

## IPMA Examines Future Skills Needs

**By Ed Naughton**  
*Member IPMA E&T Board*

These are exciting times for IPMA and there is a spritely step in the spring foot of those officers involved these days.

January saw the commencement of a new regime at the world's first professional PM organization. A new executive board takes up office with a stunning line-up of high profile personnel who were elected at the t council of delegates meeting in Baku last September.

In keeping with the name of the organization - International Project Management Association - this is a truly international board comprised of individuals from Croatia, UK, Spain, Germany, Portugal, Australia, the USA and chaired by Roberto Mori from Italy.

The keenly fought elections, not only for the main board, but also for the sub-boards is a true reflection of the appetite within the 57 country organization to, promote and expand the IPMA approach to the development of the project and programme management discipline.

The powerful [IPMA Education Training Board](#) comprises of 6 members who have been selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates. This board is chaired by [Dr. John-Paris Pantouvakis](#) from Greece and is made up of [three University professors and three private sector individuals](#) with vast experience of operating at the highest level of business.



Dr. John-Paris Pantouvakis (Greece)  
Chair, Education and Training Board

This level of international exposure ensures that the very best and latest in terms of practice and thinking is designed into the IPMA Education & Training outputs. “So much of what one does now crosses borders and involves interacting with other cultures and other economies. Working with such diverse international board members offers the opportunities to improve greater understanding and embrace state of the art concepts” says John-Paris Pantouvakis who was also the project director for the 2012 IPMA World Congress in Greece.



**Dr. Jesús Martínez Almela** (Spain)  
Vice President, Education & Training

The team reports directly to the Executive Board through Dr. Jesus Martinez-Almela, the VP for Education and Training. Jesus is a new member of the executive and he has been an inspirational force in bringing the IPMA message to many new member associations in Central and South America. He has brought into the IPMA family countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Peru and Chile.

Jesus believes that for these new member associations to flourish and grow it is imperative that they are supported with collateral and training aids from IPMA to enable them to aggressively grow their certification numbers. Such support programmes will be at the heart of the agenda over the next two years.

The chair of the board has requested submissions from each member identifying their top priority projects for consideration in the forthcoming two year plan which will be voted on by the council of delegates at the next IPMA council meeting in Warsaw in March. Like any portfolio management process this will involve a selection and prioritization process to match budget and resource availability.

Among the targeted projects to be considered will be the expansion of the E & T awards programme, greater liaison with third level institutions and business schools, consideration of approved undergraduate project management degree programmes, expansion of the REG programme and the creation of a greater awareness across the training providers of the IPMA brand and its inherent benefits.

Just like any other project, none of these initiatives will reside solely within the domain of the E&T remit. Strong links and liaisons have already been established with the other key functions of Membership, Marketing, Certification, Research and Awards.

Having the right skills and talent base will be a key driver of recovery in domestic and global economies. There is a growing concern, as enunciated by Alan Stretton in a recent issue of this journal, that project management is seen as an “execution” support only. The next generation of project managers will need to align this execution capability with a much sharper business acumen.

Part of the work of the E & T Board is to help to inform its member associations on the required alignment of programmes to meet such emerging needs, thereby enabling individuals to make an informed decision around employment opportunities and career choice in the discipline.

The board looks forward to addressing the many challenges facing the project management E & T sector and has set itself ambitious targets to be achieved during its two year term of office.

IPMA Education & Training Board can be contacted at  
<http://ipma.ch/education/contact-et/>

## About the Author



### **ED NAUGHTON**

*Institute of Project Management*

**Dublin, Ireland**



**Ed Naughton**, BE, C. Eng., F.I.E.I, IPMA-a, PMP, is the founder and current Director General of the Institute of Project Management of Ireland, the leading authority on the PM profession in Ireland. On the international front, Ed was responsible for initiating cooperation agreements with both the PMI (Project Management Institute) USA and the IPMA (International Project Management Association). He is Ireland's representative on the IPMA council of delegates, and a former Vice President-Marketing for the IPMA. He was also the first PMP registered in Ireland. Ed has researched, published and presented many articles and papers on project management and is the author of the Irish Project Management Competence Baseline. During his thirty year career, Ed has worked as a project manager and/or project management consultant on a large variety of high profile domestic and international assignments. Ed Naughton is a graduate of University College Dublin (BE, civil), a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland, a Chartered Engineer (Ireland), a Professional Engineer in Canada, and holds an IPMA Level A certification. He is former founder and editor of the quarterly international publication "Project Management Practice". One of Ireland's most respected experts on the topic of modern project management, Ed is an executive advisor to PM World in Ireland. Ed Naughton lives in Dublin and can be contacted at [ed@projectmanagement.ie](mailto:ed@projectmanagement.ie).