

PM WORLD TODAY – REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY



Project (Change) Management News from Germany
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Introduction

As you can read in the title already the boundary between project management and change management becomes blurred. More and more PMI chapter events in Germany aim at change management topics as this discipline appears to be the logical next step for project management and its components. The Project Manager – or as I wrote in the April news, the **Swiss Army Knife Change Leader** needs to train his skills in project management topics as well as change management discipline. But which skill set characterizes a Change Leader? The simple usage of project management tools in combination with a sales attitude to sell the change isn't enough, there is – beneath others – a need for strong leadership competence to convince the affected people. The focus on these so called 'soft factors' needs to be known, applied, improved from the Change Leader. More on change management was discussed on the following events.

News from PM Professional Organizations

PMI Chapter News

The **PMI Frankfurt Chapter** (PMIFC) has its regular chapter meeting in May 25th in the Rhein-Main area. A program is in planning.

The PMIFC **Local Group Dresden** meets once a quarter for project management related topics. The past meeting was planned in Dresden April 28th discussing the question "Where is the change?".

The PMIFC **Local Group Hamburg** had a meeting at IBM in Hamburg offering the topic: The roadmap to professional IT – a practical approach for change management with CMMI, ITIL or SPICE. The presentation was given from Mareike Solbach who wrote a book on it already.

The PMIFC **Cracker Barrel** had a meeting on April 11th in Frankfurt investigating the topic:

Integration of PM in large-scale enterprises - which responsibilities should be given to which level / roles, what kind of policies should exist and how detailed should they be as well what kind of flexibility is necessary to ensure successful projects at the end.

This change management topic was discussed with enthusiasm in the audience as every Project Manager is expected to lead changes. It was – again – an interesting and amusing evening around Andreas Reinhard moderating the events.

For further information on the PMIFC events visit www.PMIFC.de

The **PMI Munich Chapter** had its regular chapter meeting on April 24th at Microsoft in Munich headlined “Collaboration in Teams”. There was a presentation about the Sharepoint product, a case study about project management in international teams, and a presentation discussing the roadmap to high-performance teams.

The PMI Munch “**Stammtisch**” is planned May 16th discussing the topic “Stakeholder Management in daily business”.

For more information please visit www.PMI-muc.de

The **PMI Berlin Chapter** plans its next chapter meeting May 29th and was able to invite the PMI CEO Greg Balestrero introducing Enterprise Project Management. The meeting is planned at BMW in Munich and a presentation about “(Boxer)-Motorbike projects at BMW” is expected with great interest – as Greg owns one of these bikes to get into the office – when is isn’t in a plane somewhere on the globe. For more information please visit www.PMI-berlin.org

The **PMI Cologne Chapter** plans its chapter meeting May 8th in Düsseldorf with a presentation about “Personal development for the business – are there best practices?” from Erwin Lautwein. The election of the VP Members is closing the evening. For more information please visit www.PMICC.de

GPM News

Otto Zieglmeier, the IPMA Vice President and former GPM President, passed away on April 6th because of a cerebral tumor. The project management community lost a unique colleague and friend who did lots for IPMA and the GPM.

Our deepest sympathy is with his partner Rita Rosenbaum, his three children and his parents.

Project Updates – News from some German Projects

The **V-Model** has a long tradition in Germany in regards of project management in the governmental environment. The initial version was introduced in 1992 and the new release called **V-Model XT** from February 2003 is mandatory to be used in projects with the German government.

On March 31st a new registered association called **WEIT e.V.** was founded from EADS, Siemens, Fraunhofer, 4soft, IABG, Technical University Clausthal, and Technical University Munich to coordinate the further development of the V-Model XT and to support the usage of the V-Model XT Certification Program. The first member has become the Federal Republic of Germany (the Federal Administrative Department).

Other News Affecting Projects & PM in Germany (and the world)

The high Euro currency above 1,60 USD becomes difficult for the European export but panic is not appropriate. Some companies investigate whether to move parts of their production to the US continent. Are projects moving to the US?

The World Wide Web (WWW) has celebrated the 15th anniversary on April 30th. In 1993 it was opened for general usage, today 1.3 Billion users are estimated – the number of habitants of India..., Germany has 52 Million users (63% of the habitants). 41% Germans order via the WWW. Its influence into the culture of projects and project management is tremendous (e.g. collaboration tools to support virtual teams).

The project management landscape is still evolving and the importance of the Project Manager role is strongly growing. The role model for project managers is widely known and worldwide standards are established – best qualifications for successful projects. But a recent Kienbaum study testifies that 41% organizations in Germany are planning to focus on change management in their personal development programs...

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**



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