

## REGIONAL REPORT - GERMANY



## Project Management News from Germany

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I would like to give you an update on the German project landscape. So having a look at the economy the economical atmosphere in Germany is still good and the salary increases – but slowly. Due to the lack of high skilled personnel in Germany, the boundary for Eastern European engineers opens in November. Engineers from the twelve EU countries can be hired without investigating in the German labor market first whether the skills are available. The Secretary of Labor Franz Müntefering underlined that German employees should still be preferred. But at the latest in 2011 the European labor market is planned to be aligned, so every habitant can work in every European country without restrictions.

Furthermore the EU- Justice-Commissioner Franco Frattini introduced the concept of a ‘Blue EU Labor card’. This work permit is planned to be distributed to high qualified employees in a summary procedure. The candidate needs a contract of labor, a qualification confirmation and a salary significantly higher than the wage floor. But this concept is still under discussion and German politics don’t accept that labor politics is made from the EU. They argue that labor politics needs to be the responsibility of national Government – as Germany still has ~ 3 Million jobless persons. Industry welcomes this approach as it promises to close the skill gap in the labor market and improves the German economy. The current approach using the Green Card where employees need to earn at least 85.000 EURO/year is not feasible for SMB.

### **Project Updates and News**

I’m happy to inform you about a very interesting program started from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. They have started the high-tech program “Theseus”. The focus of this program is semantic technologies to identify the meaning of data. The program investigates Web 2.0 and Semantic Web topics from an open source point of view. It runs for 5 years and is supported with 90 Million Euro from the government and 90 Million Euro from the involved industry. By the way today the project is looking for programmers. One of the coordinators is Stefan Wess from Empolis GmbH who wants to acquire the high skilled persons into this project to offer them the chance for working with industry **and** science. Some Web 2.0 prototypes are already developed and are now in testing mode.

One project I want to mention is the SAP based “Texo” project. This is a scenario researching how to ease the communication between different software components – highly innovative and interesting. The Siemens corporation is another Theseus partner and coordinates the

“Ordo” project which has the goal to coordinate digital content. The first results of Theseus are planned to be delivered at the end of 2008.

Looking at the various project management organizations it becomes obvious that they are still very active strengthening the project management community.



### GPM (Gesellschaft für Project Management)

The German Project Management association GPM is proud to welcome their 4000<sup>th</sup> member in September, which means they have doubled their members since the year 2000.

Looking at the event list, the organization celebrates a PM Forum in October 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> in Munich with the slogan

“Project Management without boundaries” as already mentioned in a former newsletter. They offer more than 60 speeches and workshops. You can get further information at

<http://www.gpm-ipma.de>

### PMI Munich Chapter

The Munich Chapter had a personal change in September. The VP Finance had to abdicate the position for a personal reason. The position is taken by the president Herbert Gonder till the next election. For details have a look at [www.pmi-muc.de](http://www.pmi-muc.de).



### PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter

The PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter had a profession circle at Deutsche Telekom AG Laboratories led by Matthias Malmgren addressing the topic “Project Communication”. The event was sold out. For details have a look at [www.pmi-berlin.org](http://www.pmi-berlin.org).

### PMI Cologne Chapter

The Cologne Chapter had an open workshop on “Business Rules and Decision Tables” together with the University of Applied Sciences Dortmund. For details have a look at <http://kstc.de/pmiceu> and <http://www.wirtschaft.fh-dortmund.de/reusch/openworkshops.html>.



### PMI Frankfurt Chapter

The PMI Frankfurt Chapter had a very interesting meeting in September hosted by Procter and Gamble (P&G). One of the presentations was about the introduction of Project Management at P&G. This company exists since already 170 years and offers strong brands

like Pampers and Tide – which most of us know all over the world. They introduced Project Management within a worldwide initiative 2 years ago while implementing 1.) Learning and Development 2.) A Subject Matter Expert Network and 3.) Reviews and Assessments processes. P&G is closely linked with the PMI Methodology and are on the journey to implement measurement metrics for the initiatives.

The second presentation introduced Deutsche Leasing AG, a company owned by German saving banks, that is offering the service to lease projects (hardware, software and services). The leasing duration can be handled with flexible options and the organization offers risk management and quality management services to avoid trouble projects, maybe an interesting way to convince stakeholders with an external view on projects. For details have a look at the PMI Frankfurt Chapter website [www.PMIFC.de](http://www.PMIFC.de).



### PMIFC Branch

The Local Group Hamburg – PMI Frankfurt Chapter’s Branch – had a very interesting meeting about Risk Management by Claudia Hildebrand from IBM, held at the IBM location in Hamburg. The next meeting common with the GPM is planned for October 1<sup>st</sup> in the form of a “Stammtisch” (regular’s table). For details please have a look at the PMIFC website [www.PMIFC.de](http://www.PMIFC.de)



Scenes of Hamburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Germany

I hope this short overview gave you some impressions about the German Project Management landscape and hopefully see most of you in Atlanta at the PMI Leadership Meeting and the PMI Global Congress North America 2007.

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