

REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – AUGUST 2009



Project Management News from Germany

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Introduction

The press is dominated from the Volkswagen/Porsche story where the Porsche chair Wendelin Wiedeking left the organization after 17 years. Since some days the swine flu becomes central discussion topic where the numbers of infected people are climbing by some hundreds per day. A reason seems to be the vacation travelers, who come back from their holidays. However, the German Government ordered 50 million vaccination doses.

The economic situation changes daily, on one hand the DAX has climbed above 5.300 points and the outlook of most analysts is good (the IFO index has increased for the fourth time – plus 1.4 towards 87.3 points), but on the other hand the analysts are warning that this won't lead automatically in an upturn. We are expecting a strong growth of un-employments in Germany and still credit issues with the banks as companies get credits only after a long-lasting and detailed credit-checking process.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is still pessimistic and promises a GDP decrease in Germany of 6.2%, this is 0.6% more than promised in April this year. In 2010 the IMF promises a decrease of 0.6%, which is 0.4% less than in April.

What does this mean for the German project management landscape?

Simply spoken: **“Project Managers are still rare!”** The projects are stressful and well skilled and experienced project managers are fished for but as we have a bottleneck it is a chance for junior project managers to get into lead roles and collect the experience for the senior position.

News from PM Professional Organizations

PMI Chapter News

PMI Frankfurt Chapter (PMIFC) is working on several topics to activate the PMI members and friends in their profession. They offered a Six Sigma workshop, are working closely with PMI Educational Foundation, and were able to (re-)activate several regional events. The next Chapter meeting is planned

The **Cracker Barrel Frankfurt** is restarting its activities in August 8th 2009 every first Tuesday of the month in Frankfurt.

A new **Regular Table Mannheim** is planned August 21st to exchange project management news and experience. Location will be Best Western Premier Steubenhof Hotel in Mannheim.

The **Local Group Hamburg** plans its next meeting September 9th presenting the experience of IT-Outsourcing at Deutsche Leasing with a focus at India. For further information on the PMIFC events please visit www.PMIFC.de

The **PMI Munich Chapter** had its chapter meeting July 27th at Microsoft Corporation investigating a global LAN Roll-Out, Microsofts Sharepoint server and Project Management Archetypes.

The **Regular Table Stuttgart** for the English Speaking Group is planned August 18th in Stuttgart Vaihingen (Patch Barracks Religious Center).

The **Regular Table Munich** is planned in August 14th. For more information please visit www.PMI-muc.de

The **PMI Berlin/Brandenburg Chapter** celebrates its 5th anniversary and plans its next chapter meeting on September 3rd. Congratulation to the team! For more information please visit www.PMI-berlin.org

The **PMI Cologne Chapter** plans its chapter meeting August 28th in Dortmund.

The **Local Group Dortmund** plans its next Regular Table September 10th.

The **Regular Table Cologne** is planned September 15th. For more information please visit www.PMICC.de

GPM News

In September 19th the Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften Augsburg (HAS) is inviting for a Method Day on Project Management – from Practitioners to Practitioners. GPM (Association for Project Management) is supporting the event. For details please have a look at <http://www.gpm-ipma.de/docs/01001>

Project Updates – News from the German Project Landscape

The situation has not really changed for the profession and as already mentioned Project Managers are rare and there is a strong demand for high skilled professionals. The workload has – in opposite to what we are reading in the press from other professions – increased. There are several different situations we are dealing with. On one hand we have short-time work in Germany and many employees are using this “free time” to educate themselves – especially as this education is often funded from the Federal Employment Office.

On the other hand the project landscape has been screened over the past months and only the strategically important projects are still running or are assigned. So the organizations are desperately looking for experienced Senior Project Managers and Program Managers to bring the projects home.

It's a challenging but very interesting time and I'm hoping this update on the German project management 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.

About the Author



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Manfred Rieck, MSc, PMP, is an International Correspondent for PMForum and [PM World Today](#) in Germany. Mr. Rieck is also Manager at IBM Corporation for IT-Business Development and Project Delivery in the finance, automotive and public sectors and holds an IBM Senior Project Manager certification. He was previously Program Manager in IBM's Project Management Center of Excellence (PM/CoE) responsible for EMEA. Mr. Rieck is specialized on recovering critical complex projects in international environments and on the development and implementation of change management programs. Manfred has a Master of Science in Computer Science from University Bonn, Germany and holds the Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree 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.