

REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – FEBRUARY 2009



Congratulations & Project Management News from Germany *February 2009*

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Introduction

I would like to congratulate the Americans for electing President Obama!

It was the first extraordinary announcement in 2009 and the voices in Germany were positive from almost everyone as Mr. Obama is a person with strong charisma, which many top-ranking politicians are unfortunately missing. In the current world economic situation his strong leadership is needed and other charismatic leaders need to be heard everywhere in the world.

In many companies adequate leadership is missing as a research between 830 Top Managers from Booz & Company observed. As leadership is a key competence of Project Managers our need to be proud of the profession and our support to solve the current situation in a positive way is asking to all of us.

News from PM Professional Organizations

PMI Chapter News

PMI Frankfurt Chapter (PMIFC) had its regular chapter meeting on January 26th in Frankfurt presenting two interesting speeches. The yearly strategy meeting was planned January 31st to adjust the chapter and discuss ideas for the project management landscape. The next chapter meeting is planned for March 30th in the Rhein-Main area, the program is in preparation.

The next **Frankfurt Chapter Regular Table Heidelberg** is planned February 22nd to exchange project management news and stories. For further information on the PMIFC events please visit www.PMIFC.de

The **PMI Munich Chapter** plans its next chapter meeting February 2nd at the Munich Airport as a combination of a presentation on “Convince rather than command – how to reach a common project understanding” and airport round trip. A dinner will close the day. For more information please visit www.PMI-muc.de

The **PMI Berlin Chapter** plans its next chapter meeting on February 19th in Berlin – the detailed planning is in progress. For more information please visit www.PMI-berlin.org

The **PMI Cologne Chapter** had its last chapter meeting January 22nd discussing about agile project management. It has founded a Regular Table of its **Local Group Dortmund** in February 5th to debate in a relaxed atmosphere on project management topics. Details on the chapter activities can be found at www.PMICC.de

GPM News

The GPM (Association for Project Management) published a study on the success for project management. The key areas for successful project management are

1. strong project managers well integrated in the organization,
2. clear goals,
3. strong communication.

The study can be loaded at http://www.gpm-ipma.de/download/Ergebnisse_Erfolg_und_Scheitern-Studie_2008.pdf.

In a second study the European Business School investigated the perception of project management from a Top Management perspective. They interviewed 30 Top Managers and came to the conclusion that project management is rated as very important for the organizations. The strongest issue for organizations is multi-project-management coordinating many projects **and** line management. For 1/3 the people's competence and their engagement are the most important success factors. Details of the study can be found at http://www.gpm-ipma.de/download/Studienergebnisse_Top-Management.pdf.

Project Updates – News from the German Project Landscape

The German project landscape is expecting several projects in conjunction with the **Economic Stimulus Package** (see Breaking News article from January 13th 2009). We are awaiting projects in the government environment, in the construction sector for infrastructure and schools and in the banking sector. Especially the German banks are looking for quality improvement actions (e.g. Program Management approaches for governance, Organizations Cockpit/Dashboard solutions for numbers-based business measurement, Quality Management approaches) to understand the current business better and to be better prepared for the future as 2009 is still uncertain for most of them. According to discussions with Senior Managers the organizations are aware that strong project management skills,

methodologies and tools are mandatory to be flexible and professional in the current world economic situation.

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 ***PM World Today*** 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 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 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.