

REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY



News from Germany

By Manfred Rieck

A Happy New Year from Germany! I have some very good news from Germany. The requests for project managers grow significant due to the increasing number of projects and the understanding of more and more organisations that educated project managers are needed to drive projects successfully. In addition the project management landscape participates on the recurring economy growth in Germany – although many Germans are not aware of this situation in opposite to investors who are already back in the country.

Germany is seen as the engine for European business and listening to several organisations the pipeline grows and promises a successful year 2007. Here are some numbers for this prediction.



BITKOM, the German Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications, and New Media e.V., did a research and identified that 70% of the high-tech companies are optimistic when looking at the year 2007 – here especially the software developers and the IT services providers. The tax increase stimulated the consumer behaviour in a positive manner end of 2006 to make large investments before year end. And this trend is predicted to move on – The Kiel Institute for the World Economy forecasts an economic growth of 2.1% compared to 1% in the past.

Beneath this positive news 50% of the investigated organisations expect bottlenecks with technical experts and with these problems to fulfil the market demands. The universities produce too few alumni, e.g. the beginners in computer science slowed down 25% towards 28.000 since year 2000. This was one of the main topics, which had been discussed in the meeting with the German chancellor in December 2006.

The German governance is currently driving very large projects within the healthcare sector, here to name the electronic health card, where 130.000 medical practices, 22.000 pharmacies, 2.200 hospitals, and 300 health insurance

funds have to be connected. This politically driven project has to bring very different worlds of politics, technology and medicine together, which is obviously a challenge for all affected parties. The pilot test with 10.000 patients is moved to end 2006. A study from Booz Allen Hamilton leads to the assumption, that the budget seems to triple compared to initial estimations towards 3.9 Billion Euro. This sounds really like a very complex project. The question is how are government projects driven in Germany?

The increasing number of complex projects in the Government environment made the introduction of an appropriate model necessary – therefore the V-Model XT is mandatory since November 4th 2004 to be used for these projects. Based on best practices of the V-Model from 1992 the V-Model XT has a focus on scalability to be prepared for projects within a complex environment. The model is in an ongoing improvement process – since beginning 2005 more than 700 changes, functionalities and tailoring steps towards the governmental departments have been processed. A certification program has been launched in July 2006 to educate the users accordingly, details on the model can be found under www.v-modell-xt.de.

After this excursion to government – where I expect to give you some interesting news in February – I would like to give you some updates on the German PMI landscape.

The PMI chapters in Germany celebrated the year end with their historic Dinner Meetings. At these annual meetings interested project managers and friends are invited to come together, exchange some experience and have a delicious dinner in a fantastic atmosphere. The guests from PMI Frankfurt Chapter met in



Wiesbaden near to Frankfurt to get some insights into the topic 'Ethics in Business', where we were able to get a speaker from a European Business School in Germany. The idea of this topic was raised due to the announcement of the new PMI Ethics code at the Leadership Meeting in Seattle in October 2006. The meeting was a high success with more than 50 guests and comments like: "... *this event throws the already*

excellent last year's Dinner Meeting into shade... it will be a hard job to top this next year".

In the south of Germany – the PMI Munich chapter – celebrated the Dinner Meeting in a fantastic environment and introduced several topics like 'What the PM has to know about Game Theory'. They gave an update on the PMI organisation, and introduced the Systems Engineering study in Landshut – here also succeeded from a delicious dinner.

The GPM (German Project Management Association) honoured the Xchanging Transaction Bank GmbH with the Project Award 2006 for their successful data migration of the stock transaction from a German bank. The 9 person team prepared the big bang within one year and managed 3,900 activities and 40 milestones – without any influence of the customer. It was very conspicuous that this successful team was brilliant in their communication and that soft skills becomes a competitive advantage in project environment. The award was

donated within the "23rd International Project Management Forum 2006" with about 400 managers and academics.

To summarize: The importance of project management grows, the year end was fantastic and 2007 seems to become a very good year – what else is needed?

I wish you and your family a Happy New Year and all the best.

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