

REGIONAL REPORT – ROMANIA – APRIL 2008

ROMANIAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT CLIMATE
A STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE END OF 1Q 2008

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Fostered by the numerous projects launched in the last year and continuing to the current period, as well as thanks to the emerging sectors in the economy boosted by the international players within automotive, construction, real estate, information technology industries on the one hand and more mature telecom and banking on the other hand, the project management science and occupation has, continued to strengthen its top ranking occupational position.

It can be proven by the abundance of project management job like requests either as such or in other variation forms, and by the increasing number of social and educational events focused on the issue.

The two major streams in Project Management, PMI and IPMA, are both gearing up for either Rome for the IPMA Congress or Malta for the PMI EMEA 2008 Global Congress, where the elite will join this year as in the past for assessing the status and paving the road for the future's accomplishments.

The same turmoil can be noticed when we get down to the level of educational providers registered, affiliated or independent. All of them are making serious efforts to keep pace with the continuous growing of global and regional interest for the profession and issues deriving from Project Management.

There is a constant demand on the market for training, specific, dedicated or general while people start to learn more and more about what this profession entails. They are learning the benefits and professional requirements, and how they can maximize their professional value while moving up the career ladder.

Either as a request of their employers or a result of personal initiative, young professionals are keen to observe and follow this line at the entry point of their careers as much as older professionals. This is revealed by the increasing number of training courses to assist with preparation for PMP certification held by PMPs' affiliated with the local PMI Chapter or by companies in the field of education and training which seem to be very busy this period.

While the driving motive remains unclear, it is sure that the perception for a professional attitude and approach towards project management is soaring. This could result from individuals' desire to get a better standing within their companies rather than management pressure applied to employees for getting credentials in order for the former to trust that their projects will be conducted to the end successfully.

In any case, the training and certification market in Romania is now in good shape and newspaper ads calling for PM trainers and consultants can be seen more and more often. This is true not only in the capital Bucharest but also in the heart of the country as in Cluj-Napoca or Brasov, cities which are now experiencing a development rate as never before.

The PMI Romanian Chapter continues to offer assistance for preparation for the PMP certification exam and a number of trainers offer courses for aspirants. The PMBoK is surprisingly more and more on everyone's lips and this is due to the global exposure of the PMI standard and thanks to certified professionals acting now in high managerial positions for certain companies.

While the PMI Romania Chapter relies upon the PMI framework and prestige to attract new individuals for certification and getting internationally recognized credentials, the IPMA has a number of courses rated according to their assessment conditions and requirements. These have limited acceptance and recognition as courses being eligible to meet IPMA standards. The educational providers render the training based on IPMA's eligibility awarded and they cannot complain for lack of an audience. For one course, for example, it was reported that the number of students has grown from hundreds some years ago to thousands this year.

Despite the effervescence at the training provider level, the colleges and universities are still away from the stream. With the exception of a few general project management courses which provide on a broader view of PM concept, we can name here the National School for Political Studies and Public Administration with its Mater Degree Course in Project Management and the Academy of Economic Studies with its 1.5 years

Master Degree Course in Project Management (within the IT environment), all other initiatives remain shallow.

Very actively, Roland Gareis from Austria with Roland Gareis Consulting came to take a seat unoccupied by the universities and colleges when we come down to Project Management. The Roland Gareis offering is targeted to a wide range of professionals than just those looking for a Certificate in Project Management and includes those who are seeking an MBA Degree.

Besides, the western universities are present with their offers for the same degrees and regularly advertising for students. This option cannot be ignored since many Romanian students are eager to get a reputed credential from a western university rather than from a local one.

With the constant growth of the profession and with the pressure exerted by businesses to get top professionals to lead their projects, the training providers must keep up with this trend. It's a fact known by both of them. In the middle of game is the individual with his or her option to choose. Whichever side he or she chooses will make the profession go ahead.



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