

# Ten Years of Professional Project Management in Russia



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## **A role of Project Management in the modern world**

To the current time Project Management like professional activity has become recognised all over the world. The Projects Management methodology and techniques will be widely used in all areas of project-oriented activity and business. For last 30 years Project Management was formed as new culture of management and has become the peculiar cultural bridge in civilised business and miscellaneous continents countries co-operation with a difference history, traditions, economics and culture. Already it is difficult to call even one considerable project, which one would implement beyond the framework of philosophy and methodology of Project Management. It is difficult also to call even one company, known in a pattern which is not using in its practice Project Management methods and a tools

## **Project Management place and role in administrative activity**

The development of professional Project Management has transformed it into the potent tools as controls of creation of new products and services, and implementation of targeted changes within the framework of separate organisations, companies, and also whole social and economic systems and societies. All this allows to assert, that about 40 % of useful activity will be performed through the different projects and programs. At the same time all workers of an areas of management collide in the practical activity with necessity of implementation of different changes both development of organisations and systems by projects or programs. A conclusion from here follows, that for normal development and effective operation today's, becoming project-oriented companies all body of the engineering, economical and administrative specialists should be familiar with the bases and capabilities of Project Management as new by administrative culture and irreplaceable toolkit. At the same time 40 % of the specialists of an administrative body should be the professionals in the field of Project Management to ensure high outcomes of project-oriented activity and effective development of transformation of company and its business. Just it also determines the relevant role and value of development of professionalism in Project Management in Russia too.

## **3. Projects Management Status in Russia**

The development of methods of Project Management in Russia, as well as in other developed countries, are rooted in the period of industrialisation of the 30-th years. Also there was it in a step with global development, but, we were a little behind the West. However Project Management, as professional discipline and special methodology of efficient change management, about the 90-th years was not claimed by practice in the term of centralised

economics and predominance of command methods of management. It is necessary to note, that in the period with 30-th for 90 years in this area the considerable experience and definite achievements, which one, unfortunately was accumulated, have not received wide area application and had no an effect on economics of Russia in national scales. The situation has changed in the period of rearrangement in sharply to beginning of the 90-th years, when "Iron Curtain" essentially has mounted and Russia has taken the place in a pattern of professional Project Management. As a formal first step in this direction it is possible to consider foundation in October, 1990 and beginning of fissile activity Russian (before Soviet) Project Management Association-SOVNET. An analysis of project management status in modern Russia would not be complete without a brief review of the history, activity, and perspectives of SOVNET. The association has begun to play a more important role in professional project management development in our country in the course of forming this new market economy. But first...

### **A Little history**

Specialists in the USSR had sketchy items of information on INTERNET (now IPMA) organisation and its biannual world congresses and published proceedings and journals . One to two specialists from the USSR participated in some INTERNET events. For example, Professor Vladimir Burkov was a participant of the first congress in Vienna in 1967 devoted to "Network Methods." As Mr. Roland Gutsch the founder and leader of INTERNET for many years said, from the first days of this European International Project Management Association activity, its officers wanted to engage Soviet specialists in INTERNET and to have a Soviet corporate member in INTERNET family. They correctly supposed that the European association would not be as impressive or complete without Soviet members. But, until 1990, when great changes occurred in our country, all INTERNET efforts were in vain. There was no organisation in the USSR to bear duties and responsibilities of INTERNET membership; the governmental bodies simply were not interested. Now it is difficult to even evaluate the losses caused by isolation from the "world of project management" for twenty-five years! In the autumn of 1989 in the regional seminar on network analysis held by the Czechoslovakian INTERNET we met Mr. Roland Gutsch, who was then the president of INTERNET, and today well-known IPMA officer Mr. Klaus Pannenbacker. They both were the GPM Board members. These meetings have kept an indelible impression and installed hopes. After an exchange of information on project management status in Europe and the USSR, we offered to hold an international seminar in Moscow in 1990 in corporate with INTERNET, GPM and CNIIEUS which has become the first INTERNET corporate member in USSR. During the same days in Moscow with Mr. Gutsch and his colleagues was discussed questions of foundation of the future Russian Association. The idea was enthusiastically supported by leading Soviet specialists. As a result The Russian (former Soviet) Project Management Association (SOVNET) was founded on October 25, 1990.

