

Report on Cooperation between *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management Zaprešić (Croatia) and Croatian Association for Project Management

By Zlatko Barilović and Ana Skledar Matijević

In 2009 *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management Zaprešić and the Croatian Association for Project Management (CAPM) signed an *Agreement on Long-term Cooperation on Developing and Promoting the Professionalization of Project Management in the Republic of Croatia and Training New Professionals Through a Certification Process for Project Managers in Accordance with the International Project Management Association (IPMA) Rules*.



Croatian Association for
Project Management
Hrvatska Udruga za
Upravljanje Projektima

Baltazar Adam Krčelić Accredited College of Business and Management offers a specialist graduate study programme of Project Management, which is unique in Croatia. It was launched in the academic year 2005/2006 in cooperation with the *Ruđer Bošković* Institute (IRB) from Zagreb. The IRB Institute is the largest Croatian multidisciplinary R&D centre.

Besides the two partner institutions, a number of foreign project management experts participate in the teaching process. Here the teachers of the project Management Institute of the Faculty of Economics and Business in Maribor, Slovenia can be singled out.

Apart from the cooperation with CAPM, the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management has through its Project Management study programme established cooperation with other domestic and foreign institutions, such as Fachhochschule Technikum Wien (FTW), from Vienna, Austria and the Faculty of Economics from Osijek (EFOS), Croatia.

The Project Management study programme at the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management has been experiencing growth ever since it was founded, and, according to the number of students enrolled, it is currently the biggest programme at the College, with over 500 project management graduates.

In accordance with the Accreditation issued by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia for the study programme Project Management at the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management, the students are trained for:

- project start-up and planning and managing operative and development projects of companies
- preparing and managing projects in project-oriented companies, from the start-up stage, through implementation to the obligatory guarantee stage,
- participating and managing complex scientific and research projects,
- preparing and managing projects in the public sector,
- preparing and managing projects for using external funds, especially EU funds,
- organizing the entirety of the work in organizations they will be employed in.

According to the aforementioned Agreement between the College and CAPM, the two institutions have so far started a number of joint projects and activities which have significantly contributed to the development of the profession of project management in Croatia. The joint projects that can be singled out are:

- IPMA international certification of project management competence for the students of the College
- IPMA Registered Education Program (IPMA REG)
- the possibility for the students to participate in Young Crew Croatia (YCC), a section of CAPM for young project managers
- the possibility for the students to participate in free open lectures on project management organized by CAPM and YCC
- Co-organizing international conferences and congresses:
 - *Projects and Project management* Scientific and Professional Conference with International Participation (2011)
 - 27th IPMA World Congress in Dubrovnik (2013)
 - *Management* Scientific and Professional Conference with International Participation (project in preparation)

The most significant joint project is conducting IPMA international certification of project management competence for students of the specialist graduate professional programme of Project management since 2010. There have been eight certification rounds so far, and 137 project managers have been certified. The last ceremony was held on 14 March 2014 and the certificates were delivered by the CAPM and IPMA President Prof. Mladen Radujković, Ph. D. The photos from the ceremony can be found in the continuation of this report.



Picture 1. IPMA certification ceremony for students of the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management, held on 14 March 2014 in Zaprešić (Croatia)



Picture 2. The certificates were delivered to Project Management students by (starting from the left): Neven Žarković, Ph. D., College Professor (Head of Project Management Programme), Milan Jurina, Ph. D., College Professor (Vice-Dean), Prof. Mladen Radujković, Ph. D. (President of CAPM and IPMA) and Zlatko Barilović, univ.spec.oec., pred. (coordinator of cooperation between the College and CAPM)



Picture 3. Project management students from *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* Accredited College of Business and Management, certified in the 7th and 8th round of IPMA certification

The College and CAPM plan to continue this very successful cooperation and start new joint projects, with the aim of promoting the project management profession and the IPMA system in Croatia. More information of the project management study programme at the Baltazar Adam Krčelić Accredited College of Business and Management can be found at www.vspu.hr.

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Zlatko Barilović was born in 1984 in Zagreb. He holds a graduate specialist degree (MA) in Marketing from the Faculty of Economics in Osijek, Croatia. Prior to that he graduated from the Specialist Graduate Professional Study of Project Management at the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* College of Business and Management in Zaprešić, Croatia, which was a continuation of his undergraduate studies in Business and Management (major Cultural Management). Currently he is attending a doctoral study in Management at the Faculty of Economics in Osijek, Croatia. He is a member of International project management association (IPMA) and a member of the Presidentian Board of the Croatian Association for Project Management (CAPM). At the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* College of Business and Management he teaches Basics of Management, Project Management 1 and 2, and Planning, preparing and starting the project – practicum. He has written over 20 scientific and professional papers, and has lead several projects for the *Baltazar Adam Krčelić* College of Business and Management. He was the editor of two project management books. Zlatko Barilović can be contacted at zlatko.barilovic@vspu.hr

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