

## REGIONAL REPORT - GERMANY

Project Management News from Germany  
and a Quick View Across the Borderline

*By Manfred Rieck*

The vacation time is nearly over and most of us are again in business to prepare the year end already, which is expected to be a tremendous success for the German economy. The signs are still positive although the growth is somewhat declining. Nevertheless the optimism in Germany is still here. Regarding the project landscape Germany is on a growing path and Project Managers are as rare as other professions. A study from the German Interior Ministry is estimating that till 2014 around 95.000 engineers and 135.000 natural scientists are missing. This missing costs Germany more than 20 Billion Euro in 2007. Interesting numbers and interesting market – isn't it? To get you some insights I would like to invite you to a journey through the project landscape in Germany and give you some news about the project management organizations from our country.

### Project Updates and News

The German Government is still working on the **Government 2.0 program** approved from the parliament in February 2007. They identified four areas to work in:

- a. Portfolio: the qualitative and quantitative extension of the e-government offerings according the need
- b. Process chains: Electronic collaboration between government and industry with common process chains
- c. Identification: Implementation of the electronic Passport und development of e-identity concepts
- d. Communication: Secure communication infrastructure for inhabitants, organizations and governmental departments

The internet is planned to be the main communication– and selling channel for government services. With this program 25 pilot-projects were initiated to build up a service-oriented government environment for the citizens.

The **Electronic Health Card project** about which I reported already at the beginning of this year is still ongoing and the initial online tests are planned for January 2008. There were some reports that there are still negotiations about the backend structure and therefore only an offline usage is possible – which is no real advantage compared to the current card – but this is negated from the responsible project department. However, more than laboratory tests weren't done so far for the online usage.

Looking to Europe a consortium of 9 parties together with the Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum (SEZ) started the EU-Projekt **DINAMICS** (Diagnostic Nanotech and Microtech Sensors). They are developing a water sensor to identify the quality of water. This is based on nanotechnology and should help to avoid bioterrorism on drinking water. It is planned to develop a mobile device for large events like sports events and a gauging station for regular observation of drinking water reservoirs. So viruses are identified immediately and the citizens are secured constantly. The project is sponsored with 4.5 Million EURO from the European Commission. The project partners from 9 countries were supported from the SEZ for the proposal and now SEZ took over the knowledge management and the administrative and financial Project Management. For further information visit the [www.steinbeis-europa.de](http://www.steinbeis-europa.de).

### **GPM (Gesellschaft für Project Management)**

The GPM organization initiates the PM Forum 2007 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in Munich at the Praterinsel. The motto is: Project Management without Boundaries.

The first project management foundation has been launched in Munich. The Manfred Saynisch Stiftung für Projektmanagement (MSPM-Stiftung) located in Munich has the goal to support the research on Project Management, Configuration Management and Systems Engineering Management. The foundation has been initiated from Manfred Saynisch, one of the founders of GPM.

The IPMA/GPM have started several activities to distribute project management related information. They implemented together with the University Darmstadt an information portal for project management reachable under [www.gpm-infocenter.de](http://www.gpm-infocenter.de) and a newsletter is planned quarterly from IPMA. You get further information with <http://www.gpm-ipma.de>

### **PMI Munich Chapter**

The Munich Chapter had a very successful meeting in July at Siemens Corporation with several presentations from Siemens Project Managers. The response for this meeting was so high that they had to close the registration. Furthermore the election for the board of directors has started. The Chapter implemented an e-voting process and needs the votes no later than September 24<sup>th</sup>. For details have a look at [www.pmi-muc.de](http://www.pmi-muc.de).

### **PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter**

The Berlin Chapter had a meeting at Daimler Chrysler Financial Services investigating the game theory for project managers. Also in Berlin the election started with an electronic voting. For details have a look at [www.pmi-berlin.org](http://www.pmi-berlin.org).

### **PMI Cologne Chapter**

The Cologne Chapter had their elections in June and the President is Klaus Stephan, PMP. We wish him good luck and success for his new role. The Chapter works closely with the University of Applied Sciences Dortmund and prepared for example open workshops on the project management topic together with Professor Reusch, the VP Universities of the Chapter. For details have a look at <http://kstc.de/pmiceu>.

## **PMI Frankfurt Chapter**

The board elections of PMI Frankfurt Chapter are planned September 24<sup>th</sup>. There are several volunteers interested in the roles – especially the role of the VP Public Relations has several candidates so it promises to become an interesting race. Furthermore the chapter still implements the concept of the Advisory VP to educate future VPs in their role. PMI Frankfurt Chapter is strongly involved in the preparation of the Austrian PM Symposium described below and the President Dr. Wilhelm Kross gives a presentation in Vienna.

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 – has regular events in the northern part of Germany and works closely with the itSMF organization to link project management with ITIL structures and models. In September IBM presents the topic Risk Management and in November Mr. Stein from GPM is invited to introduce the GPM model. For details itSMF please have a look at <http://www.itsmf-events.de>.

## **Across the Borderline**

Most of the German chapters are supporting and sponsoring the Project- and Portfolio Management Symposium in Vienna, Austria. At the PMI Leadership Meeting in Budapest in June, most of the European component leaders confirmed to visit this event where more than 1.000 Project Managers are expected. The President of the Frankfurt Chapter is giving a speech at this important European Symposium. For details have a look at <http://ppms.pmi-austria.org/Content.Node/ppms/>.

As mentioned at the beginning the Project Management landscape in Germany is a very interesting environment. As you can see, the borders between the European countries become blurred and the PMI chapters work closer and closer together. This is a very good sign for the worldwide community and supports every professional in the international environment we are working in.

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