

## **Project Management Update from Turkey**



By **İpek Sahra Özgüler**  
International Correspondent  
Istanbul, Turkey

After a beautiful summer, it is time to face the facts: the colder months have come, the schools have opened, the project management activities have been organized. In this month, two big events will be held in Turkey.

- Project Management Summit 2015, Istanbul
- Project Management Summit 2015, Ankara

Metin Örnek, president of PMI Turkey Chapter, answered the questions about Project Management Summit 2015 and PMI Turkey Chapter.



**INTERVIEW WITH PMI TURKEY  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
METIN ORNEK**

- **Welcome to Mr. Ornek. I'm very pleased to talk with you about coming event Project Management Summit 2015. What will be special in this year?**

During this 2-day conference, top level managers, project managers, academics, scientists, leaders and solution providers will have the opportunity to share experiences, bring new ideas, debate issues, and introduce the latest developments in this largely multidisciplinary field.

- **Who has hosted the PM Summit 2015?**

The conference will be held in Bosphorus University, Istanbul with their academic contribution, between 2-3 October 2015.

- **What is the topic of the PM Summit 2015 and how many people will be attended?**

Main topic of the summit is "New trends in project management"; and the sub themes are Talent Management, Communication, Innovation, Technology, Methods, Entrepreneurship and Agile. Approximately 500 people will attend to summit.

- **What did the chapter do to grow?**

First of all we focused on the volunteerism. We had approximately 20 active volunteers in 2014. We decompose the responsibilities of VP and Director's and create 122 atomic volunteer positions which each of them occupied person maximum 2 hours a week. When people start to commit their two hours per week, it has been easy to find volunteers.

After then we publish a bi-monthly magazine and begin to recognize these volunteers in the magazine. These works took two months at the beginning of this year.

On March, we had an annual membership meeting. In the past we organize this meeting only in Istanbul, while one of third member resident at Ankara. This year we plan to organize membership meeting in two cities, and invite our members asking them to bring a friend to the meeting. We had presentations about 2015 strategic plans, after presentation we had party with music and drink. People enjoy this idea very much and they contribute. In 2014 there were 77 members, and in 2015 it was totally 226 members participate the meeting, with a lot of non-members who tend to be a member and be a part of PMI Turkey family.

There were more than 90 participants at Ankara's membership meeting. This population shows how they enthusiastic to support PMI Turkey in Ankara as a branch. We had an application to establish Ankara branch in 2014. We've re-contacted with PMI for establishing Ankara Branch. Organize a meeting with Lysan Drabon and Kris Troukens at EMEA LIM, and share this inspiration with them. They re-evaluate our application form, we answer their questions about report. Nowadays we're waiting last approvals and would like to celebrate branch opening at PM Summit Ankara.

Istanbul is a big city, and divided by Bosphorus which has two bridges with traffic. It's a big issue for us while organizing monthly professional development activities. People always has excuses the traffic if the meeting on the opposite site for them. Therefore we decided to organize two meetings per month on each side of Bosphorus. This idea supports us to reach more participants in our meetings.

We do Professional Development meetings in Ankara every month and in Izmir every Quarter.

We also organize networking games in our meeting to meet people mutually. Before this games, generally people was meet 1 or 2 new person; but after that they meet approximately 10 people based on surveys they've filled out after event.

We also organize two annual PM Summits in Istanbul and Ankara. The project managers are assigned at the beginning of this year and Summits are on October. Last year we had only one Summit in Istanbul with 489 participants, this year we aimed to beat the participant record. We have more

than 35 speakers with simultaneous translation in Istanbul in 3 parallel sessions and 15 speakers in Ankara with 3 parallel sessions.

We give high priority to join international PMI events. We have joined EMEA LIM with 5 participants which one of them have a session about our “Mentoring Project”. We will participate Region 8 meeting on November. We have a presentation about “increasing number of volunteer”. 5 or 6 delegates will also participate to this meeting also. These meetings give our officers to understand PMI deeply.

We plan to organize International PM Day event in four cities simultaneously. Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Lefkosa (Cyprus) with cooperation other Project Management Associations in Turkey; IPYD (Istanbul Project Management Association), PYD (Ankara Project Management Association), UPYE (International Project Management Institute Association), TPYME (Turkish Project Management Profession Institute) and KTMMOB (Cyprus Turk Computer Engineers Association).

