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## **Project Management update from Argentina**



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Continuing from last month's report about the Leadership Seminar event in the beautiful state of Mendoza - Argentina, I'll dedicate this edition to describe the PMI Southern Latin-American leadership meeting that took place in Mendoza with great success considering the number of participants and the quality of their presentations.

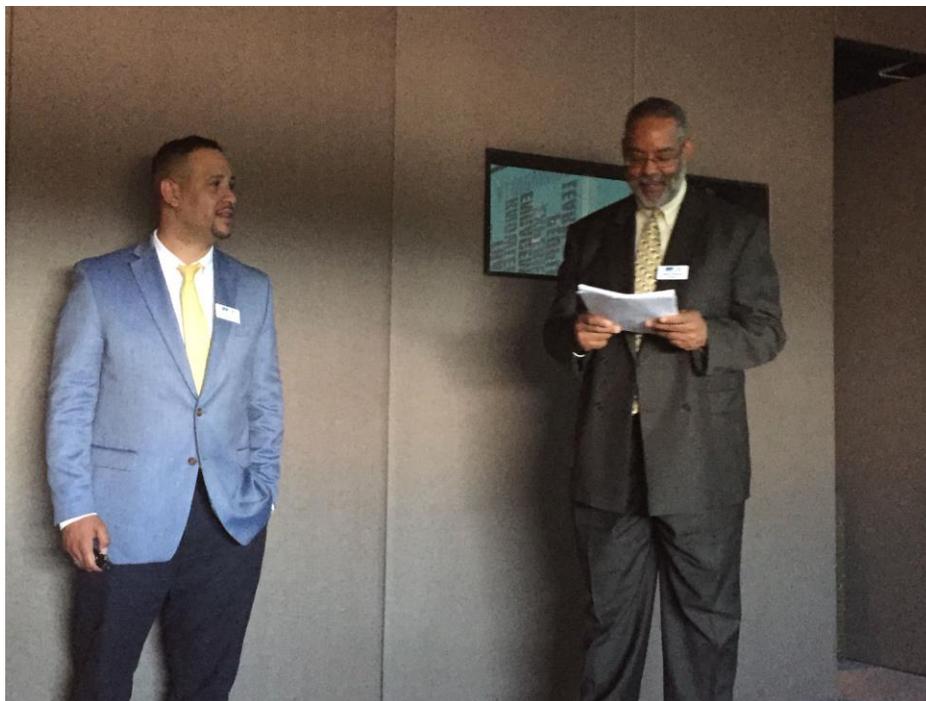
On Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, a Regional Meeting of Leaders of PMI Region 13 Southern Latin America took place at Diamandes Winery in the Valle de Uco, Mendoza. In that paradise framed by vineyards and mountains, was achieved a record call of more than 70 regional leaders, about three times the average amount of assistance to such events.

The first lecture of the day was presented by Eduardo Braun who, as in his "Seminar Leadership in Times of Crisis" the previous day, spoke about the importance of culture in leadership, illustrated through his interesting interviews with key international leaders.

Stephen Townsend, Director of Global Alliances & Networks of PMI Global Operations Center who, accompanied by Joseph Falu, PMI Chapter Administrator was the next lecture of the day, introduced the new leaders to the world of Global PMI and commented on current strategies for the Institute and projects that are being developed.



*(Photo: Eduardo Braun delivering his presentation “Leadership & Culture”)*



*(Photo: Stephen Townsend (right) and Joseph Falú (left) introducing PMI to new leaders)*

Next presentation was held by the current PMI Central Europe Regional Mentor, Agnieszka Gasperini, who shared enriching experiences of PMI Poland Chapter for which she is a founding member and past President.



*(Photo: Agnieszka Gasperini sharing best practices from Central Europe Region)*

Closing the morning, Gerardo Blitzer, representative of Engagement Committee PMI Educational Foundation made a brief presentation of the initiatives being carried out by the institution. After Gerardo's presentation a delicious lunch was served and how could it be otherwise, paired with good Malbec wine from Mendoza. For those who don't know, Malbec is the varietal wine par excellence in the region and has received international awards.



*(Photo: Gerardo Blitzer presenting PMIEF initiatives)*

At the end of the lunch, Gustavo Albera, who besides being the PM of the event, is a major architect of Studio Bórmida and Yazón who was in charge of the construction project of Diamandes winery, presented a video of the winery construction, while sharing his experience about the ambitious and inspiring vision of "making the best winery in the world" transmitted to the team's work can be so successful.

