

Project Management update from Argentina



By Cecilia Boggi, PMP
International Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentines celebrating the election of Pope Francis jammed outside the Metropolitan Cathedral in the Plaza de Mayo, considered the heart of Buenos Aires City. This election brings fresh air to people, mainly to the Roman Catholics.

But, sadly, not all things are going so well in this country. In the field of projects there are some uncertainties caused by the political-economic policies of the government of Mrs. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner in this electoral year, when current government will pursue the consolidation of his model.

Recently, the Brazilian miner Vale SA said it has suspended its Rio Colorado potash project in Mendoza province, a 6 billion dollar project with more than 4,000 employees. Vale has invested \$2.2 billion in Rio Colorado to date, one of the biggest foreign capital investments in Argentina, and has completed work on 40 percent of the mine, railway and port but the project has had cost overruns and the current macro-economic context seems to be not favorable for the miner.

Companies from other industries are also being cautious in their investments in new projects.

In the construction industry, for example, this perception of uncertainty is influencing the beginning of new projects. The Real Estate business is almost halted the last years and this has impacted the construction of new buildings that years ago had been growing in the big cities.

As Mr. Eduardo Sposito, Regional Director of Latin-America & Caribbean of Lend Lease, an international leader in property and infrastructure, said to us, “Each crisis brings an opportunity and as the other side of the same coin, difficulties to repatriate

funds and inflation rate above interest rates offered by the banks means that companies from abroad are investing in refurbishing or improving their installations, creating new construction projects”.

Mr. Claudio Arfeli, President and Executive Director of MetaControl Argentina, a Project Management consultant company, also is finding the opportunity when he says: “Clearly, this is not a favorable environment for the development of projects, however it should be noted that in these highly uncertain environments, it takes greater preponderance of professional practices of project management, particularly Risk Project Management. Professional excellence allows navigation in turbulent waters and to reach the port”.

In this aspect, Esteban Zutti6n, Partner of Liveware IS SA, an international company dedicated to software engineering and process improvement services, agrees with Mr. Arfeli when he asserts that “In major projects, the demand for professional services of Project Management and Project Management Offices does not fall. The discipline of Project Management is more internalized in some companies, mainly in large companies who see it as indispensable. Almost all large companies have budget for a PMO in their projects. In SME companies depending on the context, good practices in project management are being inserted”.

Project Management Institute (PMI®) Chapters in Argentina have much to do with this awareness of project management good practices. The activities and events performed by PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter since 1996, and PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter since 2010 are achieving the goal of promoting project management as a discipline and disseminating it all around the country.

During March both chapters have held activities related to the development of skills of volunteers and leaders. This month, Argentinian chapters will offer an important amount of events in several cities of the country.

Main Events to be offered by the PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter:

April 7th: Open Meeting in Rosario, Province of Santa Fe

Lecture: Leadership in Distributed Team.

Speaker: Gerardo Blitzer, Volunteer Management Director of PMIBA Chapter.

April 17th: Open Meeting in La Plata, Province of Buenos Aires

Workshop: Communication in Difficult Relationships

Facilitators: Cecilia Boggi and Adriana Cibelli, SDI® Level 1 Certified Facilitators.

April 18th: Open Meeting in Buenos Aires

Lecture: OPM3[®], Benefits and Challenges.

Speaker: Orlando Marone, Former President of PMIBA Chapter.

April 24th: Open Meeting in Buenos Aires

Lecture: Seminar to Support Certifications PMP[®] and CAPM[®]

Facilitators: Gaston Horvat, Veronica Roberti, Jorge Sapirstein and Federico Varchavsky

Find more information of these events at [PMIBA website](#).

Main Events to be offered by the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter:

April 11th: Open Meeting in Mendoza

Lecture: LEAN in Project Management Companies

Speaker: Alex Sayko, Corporate Lean Manufacturing Manager at IMPSA Brazil

April 25th: Webinar offered to the Spanish speaking PMI Chapters

Lecture: The Value of Volunteering PMI[®].

Speaker: Pablo Lledo, Former President of PMINC Chapter.

Find more information of these events at [PMINC website](#).

About the Author



CECILIA BOGGI

International Correspondent



Buenos Aires, Argentina

Cecilia Boggi, PMP is founder and Executive Director of activePMO, giving consulting services and training in Project Management and Leadership skills in Argentina and Latin America.

After graduating with a degree in Computer Science Engineering from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, she has managed software development projects and PMO implementation projects for more than 20 years both in the government and private sector. Cecilia also has graduated from an Executive Program in Business Management at Universidad del CEMA. She holds the Project Management Professional (PMP®) credential since 2003, is certified as SDI Facilitator from Personal Strengths© and is alumni of the PMI Leadership Institute Master Class 2012. Ms. Boggi is Past President of the PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter, and is a founding member of the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter and PMI Santa Cruz Bolivia Chapter. She has been designated by PMI in the role of Mentor of Region 13, Latin America South, for the years 2014-2016. Cecilia has participated in the development of PMBOK® Guide 5th Edition, leading the Chapter 9, Human Resource Management, content team and she is professor of Project Management in some Universities and Institutes in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

She can be contacted at cb@ceciliaboggi.com.ar and www.activepmo.com.ar