

Report from 27th IPMA World Congress

Project Management Olympics Held in Dubrovnik

By Gordana Blažević

IPMA Young Crew Croatia

From 30 September to 3 October 2013, Croatia had a great privilege of hosting the [27th IPMA World Congress](#) and welcoming some of the most prominent and the best project managers from around the world. The Congress was held in Dubrovnik and it was organized by the Croatian Association for Project Management (CAPM).

[The Croatian Association for Project Management](#) is one of IPMA's ([International Project Management Association](#)) 55 non-profit member associations. IPMA World Congress has a long tradition and it is recognized as one of the world's leading events in the field of project management, program and portfolio management which gathers the world's prominent experts, managers, company representatives as well as academics and young people interested and involved in the field. **The Congress was held under the patronage of the Croatian president Ivo Josipović, the Croatian Government and the University of Zagreb.**



Congress Opening, photo: Vladimir Ivanov

The congress was attended by about 700 participants from over 60 countries worldwide. The master of the ceremony was Peter Taylor, a prominent UK consultant, speaker, writer and trainer, known as the "Lazy Project Manager." The Congress was opened by Mladen Radujković; the president of the International Project Management Association.

All participants were also welcomed by Mladen Vukomanović; congress project manager, Željko Raguž; deputy mayor of the city of Dubrovnik, Milan Jurina; deputy dean of the School of Business and Management "Baltazar Adam Krčelić", Spomenka Rakušić; advisor in the Prime Minister Cabinet at Government of the Republic of Croatia, Jakša Puljiz; Deputy Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds, Carsten Wredstrøm; President of the International Cost Engineering Council, Aleksa Bjeliš; rector of the University of Zagreb, and Zdenka Lončar; Assistant Minister at Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts.

Congress participants were able to exchange experiences in the field of project management practices, as well as to adopt new project management trends and to speak with some of the world's most influential experts in the field such as: Dr. Prajapati Trivedi (INDIA), Chief Performance Officer for the Government of India, Mike Brown (UK), head of the Centre for Project Management in Rolls-Royce plc., Ed Logan (USA), Vice President of the Envolver Incorporated, Colin Carlile (SW), director of the Laure-Languin Institute, Dr. Ricaurte (Catin) Vasquez (PN), former Minister of Finance and Economy in Panama and the current CEO of General Electric for Central America and the Caribbean, Snježana Ivezić-Torbarina, Director of Enterprise Systems at Ericsson Nikola Tesla, and many others.



Mike Brown, head of the Centre for Project Management in Rolls-Royce plc.; photo: Vaskimo Jouko

„This was the first IPMA Congress I have personally attended and it most certainly is not my last, I have enjoyed all the presentations, and meeting people with different background, knowledge and expertise in the field of project management, but most of all I have enjoyed the beauty of Dubrovnik and the wonderful Croatian hospitality“, said Mike Brown, head of the Centre for Project Management in Rolls-Royce.

During the Congress numerous case studies regarding different projects from various sectors were presented, and the participants had the opportunity to take a look at the results of the newest research made by the global academic community. During two days 208 papers were presented through eight (8) parallel sessions. In addition to the all-day courses, participants enjoyed evening leisure-time events such as the welcome party at the Fort Revelin and the Gala dinner in Valamar Resort along with the farewell party at the Klarisa restaurant at the heart of Dubrovnik! During the gala dinner, winners of the prestigious [IPMA Project Excellence Award](#) The IPMA International Project Excellence Award is annually awarded to the most successful project teams in the world. The award identifies examples of excellent project management and acknowledges innovative projects. It supports professional project management in achieving high performance in projects and motivates project teams to identify and optimize the use of their strengths. The assessment process is based on the IPMA Project Excellence Model.

As of this year, the Croatian Association for Project Management has established a national award for project management excellence. TriGranit d.o.o. was declared as this year's gold winner for the construction of the Arena Zagreb shopping center, and TriGranit's project manager Mr. Leo Penović, who received this special award during the Gala dinner, said: "Receiving an award for the best-run Croatian project at the global IPMA Congress and in the company the world's best project managers, represents the recognition of the project management profession as well as a recognition of the work carried out by my project management team. I am particularly glad that Croatia is starting to recognize the profession of project management, along with recognizing the competence and excellence criteria in the field."



The Croatian Project Excellence Award Ceremony; photo: Vaskimo Jouko

All the participants now eagerly await the next Congress to be held in October 2014 in Rotterdam!



The Organizing Committee during the closing ceremony of the Congress; photo:Les Squires

„I'll take the freedom, and compare this Congress to the Olympics. It is an exceptional event in the field of project management and it also represents an amazing opportunity for our people to come and see the best practices, and to see how the best people work and think, as well as to network, communicate with each other, exchange experience and promote the spirit and the importance of international project management and personal training and education in the field“, said professor Mladen Radujković, the President of IPMA.

About IPMA

Founded in 1965 and registered in Switzerland, The International Project Management Association (IPMA) is the oldest global project management professional organization. IPMA is an international federation of more than 50 national project management societies in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The IPMA World Congress is one of the largest and most important gatherings of project management authorities and leaders each year. The president of IPMA for 2013 - 2014 is Mr. Mladen Radujkovic. The Chair of the IPMA Council of Delegates is Mr. Roberto Mori. For further information please navigate to www.ipma.ch .

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About the Author



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Gordana Blažević is a member of IPMA Young Crew and president of Young Crew Croatia. She was born in 1985., graduated Faculty of Civil Engineering from the University of Zagreb in September 2010. After graduation, she was working till September 2012 for company OPTIMA Project Ltd, a registered company for performing construction services, expert supervision, consulting and project management. After that, the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Zagreb in the Construction Management Department employed her as a young research associate.

As a president of Young Crew Croatia Gordana is part of various projects on national and international level. She is also member of IPMA Marketing Working group.

Questions and feedback are highly welcome via goga.blazevic@gmail.com