

Project Management in Spain: Monthly report

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The PMI Madrid Spain Chapter will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on June 25th 2013 in Madrid

The PMI Madrid Chapter was chartered ten years ago and, it was an important fact to all Spanish professionals involved in Project management over the years. When I joined PMI on March 1993, I attended my first PMI Congress in the US and, I dreamed about how to get the Project management profession recognized in Spain. Now my dream is being converted into a reality.

After ten years of association, the PMI Madrid Chapter has gone through different growth levels and dealt with several issues. It has been converted into the biggest Spanish PMI Chapter, counting on 1400 members approximately. The best news is not the Chapter membership growth but the frequent activities they deliver to their members; that keeps that professional association alive and encourages their members to participate more and more actively.

PMI Madrid Chapter started up led by Mr. Jose Antonio Puentes who initiated the Chapter with a group of Project management professionals like me, and he was contributing as a Chapter President since 2003 to 2008. Although the Chapter Board of Directors did some activities for their members in that period, because of several reasons this Chapter did not grow too much at the beginning, however it is true that project management maturity level in Spain was so low those years. This Chapter organized on 2004 his first Spanish Project Management Event in Madrid where attended more than 200 project professionals. At the beginning of 2008 we counted on 225 members.

On March 2008, PMI, because of several reasons, caused Chapter Elections and Alfonso Bucero was elected as Chapter President. As the new Chapter Board of Directors considered that the PMI Madrid Chapter delivered only a few activities in the past, the Chapter Board of Directors focused on communication and started to distribute a monthly Bulletin. They celebrated monthly meetings for their members. At the beginning only 5 people attended, but being persistent and patient people participated and the number of attendees to those meetings grew up.



They celebrated a professional event every six months getting a big number of attendees at each meeting. The membership started to grow and when Alfonso left as President on 2010 the Chapter membership counted on 450 members. The number of volunteers and their awareness grew up also.

At the end of 2010 the Chapter run new elections and Mr. Julio Carazo is elected as a new Chapter President, being also renewed some Chapter Officers. Because of the effort and courage from the Chapter BOD the monthly meetings are kept and some task forces are initiated to lead different initiatives. One of them is the Spanish Project management maturity assessment. All those activities caused another membership growth until 900 members.

At the end of 2012 is elected Francisco Javier Rodriguez as a Chapter President, who keeps the same positive spirit and enthusiasm getting more Sponsors involved in the

Chapter. That way the Chapter counts on 1400 members and more activities are done. Now, every monthly meeting has around 200 professionals and the PMI Madrid Chapter is highly recognized by the Spanish society.

On February 27th, 2013 I had the opportunity to be interviewed on the radio (INTER ECONOMIA radio program), and I was talking about the project manager profession in Spain. Although there is a lot to do, project management is being recognized in Spain as a profession.

Today is a Good Day!

Even during the Spanish crisis, PMP certifications are growing

Every Spanish Project manager would like to be able to convince the Government about the need of using project management to improve our society and deal with the financial crisis. But it seems this thought to be only in the mind of some project professionals that believe in our profession and they see its added value.

The truth is that during the last three years the amount of professionals who demand PMP training to take the PMP exam has grown exponentially. The lack of work, the unemployment, the financial crisis have caused that more and more professionals to want to be certified to be prepared to get a job in any other country, in other cultures, in other environments.

The philosophy of looking at our stomach and not being opened to new frontiers, the new generations are changing, traveling more, speaking more than one language, traveling abroad and looking for new projects outside Spain. I had the opportunity of preparing several young professionals on the PMP exam and I have seen their interest for learning and progressing, their courage and adventure wishes to move forward. Spain needs those professionals, with enough passion to progress. Then we need to achieve it.

About the Author



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Alfonso Bucero, MSc, PMP, PMI-RMP, PMI Fellow, is an International Correspondent and Contributing Editor for the **PM World Journal** in Madrid, Spain. Mr. Bucero is also founder and Managing Partner of BUCERO PM Consulting. Alfonso was the founder, sponsor and president of the PMI Barcelona Chapter until April 2005, and belongs to PMI's LIAG (Leadership Institute Advisory Group). He was the past President of the PMI Madrid Spain Chapter, and now nominated as a PMI EMEA Region 8 Component Mentor. Alfonso has a Computer Science Engineering degree from Universidad Politécnica in Madrid and is studying for his Ph.D. in Project Management. He has 29 years of practical experience and is actively engaged in advancing the PM profession in Spain and throughout Europe. He received the PMI Distinguished Contribution Award on October 9th, 2010 and the PMI Fellow Award on October 22nd 2011. Mr. Bucero can be contacted at alfonso.bucero@abucero.com.