- **Has chapter participated in any projects with universities?**

We have a mentoring program, which supports university students in their project management career journey. PMI Turkey Chapter has 42 mentors, 29 in Istanbul, 9 in Ankara and 4 in Izmir. Mentors follow-up one year program with their mentees. Every month they get together to evaluate last month activities and projects. They take notes mutually for next month. During the month they continue their communication via phone and e-mail. Nowadays we have 24 mentees, 16 in İstanbul and 8 in Ankara. The main purposes of the mentees’ to join this program are career growth, gain a certification, get project management knowledge, learn project management practices, and research.

We organize PM Summit Istanbul with an academic relationship every year. This year we are organizing with Bosphorus University. In the summit, one parallel session is reserved for the academic presentations. We have 11 academic presenters in the Summit.

We have close relations with universities. Our officers make presentation about PMI, PMI Turkey and Project Management in the universities. Sometimes we are being a guest speaker to Project Management Classes, and sometimes we are being a speaker to a special event like orientation or career day organizations.

This year we have visited and presented at these universities:

- o Sabanci University
- o Istanbul Bilgi University
- o Ozyegin University
- o Gazi University
- o Hitit University

- **Has chapter participated in any projects with large corporations?**

We aimed to reach big companies and enterprises to grow up the chapter. We organized a meeting and invited the PMO Head's of essential companies in Turkey.

These companies were from different sectors such as finance, automotive, IT, transportation, energy, telecommunication, etc. Some names of these companies are Akbank, Denizbank, Garanti, Halkbank, ING Bank, Vakifbank, Yapi Kredi from finance sector; Borusan (distributor of BMW, Mini Cooper and Land Rover in Turkey), Ford, Turk Traktor from automotive sector; Turkish Airlines and Pegasus Airlines from transportation sector, etc.

Microsoft Turkey and its two big partners (Imperitech and Rota) were the sponsors of this event. It's located in a hotel near Bosphorus and 61 participants join the meeting.

We created an annual sponsorship package and offer this package to the companies who want to recognize in our all events, open booths, free tickets or invitations. Now we have 12 sponsor, 6 academic relations and 17 supporters listed below:

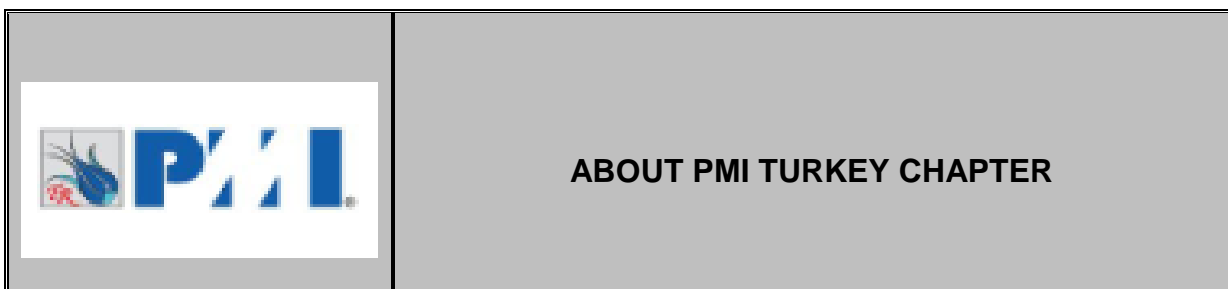
- o **Platin Sponsor** : Microsoft Turkey
- o **Golden Sponsors** : Imperitech, Rota
- o **Silver Sponsors** : TAC, Akfen Holding
- o **Other Sponsors** : CA, HP, WYG, Finansbank, Agile 42, Eurosis Consulting
- o **Transportation Sponsor** : Anadolu Jet

- o **Academic Relations** : Bosphorus University, TOOB University, İstanbul Şehir University, Yönder Schools, Bilge Adam, Conguru
- o **Supporters** :
  - § **Press** : ab-ilan.com, BT Haber, Business Ankara, MSI, Shift Delete.Net, Türk Savunma Sanayi Haber
  - § **Digital Marketing** : boosmart
  - § **Media** : Radyo ODTÜ
  - § **NGO's** : Agile Turkey, BMO (Computer Engineer Association), IPYD, Scrum Turkey
  - § **Participants** : BizPro, Türk Telekom Group, Turkcell
  - § **PMI Chapters** : PMI UK Chapter, PMI Washington DC Chapter

We plan to do similar event in Ankara at near future.

