

REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – DECEMBER 2007**Project Management News from Germany**

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Project Management News and Economy Update

As you became already aware in my former reports for PMForum, I like to reflect the business atmosphere in Germany in the reports – focusing on project management but looking beyond the end of the profession's nose. In terms of project management there are still strong requests from the labor market in Germany and the profession becomes more and more accepted. I'm in discussion with large organizations in several industries, which are on the way to implement project management components (e.g. a PM curriculum or a methodology). Some of them are in the decision process for the right method, mostly PMI vs. GPM vs. Prince 2 others are already planning the appropriate change program. However, we are all aware that this organizational change takes several years, but the Project Management profession is an excellent approach preparing for a highly flexible environment, which is mandatory to survey in the globalized world!

Here are some business insights. Looking at the German economy the numbers are still good, the Ifo-index mirroring the business climate in Germany is slightly increased for 0.3 points in November towards 104.2 and the expected GDP will grow 1.8% in 2008 (source: Commerzbank, compared to 2.2% in 2007) seems to be optimistic but still realistic. However the growth is flattening, the high Euro is expected to lead to a reduction of our exports and we have a inflation of 3.1 % in November re the prices for Oil and Gas. On the other hand the number of unemployed habitants is still decreasing and the tax income is higher than expected – a very diverse picture of Germany's economy.

Press Headlines

The European Union (EU) initiated a pendant for the American MIT. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is planned to coordinate research activities of the member countries. The EU plans to invest 308 Mio EURO for the coming 6 years in this institution.

The Roll out for German Health Card is still struggling. The initially planned April 2008 seems to be impossible and 4th quarter 2009 is expected to be realistic. The costs for the

projects are estimated between 1.4 Billion EURO (Department of Health) and 10 Billion EURO from the Kassenärztliche Vereinigung, an institution covering the health insurance.

Mixed teams are more successful than project teams build solely with the own employees. This is a result of a research from the Technical College Ludwigshafen among 500 participants.

GPM (Gesellschaft für Project Management)

The GPM has celebrated the Roland Gutsch Project Management Award with Heinz Palme, the Chief Organizer for the FIFA World Championship 2006. The project was delivered in a fantastic way and had a positive effect for Germany. Roland Gutsch is one of the founders of IPMA (International Project Management Foundation).

The German Project Management Award was not distributed this year – the first time since its existence for 10 years. GPM argued that the award reflects a well defined quality, which was not reached from the submitted contributors. The student awards were distributed this year in Munich. GPM had 34 articles to choose from with high quality. The winners got 1.000,- EURO and were able to participate at the PM Forum 2007. You get further information with <http://www.gpm-ipma.de>

PMI Munich Chapter

The Munich Chapter celebrates an interesting Chapter Meeting December 3rd at Linde AG covering the topic Six Sigma presented from the Six Sigma specialists and Black Belts. The meeting is already fully booked. For details have a look at www.pmi-muc.de.

PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter

The PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter had a personal change in it's board. The new VP Members became Lutz Hoffmann, who displaces Marlene Geneth. After the election a presentation from the adjudicator Lutz Wagner gave some insights into the world of soccer games. The Chapter meeting at November 15th gave insights towards Quality Management. For details have a look at www.pmi-berlin.org.



PMI Cologne Chapter

The Cologne Chapter plans the second open workshop with the University of Applied Sciences Dortmund. The topic is “Creativity and Creative Problem Solving – Advanced Concepts in Project Management”. For details have a look at <http://kstc.de/pmiceu> and http://www.wirtschaft.fh-dortmund.de/eurompm/Webportal_EuroMPM-Dateien/oscrea.html

PMI Frankfurt Chapter

The PMI Frankfurt Chapter had the yearly election together with the Dinner Meeting on November 26nd in a restaurant in the Rhein-Main area. There occurred some changes in the

Board so the VP Meetings position is taken over by Rüdiger Liebe, the former Advisory VP Meetings, because I was offered a role from PMI GOC in a Member Advisory Group for EMEA to support the Component Mentors in their role. For the VP Communication role the well known PMI volunteer Eckhard Genßmann has been elected and for the VP Marketing position Thilo Staudt has been elected. The new VP Programs is Henning Zeumer. I wish the refreshed board a successful period and a strong member growth.

For details have a look at the PMI Frankfurt Chapter website www.PMIFC.de.

I hope this short overview gave you some impressions about the German economical and Project Management landscape.

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Manfred has a Master of Science in Computer Science from University Bonn, Germany and is enrolled in the Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program at Henley Management College, UK. His research investigates change management studies. He is also a member of the 2007 PMI® Leadership Institute Master Class. After being Vice President of the Frankfurt Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) for several years Manfred is actively engaged in the PMI® Component Mentor Program Mentor Advisory Group (CMP MAG) advising the European Component Mentors in PMI related topics to promote professional project management across Europe. Additional information about Mr. Rieck can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>. Manfred Rieck can be contacted at Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com.