

Project Management Report from Milan



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INTRODUCTION

The year that has just ended was particularly rich in projects and initiatives at different levels.

This period is always the crossroads to look back and retrace what happened in 2013 and at the same time look to the future on the activities that await us in the coming days and months. The objective of this report reflects this.

The main news from the world of associations comes from IPMA, with a specific summary of the activities of the IPMA Italy and the recent initiatives of the Northern Chapter of PMI. Then we will give highlight to some major projects, which have had recent developments, such as the system MOSE for the defense of Venice and its lagoon from high waters and the progress of the new district CityLife in Milan.

MAIN NEWS

Just a few weeks before the end of the year, IPMA announced the first release of the OCB, the new IPMA Organisational Competence Baseline, approved by the International Project Management Association's Council of Delegates at the recent meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Reinhard Wagner, IPMA Vice President for Standards, Research & Awards, mentioned: "The IPMA OCB provides valuable insights for Executives who design organisations to meet the increasing requirements of project-related work and

management. It could act as basis for an assessment with IPMA Delta to analyse the actual situation and to improve the organisational competence of managing projects in a holistic way. All in all, it opens a new dimension for organisations to be more successful in projects.”

This new standard introduces the concept of organisational competence in managing projects. It can help organisations to strengthen their management of projects, programmes and portfolios. IPMA OCB is built on the strong heritage of the International Project Management Association (IPMA®), the global leader in competence certification. (<http://ipma.ch/2013/ipma-releases-ocb/>).

With regard to the initiatives of Education & Training, IPMA will be very active in the early months of the year.

By middle of February, Zurich will host the IPMA Expert Seminar: Thursday 13th and Friday 14th at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH, Rämistrasse, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland), international professionals will be able to refresh and develop their competence about PP&P Roles and Responsibilities, Intercultural Project Management, Service Contracts and Managing Projects in the New Societies. (<http://ipma.ch/events/2014-expert-seminar/>)

IPMA Italy



Shortly before Christmas, IPMA Italy launched its own membership campaign for 2014. The occasion also served as a moment of reflection about the activities carried out in 2013 and the results obtained.

The new Board of Directors took office earlier this year and has been reorganized according to the criteria of Portfolio Management: Chairman and Vice Chairman sponsor the portfolio of activities, the Vice President manage the portfolio of assets. This restructuring has resulted greater focus on specific topics and a greater spread of local events.

During the year overall 13 seminars were organized together with a national convention. These initiatives have met great interest and participation: more than 1000 participants in all events from over 200 different companies and organizations.

The association organized 6 Project Management courses for a total of 33 days of training. In 2013 more than 300 Certification Exams took place.

Even the Young Crew section has been very active: a national workshop, two seminars and 13 YC Cocktail events were organized. Even a new regional section was launched towards the end of the year in the Emilia Romagna area. On the side

of communication a new blog "Parlare per Progetti" (Speaking by Projects) was introduced (<http://parlareperprogetti.blogspot.it/>).

In a broad sense, all the communication activities of the association has been renewed. The website introduced new enhancements in the user interface, all the proceedings of the conferences and seminars have been made available for download. The newsletter was revamped and SurveyMonkey has been introduced as a tool for collecting and processing of feedbacks from the events.

The participation of IPMA Italy on international activities covered the 27th IPMA World Congress in Dubrovnik and 2 Council of Delegates. IPMA Italy can boast the presence of the five representatives within the boards of IPMA International.

On the sponsorships side 4 Institutional Sponsors were activated and 13 on specific initiatives dealing with events.

For 2014, the association aims to successfully maintain and expand the above portfolio of businesses, while continuing to innovate through the use of modern communication technologies and work organization. It will also be given a special effort to the publishing activities, in order to make more information available on all issues in the Project/Portfolio/Program Management or Business Management.

PMI, Northern Italy Chapter



The Northern Italy Chapter of PMI, during the next annual meeting, convening for the afternoon of January 24th, 2014 in Milan, will host the election of the new Executive Committee of the

Chapter for the year 2014/2015. At the end of the year will expire appointed Vice President Organization and Processes, and 3 added Directors. Meanwhile, the chapter is working to actively involve in its operation and activities a growing number of partners as new opportunities for volunteering are increasing.

Among the recent initiatives organized by the Chapter was held in November a webinar titled "Mastering the Project Requirements". The webinar presented how mastering the project requirements is considered a complex endeavor but in fact it isn't. The focus was then on how bringing into the project a professional Requirements Management approach can improve significantly the project results and lead the project in delivering a real business value. The speaker of the webinar was Michele Maritato, MBA, PMP, PMI-RMP, CBAP who has over 20 years experience in Project Management, Business Analysis and as Vice President Organization of the PMI® Northern Italy Chapter.

Still in recent months, the Piemonte Val D'Aosta branch started a three-year program to make an important contribution to the people of Africa. The initiative, called "Kubunina" ("Design together" in Swahili), has a dual purpose: to create income generating activities to support teaching in schools of Congo and to create twinning between Italian and Congolese schools. The development of the project can be followed through the website www.kubunina.org prepared by the NIC team.

