

## REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – NOVEMBER 2008



### Project Management News from Germany *End of October 2008*

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#### **Introduction**

Almost everyone is affected by the economic crisis, which isn't anymore limited to the real estate and finance market but has reached the automotive market, too. Several apocalyptic scenarios are discussed in the media but what we see is that trust and professionalism are key for success in current times.

This situation is a chance for highly professional behaviour for well educated and experienced leaders. These attributes help significantly gaining transparency and the ability to appraise a situation or a project. Going one step further the CritSit manager role is requested now who is able to deal in these situations with coolness to keep the survey of the situation but moving the organization with its projects forward.

#### **News from PM Professional Organizations**

##### **PMI Chapter News**

The **PMI Frankfurt Chapter** (PMIFC) is working on the preparation of the **Symposium 2008** entitled "**The Human Factor**". It is organized from the German speaking chapters in Europe and takes place November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Frankfurt, Germany.

The next chapter meeting is the well known **Dinner Meeting** – a combination of the yearly election and a famous event with great food and information around project management. It is planned November 24<sup>th</sup> at Schubeck's Location in Frankfurt with a special guest. This event is again the opportunity to meet interesting people and

probably to decide working as a volunteer to support Wilhelm Kross' request who is still looking for volunteers to help growing the chapter.

The next **PMIFC Regular Table Heidelberg** takes place November 7<sup>th</sup> in Heidelberg discussing the topic "Business Processes".

The **Local Group Hamburg plans** its meeting November 14<sup>th</sup> investigating cost and benefit of project management methodologies on a practical example.

For further information on the PMIFC events please visit [www.PMIFC.de](http://www.PMIFC.de)

The **PMI Munich Chapter** celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 21<sup>st</sup> in Stuttgart with a retrospect of all the big and small "stories" around the chapter. Congratulations to Herbert Gonder and his board. For more information please visit [www.PMI-muc.de](http://www.PMI-muc.de)

The **PMI Berlin Chapter** had a special event in October visiting DHLs deal hub in Leipzig. The small airport in Leipzig became a hub for international logistic business. The project budget was 320 million EURO and was realized in time and in budget. The project was honored from GPM in their Project Management Award selection. For more information please visit [www.PMI-berlin.org](http://www.PMI-berlin.org)

The **PMI Cologne Chapter** had its chapter meeting with board election in October. Congratulations to Klaus Stephan and his board. Details can be found at [www.PMICC.de](http://www.PMICC.de)

## **GPM News**

The GPM had its 25<sup>th</sup> **International Project Management Forum** on October with a visitor record. More than 600 attendants were in Wiesbaden to get insights to new trends and development in the project management landscape.

## **Economic Updates – News from the German (Project) Landscape**

I would like to give you some more impressions on the economic situation we are in at the moment.

Looking deeper at the project situation it needs to be differentiated as on one hand projects are continued as usual and on the other hands projects are stopped to put on an emergency brake.

This is not in every case the best choice as stopping a project is sometimes more costly than finishing it – maybe with a smaller scope but in a defined mode. Panic

doesn't help but leads to confusion and chaos. As stated at the beginning the worldwide crisis is expected to have implications to all of us. The German economic temper could be described as follows.

The facts are that a large Bank (Hypo Real Estate) had trouble re the sub-prime crisis in the US, several Federal State Banks need strong financial support from the Federal Government and the economic outlook is strongly revised from 2% towards 0,2% in 2009. Daimler plans to stop its car production for 5 weeks – one of several automotive companies. This means a strong downturn as Germany is still a country with many employments at auto manufacturers and its suppliers. SAP reduced its outlook and discusses vacation time and company car programs with its employees – this has never occurred in the past. The companies behave as if they navigate into the fog as nobody knows where the world economy is going.

This is what we experience day by day – the black Fridays of the stock exchange are already familiarized. This very cloudy picture should give you sense but as I discussed with a friend today, time gets better – it's a question of time. I wish us all the best in these strong times.

I hope this update on the German landscape finds your pleasure. If you would like to share your experience with the readers of **PMForum** or if you have some important news on the project management landscape or if you have comments and thoughts on my cogitations **please drop me an e-mail at [Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com](mailto:Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com)**



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management programs. 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. Manfred Rieck can be contacted at [Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com](mailto:Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com).