. Christos Folias from the Greek Ministry of Economics has signed an agreement with Mr. Nikolaos Simferis, CEO of ELOT (the Greek ISO member) for the development of a new Greek Project Management Standard. Under this agreement, ELOT, in the next 18 months will develop the **Greek Project Management Standard**.

The Greek Government, Ministry of Finance, is demanding that all organizations in Greece dealing with projects funded through Community Support Framework (CSF 2007-2012), must **be accredited with this new Greek Project Management Standard** by 1st of January 2009. Until the 1st of Jan. 2009, companies can overpass this requirement and can be certified with ISO 9000.

Last week ELOT has started to invite representatives from all major ministries to form a technical committee concerning the development of this new Greek Project Management Standard. Unconfirmed sources indicate that ELOT has invited two representatives from more than ten (10) major stakeholder organizations (at least 6 ministries and at least 4 other organizations).

This committee will monitor two major Project Management issues:

1. development of the Greek Project Management Standard
2. development of the ISO Project Management Standard

Until now, sixteen (16) countries have agreed to participate in the development of this Global ISO Project Management standard in addition to two (2) observer [countries](#) (Greece initially was not included in these participating countries).

Approved by the Technical Management Board of ISO in November 2006, the development for the Global ISO Project Management Standard will begin later this year as a Project Committee under the title [ISO/PC 236, Project Management](#).

Fires in Greece affecting Projects & Project Management

Athens, 27 August 2007

Unfortunately, fires on Greece have killed more than 63 people until today. More people are missing as fires mainly in the southern Greece, Peloponnese, are destroying everything in their path.



We all know that modern project management evolved mainly for dealing with difficult projects, crisis situations and wars. But it seems that project planning for dealing with fires in Greece was inadequate. Of course we must take into account other 2 factors:

- the number of fires was extremely high
- winds were helping fires to spread

The title "Project Manager" as a career path does not exist for the Greek Government and local agencies. Project Management and proactive risk management are terms that have been introduced very lately in Greece. More and more people are now talking about "proper project planning". Everyone now understands that you cannot have "project execution" and "project controlling" without "extensive project planning".

This means the project management will be a "hot issue" in Greece for the months and years to come. The PMI Greece Chapter will contact the Greek government in

the next few days offering its professional Project Management services at the Government's disposal.

Over the next few days, the European Union will announce special projects for helping the affected people and the burned areas.



Theofanis C, Giotis

PM World Today Correspondent



Mr. Theofanis C. Giotis, MSc, MCT, PMP is an International Correspondent for PMForum.org in Greece. Mr. Giotis is also CEO of ITEC Total Solutions SA, an Information Technology Solutions company, and managing director for ITEC Training Services SA, an IT, Project Management and Management Training company. Mr. Giotis has an MS degree in Operations Research from the University of Lancaster (UK) and a BA in Economics from the University of Athens, Greece. Theofanis has 20 years' experience in Management, Finance, IT, Security and PM. He is a co-founder & steering committee representative of the PMI® Greece Chapter and a member of the Greek Computer Society, Greek Operations Research Society, Hellenic Management Association, and several other Greek and international professional organizations. Additional information about Theofanis Giotis can be found at

<http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>.

Theofanis lives in Athens and can be contacted at Theofanis.Giotis@ITEC.edu or Theofanis.Giotis@PMI-GREECE.org.