After that, winery owner Veronique Bonnie, guided all leaders through the winery factory explaining the entire winemaking process, from cultivation and harvest to its aging and bottling processes.

This winery has been awarded in 2011 in the category "Architecture, Parks and Gardens" contest Best of Wine Tourism 2011 awarded by the Great Wine Capital, a global network that brings together the eight wine regions that produce the best wines in the world.



*(Photo: Veronique Bonnie, owner of the winery guiding the visit around the vines and with Gustavo Albera, Project Manager of the construction project of the Winery and PM of this ReM)*



*(Photo: Guided visit around the vines and Diamandes Winery)*

We started the evening with the story of how groups of students of college called "SEDIPRO" - Student Sections of Project Management - was born and developed, supported by PMI Lima Chapter, presented by Jorge Palomino, who has been its coordinator until recently. The interesting thing about these clusters is that they are fully managed by students who create, promote and organize events to disseminate project management in Universities, creating awareness to their colleagues and friends.



*(Photo: Jorge Palomino talking about PM Student Sections)*

Finishing the day, I had the pleasure of facilitating together with Agnieszka Gasperini some workshops to exchange ideas and experiences between leaders of all the PMI chapters in the Southern Latin America. The objective was to generate creative ideas to improve the performance of the chapters in various areas and then present those ideas to the audience. These additional workshops have provided the volunteers with the opportunity to know each other better and promote synergy between chapters in the region.



*(Photo: PMI Chapter Leaders working during workshop session)*



*(Photo: PMI Chapters Leaders presenting new ideas generated during the workshop)*

The closing of this intense Friday was an excellent “asado” (barbecue) accompanied by very good wine from Mendoza served at Pablo Lledó’s home, founder and first president of PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter.



*(Photo: Pablo Lledó preparing a delicious “asado” (barbecue) for PMI Volunteers)*

The meeting continued on Saturday with an outdoor day in the mountains of Potrerillos, whose aim was to promote teamwork development through rafting on the Rio Mendoza.

To conclude was held a coaching session facilitated by Agnieszka Gasperini where participants in a relaxed atmosphere, reflected on the importance of teamwork, both rafting and projects.

How could it be otherwise, those who participated in this great event in the land of sun and good wine, the beautiful province of Mendoza, returned to our homes moved by the hospitality and warmth of the organizers thinking about how true is the slogan: **"Good things happen when you get involved with PMI"**.



*(Photo: Eduardo Braun at the coaching session facilitated by Agnieszka Gasperini)*

Some of the comments received by the audience, bellow:

*"There are no words to thank you for organizing such a wonderful event. I have participated in recent years on several international events but really what I experienced in Mendoza was something really special and unique." - Agnieszka Gasperini - Mentor PMI Region 8 Central Europe".*

*"Participating in the ReM was something special and unique that comforts the soul. The first day I found a group of people with the same goals, the same dreams and at the end I feel myself part of this 'New big family' of international leaders who shared their successes and experiences. I consider that the ramification of PMI goes beyond the limits of imagination. His influence reaches almost all levels of life and extends members perspective constantly"- Juan Marcelo Yañez - Santa Cruz PMI Chapter.*

*"There have been intense days and enriching workshops that have united and integrated us as a region. Now it's time to apply what we learned in each of our chapters and continue sharing lessons learned." - Paul Martin Villacorta, Elected President of PMI Lima Chapter.*



*(Photo: PMI Leaders rafting at Mendoza River)*

*"Together we are a lovely group that performed many activities, as well as shared various adventure during the duration of the event, I want to emphasize that the experience with the Rafting Team was unique and very desirable to strengthen a group or teamwork!!!"* - Mauricio Rinaldi, Director of Communications Montevideo Uruguay PMI Chapter.

My special thanks to Gustavo Albera, Agnieszka Gasperini, Yolanda Ramirez, Mauricio Rinaldi, Paul Martin Villacorta and Juan Marcelo Yañez for your comments.

Find more photos of these events in: [PMI Nuevo Cuyo facebook album](#)

More information about local events in Project Management, at **PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter** [website](#) and **PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter** [website](#).

## About the Author



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**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.

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