

REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – JUNE 2009

Project Management News from Germany
June 2009

By **Manfred Rieck**, MBA, PMP
*International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today
Wiesbaden, Germany*

Introduction

The “German Summer” has begun as we have very nice temperatures, which is drawing off somewhat the attention from the economic situation we are in. The outlooks from German Research Institutes are promising 6% negative growth of the German GDP. They are expecting 4.7 Mio jobless persons in 2009. To avoid negative effects to the consumer spending behaviour, which is still stable and sharp tongues are assuming that the German chancellor election in 2009 could be another reason, the short-time work in Germany is expanded from 18 to 24 month to avoid an increase of jobless persons. On the other hand the German climate index IFO, which is an indicator for the business expectations has grown from 82.2 in March to 83.7 in April.

German Executives are looking optimistic into the situation as documented in a recent study from Boston Consulting Group (BCG), but it is mentioned in several sources (Handelsblatt, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, The Economist) that many companies are underestimating the situation.

A 3rd economic package is not planned for the moment as the effects of the two working packages are not yet felt.

Looking into the project management landscape it could be seen that most of the PMI chapters are working in a “business-as-usual” mode preparing their events and the newsletters.

News from PM Professional Organizations

PMI Chapter News

PMI Frankfurt Chapter (PMIFC) had a successful Chapter Meeting in May with around 70 members and friends listening to interesting presentations. The next chapter meeting is planned July in the FRANKFURT SAVIGNY hotel, in Frankfurt.

The **Regular Table Frankfurt** is restarting its activities in July 27th 2009 every first Tuesday of the month.

The **Local Group Dresden** has its next meeting on June 8th in Dresden investigating the topic “Automation of Business Processes. Guests are highly welcome.

The next **Regular Table Heidelberg** is planned June 15th to exchange project management news and stories. The meeting celebrates the 1st anniversary of the group at MLP AG to get a deeper look at MLPs PMO methods and tools.

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

The **PMI Munich Chapter** had its chapter meeting May 25th at Oracle corporation investigating several aspects of Oracle’s project management.

The **Regular Table Munich** is planned in June 5th discussing on “Trust in Projects”.

The **Regular Table Stuttgart** is planned June 22nd with three speeches in Stuttgart beginning with Collaborative Project Management followed from Micro Politics in Projects and The path to High Performance Teams.

The Round Table Stuttgart is planned June 16th introducing the Game Theory for Project Managers.

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

The **PMI Berlin Chapter** plans its next profession circle in June 18th. For more information please visit www.PMI-berlin.org

GPM News

The Roland Gutsch Project Management Award 2009 has been granted to Dr. Jörn Lauterjung from German GeoForschungsZentrum GFZ und Dr. Sri Woro Harijono from BMKG Jakarta for their strong contribution to the GITEWS (German Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System) in the Indian Ocean.

The GPM (Association for Project Management) is inviting for the interPM in Glashütten/Taunus, Germany in June 19/20 to listen for the 24 Presentations and workshops investigating the topic “Projects as Cultural Events” (for details please have a look at www.interpm.de).

The GPM is represented at the fair “Personal & Weiterbildung” in Wiesbaden in June 04/05 near to the area Coaches and Trainers (for details please have a look at www.personalundweiterbildung.de).

Project Updates – News from the German Project Landscape

The German project landscape becomes more and more nervous as organizations are cutting their project spending at a large scale. The automotive industry is still leading this negative list as budget is sometimes frozen without any obvious strategic reason. In the banking industry projects are still ongoing and new projects are started but as mentioned in the last update letter already “Clients are pushing up projects which promise cost reduction in a short term.” Strategic projects are seldom started at the moment but it is expected that the “sick banking system of Europe” (Economist, May 9th 2009) will be reorganized as German banks – and mostly the Landesbanken – are holding 816 billion Euro (1.1 trillion USD) toxic securities.

This situation is leading to a number of consolidation projects as soon as the political situation is clarified. Beneath these expected large projects the outsourcing activities in banking, automotive, and the industrial sector have grown tremendous and organizations are claiming that they are short in skilled people – just for the due dilligence.

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



Manfred Rieck

Author

*International Correspondent - Germany
Based in Wiesbaden*



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.