

REGIONAL REPORT – PORTUGAL – JULY 2009

Project Management Update from Portugal
*End of June 2009*By **Alexandre Rodrigues***International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today
Lisbon, Portugal***PMI Portugal Chapter News**

The last two months were primarily marked by the PMI Portugal Chapter Annual Conference, June 5th-6th, which happened to be a major success. Ran from Friday through Saturday, the room on Saturday evening, as the last presentations were delivered, was still full with its 125+ enthusiastic participants.

There was one important complaint from the delegates: the event should *not* be annual but rather take place on a semester or even quarterly basis. The quality of the program was the most recognised benefit and the already promising presenters were well above the expectations.

Large government companies and other major market players had the opportunity to exhibit the high level of maturity at which their project management processes stand.

From railway infrastructures, where Refer EPE has presented their current adoption of *Earned Value Management*, the currently major 2,25 billion program underway at Parque Escolar EPE which is also being managed using *Earned Value*, to the organizational adoption of a “management by projects” model at Portugal Telecom (IS) described by its COO Mr. Gonçalo Oliveira, the presentations delivered indicated that the maturity level of the market has increased substantially over the last few years.

Capitalizing on the tide from the PMI Portugal Chapter conference, another Project Management event directed to students was delivered at the New University of Lisbon towards the end of June.

Project News

The building of the new airport of Lisbon continues in the headlines of the daily news: it is now estimated that the bidding process will only be initiated after the new elections and therefore it will be a decision to be taken by the new government.

Meanwhile, the leader of the social democrat party, the major opposing party which recently showed in the polls to be slightly ahead of the current government in the voters' intentions, has declared that in case she is elected, whilst the TGV program (i.e. fast speed train) will be cancelled, the new airport of Lisbon will continue.

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Alexandre Rodrigues, PhD, PMP, Ceng, is an International Correspondent for **PMForum** and *PM World Today* in Portugal. Dr. Rodrigues is also Executive Partner of PMO Consulting and a Senior Consultant with the Cutter Consortium (US). Alexandre holds a degree in Systems and Informatics Engineering from the University of Minho (Portugal) and a Ph.D. from the University of Strathclyde (UK). He is a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®), a Chartered Member of the Portuguese Association of Engineering (CEng), and a member of the British Association for Project Management (APM). Alexandre was founding president of the PMI Portugal Chapter and was PMI Component Mentor for Southern, Central and Northern Europe during 2004-2007. Additional information about Dr. Rodrigues can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>. Alex can be contacted at Alexandre.Rodrigues@PMO-Consulting.pt.