In addition, the Veneto branch will take part in a highly innovative project in collaboration with Azienda Trasporti Verona (ATV). It is "Smile Line" an initiative by which ATV plans to equip one of the lines of the urban service with all the necessary measures to provide more ease of access for the disabled, better information and comfort as well as ease of purchase tickets on board.

Project MOSE in Venice



A panoramic view of Venice (source Google)

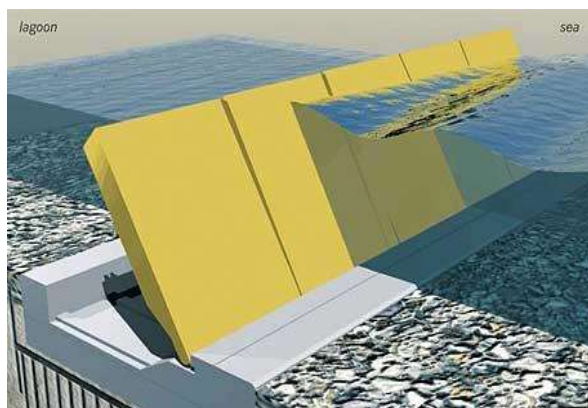
Mose is the system of mobile barriers to protect Venice from high waters. The shipyards for the construction of dams, formed by large steel gates, are now at an advanced stage. Between June and July of 2013 were installed the first four gates in the bottom of the

mouth of the harbor of Lido and October 12 was the day of the

first movement. The floodgates have been raised from the bottom to the surface for a few meters from the sea level to be then decreased again at the bottom. These activities allowed the collection of all the data relating to the management of the operations of the gates that will be conducted according to very strict specifications.

Another spectacular step forward took place at the end of November. In the night between 28th and 29th has been placed in the trench dug on the seabed the first big dump that will form the movable barrier of the mouth of the harbor Lido. A very complex maneuver: the body size of a ten-storey building (60,2x24x24, 95 m) and weighing 16,000 tons, having been built and moved on site through a system of rails and hydraulic jacks and moved up to the platform launching, a sort of large Elevator (the largest in the world, based on Rolls Royce patent), which has allowed to lower it into the water. Once towed by tugs to the mouth of the harbor of Lido, it was lowered into the trench on the seabed, in the night between 29th and 30th.

A total of nine of these structures will be needed in the south Lido, each of these host 3 hinged gates in it. The gates will rise when high tides are expected incurred or outstanding. To complete the whole work will be needed in total 78 gates. The operations for the handling, transportation and installation require very special conditions, only possible within limited time windows, related to tide and weather conditions. The limits of precision are very strict and operations must be carried out with highly sophisticated systems. Transport, installation and connection operations, which began on 28th November, will last until next spring.



How barriers will protect Venice, courtesy Telegraph

CityLife Project in Milan

The Construction work of the new district CityLife in Milan continues quickly. While working at full capacity in the area that is being built on the site of the old fair, where the first skyscrapers continues to climb skyward floor after floor, the new green area begins to take shape and substance.

The first part of the public park was inaugurated on December 14th: this is the completion of the first part of the park of 168 thousand square meters. With the district completed will be made available to the city becoming the third largest urban park in Milan for size.

In this area of 25 thousand square meters were planted 317 tall trees of 39 different species: beech trees of different sizes, maple trees, cherry trees, plane trees (out of about 7,000 square meters), lawn areas and shrubs (out of about 9,800 square meters), paved areas in the central part in which is embedded a large ellipsoidal fountain. The CityLife project in the public park is the result of an international competition won in 2010 by the British Gustafson-Porte together with Italian One Works and the landscape concept reflects the microcosm of Milan and its region of Lombardy.



A rendering how the new district will appear

The inauguration of the park was attended by all the local authorities. The park is made with care and focuses attention on the inhabitants of the area with the aim of improving their quality of life: in the new spaces it will be possible to play sports, having equipped areas with games for children and others dedicated to the dogs. Cultural implications are also a “plus”, a part of the park will be set up with a course of contemporary sculpture.

Giancarlo Scotti, President of CityLife said: "This is an area that marks a new centrality in the changing metropolis and is projected into the future, which shows how positive the mix between public and private works, the true condition of success for a neighborhood which will take over the public park, renovated and retrieved buildings, in an area with zero emissions, with the availability of Wi-Fi technology, and a vocation boost to culture".

About the Author



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Luca Cavone is a Consultant at JMAC Europe, the Consulting firm of the Japan Management Association. He is mainly focused to support companies in Innovation Management and Product Development Projects typical of R&D and Marketing areas, with an interdisciplinary background of the business processes. In JMAC Luca follows also the study and development of project management methodologies based on the application of Lean Thinking approach. Before joining JMAC he worked several years in the Aerospace industry. Since 2009 Luca has been actively involved with the International Project Management Association (IPMA); at that time he was between the founders of the Young Crew Italy and was appointed as first chairman. In 2011 he left the position to join the Young Crew Management Board, where he's currently Head of Membership and Responsible for the Young Project Manager of the Year award. Since 2010 Luca is also a member of the Executive Board of IPMA Italy. Luca is an international correspondent for PM World in Italy; he can be contacted at luca.cavone@tiscali.it.