

Project Management Report from Belgium



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Introduction

As this is my first publication for *PM World Journal*, I would first like to take this occasion to thank the readers and the publisher for entrusting me to report on Project Management events in Belgium. It is an honour to hold this position and a true pleasure to write this first article to be published. And although, this first article comes during the summer months, I have to say that there have been some interesting events and activities in Belgium and the Netherlands that I would like to share with you. And remember, project management is a life philosophy; although it may be summer, try using some of your PM skills to organize a picnic, BBQ and social event to celebrate the summer!



LinkedIn Publication Series - Mentorship

To complement the information in these publications, and expand on some topics like leadership and Project Management, in parallel to my monthly reports I will be publishing a monthly series of articles that you can find on my LinkedIn profile. This month's article focuses on Mentorship entitled "Mentorship - We Rise by Lifting Others!" This publication combines my perspective on how to leverage diversity (both global and inter-generational) using mentorship to drive project teams, check out the following link: <http://linkd.in/1lIFtI>



SPPR Conference (May 2015)

Although the following event did not take place in Belgium, I wanted to share with you my experience of the SPPR Conference in Bratislava, Slovakia. This international conference aimed to explore some important questions in Project Management, while exchanging practical experience and being get inspired by successful PM stories.

- **How is the 21st century project management developing?**
- **Where are we led by innovations in projects to?**
- **What are the big projects specifics?**
- **What are the opportunities of PM development of organizations?**
- **How to gain the format of successful project manager?**



Not only did I participate as a speaker of the event, but I had the opportunity to taste Slovakian wine, discovered traditional food and made some great connections, including members of

SPPR and the President of [PMI Malaysia](#), while sight-seeing around this beautiful country. Thanks so much to the hosts of the conference – Bratislava is a gem and I highly recommend it!

PMI Netherlands Summit (June 2015)

The central theme of this year's summit was "The Secret of Project Management; Next Practices Demystified". Now on its fourth edition, the summit was a collaborative effort between PMI Netherlands Chapter & CKC Seminars, which took place on the 11th of June 2015 at conference center Spant! in Bussum, Netherlands.

During the summit speakers elaborated on their secrets to successful project management and how the participants could adopt those best practices in their professional lives? During the Summit speakers aimed to demystify best practices from a scientific and real-life perspective. The topics that were covered where the following:

- **Next practices of excellent organizations;**
- **Next practices of excellent (virtual) teams;**
- **Next practices of excellent project managers;**
- **Next practices deployed**



I am also very lucky to have been invited to the event as a speaker where shared with the participants my "secret tips" from breaking into project management as a profession. This journey has been defined by striking the balance between the arts (PM soft skills) and sciences (PM certification), but above all practical experience outside of work (volunteer work, student experiences and building bridges between generations). In brief, these were my tips demystified:

- ***Get out of your Comfort Zone and be a Volunteer:*** Why should you get involved in volunteer organizations and take up the challenge to become a volunteer? The reason is that although volunteer work does not pay a salary, it is rewarding, creates impact and strengthens your leadership compass! Volunteering has been the platform for me to practice project management skills, escape from my comfort zone and take the lead on many complex projects (even allowing me to become recognized as a Project Manager at the highest levels)

- ***Practice Soft Skills and Develop Emotional Intelligence:*** Today being a manager is not only about vertical reporting and control (those days are gone) – but rather a boss must lead, inspire and motivate a team. Leadership has been recognized as the most important skill to ensure that complex projects are navigated successfully. Where can you learn or practice these skills? How do you develop your EQ and leadership abilities?
- ***Embrace Change and the Millennial Mindset because Millennials are about Change:*** Millennials are international, collaborative and virtual. And as Heraclitus said “The Only Thing That Is Constant Is Change”.
- ***Technology has become a game changer - use it to create collective intelligence:*** As open source software, smartphones and the cloud become more easily available for all, the rate of technological advancement is rapidly increasing. The technological landscape is being driven by young people who have become the masters of this technological wave, have embraced it's potential and will keep driving disruptive innovation to make sense of an ambiguous world of Big Data.
- ***Find a Mentor and Build Bridges between Generations:*** You will not know all of the answers, but you must have the humility to learn from those who have made mistakes. Finding a mentor or becoming someone's mentor is one of the most rewarding experiences. Mentors have great potential to create a healthy environment for succession planning and career inspiration for young leaders who are typically looking to find their professional path while assessing their opportunities for professional development.

What a great experience – inspiration and informative speakers, great contacts and I look forward to being back next year!

International Youth Proactivity Summit (July 2015)

In July, I also had the opportunity to take part in this international gathering that brought together young entrepreneurs, young professionals and proactive university students for the International ProAktivity Summit. I had the pleasure to share my experiences in using project management to tackle youth unemployment, youth entrepreneurship, start-ups, innovation and business new trends.



PM Fair Belgium

For many years, PMI Belgium and Luxembourg chapters have been promoting Project Management standards through their yearly congress. Here international and local speakers were invited to share the latest experiences and developments in the field. Now, after 15 successful editions of the PMI Belux Day, PMI Belgium has decided to change the format of the event to make a more interactive, engaging and collaborative. This means a new name, a new format and a new concept under the title of “PM Fair” and the concept is “A Market Place”. This is what Dirk Huyers, PMI Belgium President had to say about the new concept, “Rebranding the existing PMI Belgium annual congress to make it more attractive to ALL individuals and organizations that are using and benefiting from project management, thus not only limiting to PMI members”

This year’s event, the PM Fair 2015 will take place on October 3rd 2015 at the Solvay Business School in Brussels. The PM Fair is also a promotion event to increase the awareness around PM tools and techniques to support business success, and a marketing event for the PMI Belgium chapter as support to local organizations and individuals when implementing these PM techniques. Dirk Huyers also added the following about the purpose of the PM Fair “We needed a congress environment and atmosphere where PM content related to the new PMI Talent Triangle would fit, with sufficient room for networking and interpersonal relations. With the rebranded format, we focus on an innovative congress experience and satisfied feeling during and after the event”. More information about the PM Fair 2015 will become available on www.pmfair.org

If you have any questions regarding the offer, please contact the sponsoring team by email at pm-fair@pmi-belgium.be.



University of Ottawa Alumni Week (May 2015)

Before I close up this first report for PM World Journal, I wanted to share with you my experience of returning to Canada to give a presentation to students and alumni's in a panel session. Not only was it a rewarding experience to share my lessons learned, but during that evening, I received the Young Alumni of the Year Award, which is partly attributed to my achievements and efforts in Project Management. And so, to those young people who are looking to pursue a career in Project Management, it is definitely worth the ride!





Kamil Mroz graduated from the University of Ottawa with a double Bachelor's degree in Chemical engineering and Biochemistry, later completing a Masters of Arts in International Relations at the Brussels School of International Studies (University of Kent), where he also served as the President of the Graduates' Student Union. In 2013, Kamil received the IPMA Young Project Manager of the Year award and in 2014 he was awarded the Young Alumni of the Year by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ottawa. In addition, he is frequently invited as a keynote speaker on leadership, entrepreneurship, community development, project management and youth empowerment. He enjoys contributing to articles and publications and in sharing his experience in project management, and in 2014 was invited to write the forward to Peter Taylor's (award winning author) book entitled "Real Project Management". Kamil was invited twice as 'Leader of Tomorrow' to the St. Gallens' Symposium, received a Coin of Excellence from the Canadian Chief of Defence Staff, and is currently the President of JCI 'The Heart of Europe', which aims to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. He is also known to have conceptualized and led two successful international projects as a volunteer Project Manager (Quo Vadis Leadership Conference and Your Future).

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