### **Main milestones and outcomes of development professional**

#### **Project Management in Russia**

- 1990, October - Foundation of professional Project Management Association - "SOVNET";
- 1991, February – Joined SOVNET to INERNET family like National Association and Introduction SOVNET in International Project Management Association, Switzerland, Zurich;
- International Project Management Symposiums in Russia (Moscow - 1991, 1993, 1995, 1999; St.-Petersburg - 1997, all it is from above 1000 participants from Russia and about 500 of foreign countries).

- Participation of the Russian specialists and businessmen:

In World Congresses:

Florence, 1992 - 25 persons; Oslo, 1994 - 35 persons; Paris, 1996 - 45 persons; Ljubljana, 1998 - 25 persons; The London, 2000 - 8 persons;

In the PMI Annual Seminars and Symposiums, IPMA, APMI and other International Forums on Project Management abroad has participated above 300 Russian specialists.

- 1992 - 2000, Series of education programs on training and retraining the specialists in Project Analysis and Project Management and other initiatives of Institute of Economical Development of World Bank with SOVNET and other Russian organisations.
- 1992 - 2000, Prepared for publication and published of the educational and methodical literature on Project Management in Russian, including:
  - Dimension of Project Management (translated from English), Moscow, 1994
  - Project Management in Russia (Russian and English version), 1995, 1997
  - Project Management (tutorial), St.-Petersburg, 1996
  - Project and program management, Moscow, 1999
  - NBC National Competence Baseline of the specialists on Project Management. Version 1.3., Moscow, 2000

and other.

- Practical assistance in forming new consulting, project management and engineering firms in Russia
- SOVNET holds during 6 years Project Management Seminars, which was visited by one thousand specialists.
- Educational programs for the higher education institutions and seminars were developed.
- Learning the specialists with a higher education more than in 50 high education institutions of Russia and CIS, including first printings of the project managers: GTU (Yekaterinburg) -1999, SMU (Moscow) - 2001 etc.
- Development of the civilised market of PM software products and services in Russia, including Russian and Located versions of tools: Project Expert, Comcord, Time Line, Open Plan, Sure Track, Spider Project etc.
- More and more broad application Project Management methods and tools in practice: oil industry, investment-building area, IT and telecommunication, defence industry, space, infrastructure etc.
- Preparing and start National Certification Program of the Project Management specialists within the framework of the IPMA certification program. The first certificated Russian project managers: 11 persons - December, 1999; 7 persons - June, 2000; 7 persons - October, 2000.
- Integration Project Management with other modern management disciplines: strategic management, corporate management, crisis management, BPR etc.

## **Project Management perspective trends in Russia**

For last 10 years the objective reasons for wide area development and application of Project Management in Russia are built. For maintenance of development it is necessary:

- To intensify Project Management education, having in view, that till 2005 it is necessary for country not less 25 thousand young specialists in Project Management, including development of destined educational systems .
- To intensify retraining and improvement of professional skill of the chiefs of all levels for recognising of Project Management discipline.
- To enter a speciality "Project Management" in a state professional qualifying list of specialities.
- To develop and promote the National Certification Program for the Project Management specialists over the all Russia.
- To create PM standards, educational programs and manual materials, issuing of the educational and special literature on Project Management.
- To promote creation regional representations and chapters of professional associations and educational and training centres in Project Management.
- Publishing special Project Management journal.
- To support creation and development consulting, engineering firms and professional organisations in Project Management.
- To support development of the civilised market of software products and services used in Project Management.
- To promote participation Project Management Professionals and Organisations in international cooperation on all aspects of Project Management.
- To create a both system of motivation and stimulation for development and application of Project Management with the purposes of transformation of economics and company in Russia. Such system will demand not only public, but also state support as to one of priority directions of social and economic development of Russia in the next Millenium.

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