

## REGIONAL REPORT – FRANCE



### SMAP Takes Place in the French Project Management Associative Sector

*By Thibaut Goupil*

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2006, SMAP was born. The ambition of this 'French Society for advancement of Project Management' is to promote and defend the project management profession.



The board of the association is composed of:

- Philippe LEBIGOT, President; graduated from Supélec and INSTN, past President of AFITEP, past President of the certification board, and developer of IPMA level C certification workshops, he is currently Responsible of the operational management control at Amont-Aval and Trading, EDF group;
- Jean Louis MULLER, Vice-President;
- Véronique LABORDERIE, Secretary;
- And Patrick GOUGOUX, Treasurer.

#### **SMAP: an ambitious project**

Founders of this project are professionals from companies practicing project management whose goals are to promote and defend their profession. They consider "having to fight to allow standards creation, research, experimentation, critics about project management to stay out of commercial sector"; indeed, the point is to not let PMI® fill the empty space and to carry on AFITEP's mission.

AFITEP, which was created in 1982 and which is now composed of a thousand project management professionals, was indeed declared unable to pay its debts in April 2006. The absence of France in this domain would weaken the current AFITEP European associative partners and the French companies, deprived of a common standard, against their foreign competitors.

#### **The objectives**

To achieve its goal – promote and defend project management (PM) profession – SMAP strategy can be broken down in 2 directions:

- The promotion: diffuse the PM knowledge - all the concepts, the methods, the good practices, the techniques and the tools of PM – and cheer up the research of new work methods;

- The certification which concerns the professional experience and the competencies. The different certifications will be recognized by IPMA – SMAP being already a member of IPMA - or by ICEC (thanks to a partnership with AACEi which will be established)

### **An organization balanced**

To not reiterate the failure of AFITEP which was too far from the corporate world, SMAP is going to create an equilibrium between the project companies (civil engineering, IT, automotive, defence...), the supplying companies (PM consulting, training and software), the individuals and the academics. This equilibrium, written down in the association status, is the base of the organization.

A College of Member Companies is counter-balanced by a College of Individual Members at each vote of a general assembly. To elaborate its standards, SMAP created a Scientific Committee. SMAP's activity territory being France, Regional groups will be established. Their aim will be to develop the association activity within the specified area.

### **Numerous events**

Conferences, workshops, certifications exams, publication, newsletter and a job database are the main activities of the association.

On 11 December 2006 Pierre Foussier, one of the most experienced estimators, animated a seminar about the Estimation. On 15 February 2007 the theme was the "certifications in the World"; a global overview presented by Gilles Caupin. Finally, SMAP will be present at the next PM congress 'les Rencontres 2007 du Management de Projet' organized in Paris on 27 and 28 March ([www.birp.com/rmp2007](http://www.birp.com/rmp2007)).

Information collected from the SMAP website [www.smap-asso.eu](http://www.smap-asso.eu)



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