- **Has chapter participated in outreach project in their community?**
  - o We are doing workshops with PMIEF's Project Management for Kids kit.
  - o We've done these workshops in two schools:
    - Istanbul Bahcesehir College – 53 teachers
    - Ankara Seviye College – 43 teachers
  - o We plan to reach more schools :
    - Atacan College (will visit on 29 Sep and will plan the workshop)
    - Terakki College (visit will be planned)
    - Bilfen College (visit will be planned)
  - o Bi-monthly "World of Project Management" magazine publishes and distributes to great enterprises' executive management like CEO, CIO, PMO Director etc. in both public and private sectors. Content of the magazine is listed below:

- 2 interviews in each issue, one from PMI BOD, one from an executive manager
- At least 4 Articles
- News from PMI Turkey Chapter
- News from PMI Global
- Questions and answers
- Humor
- <http://www.pmi.org.tr/dergiler/>



PMI Turkey chapter was established to encourage project management workings and follow regulations under global standards supports institutions, companies and person who works in project management and develops activities in order for concerned sector use.

PMI Turkey works as a non-profit association with support of volunteers. PMI Turkey is focusing on increasing of awareness of project management, supplying project management in every disciplines that accepts it as a profession, spreading out and improving project management practices and theories, encouraging total quality and professionalism in project management, protecting and encouraging standards, ethics and accreditations condition in project management in Turkey.

PMI Turkey is one of the non-governmental organization which is reference point to aim project management knowledge exchange. Thus it completed works on translating PMBOK (Project Management Body of Knowledge) and PMP certification exam set into Turkish in order for project managers in Turkey to improve their competency. Institution has more than 600 members from various sectors in particular Information Technologies (IT/IS), Finance, Telecommunication, defense and public sectors.

For website, please visit [www.pmi.org.tr](http://www.pmi.org.tr)

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUMMIT 2015**  
**ISTANBUL**

PMI Turkey Chapter will organize this year's Project Management Summit on **October 2-3, 2015** in Istanbul, Turkey.

"**PM Summit Istanbul 2015**" will reach to the attendees with the theme "New Trends in Project Management" this year.

It will take place with the academic cooperation of Bogazici University. It offers 14 PDUs in the sessions throughout two days with great networking opportunities.

You could discover new trends in project management and meet with peers and leaders from all over the world. The registration link is <http://www.pmi.org.tr/summit/istanbul/>.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUMMIT 2015**  
**ANKARA**

PMI Turkey Chapter will organize the event called "**PM Summit Ankara 2015**" on **October 27, 2015** in Ankara, Turkey. It has been decided during the assessment made by having regard to the sectoral characteristics of Ankara being the capital of Turkey that the theme of the Summit is "**Project Management for the Country Development**". It is aimed during this Summit to ensure information exchange about the experiences gained and problems encountered in the management of the projects, playing an important role in country development.

The development should not be understood just as a concept synonymous with growth. The indicators such as nutrition, housing opportunities, health and educational services, human rights are considered as included in the concept of development. In this regards, the sustainable development should not only be considered in the light of economic data, but also analyzed as a whole together with the social and political aspects. It is dominantly believed that attempting to use the existing resources efficiently and addressing the economical and environmental



conditions together will be more beneficial and also the technological advancements will make positive contributions to the sustainable development.

It is planned during this Summit to be held under subtitles such as Project Management Experiences, Public-Private Sector Cooperation, Human Resources Management and Problem Management specific to the sectors such as Information Technologies, Education, Defense, Finance, Energy and Transportation which have critical importance in the country development.

It is expected that 300 participants, including managers, academicians and senior managers, will participate in the summit. It planned during the summit to be conducted workshops on agile project management and entrepreneurship projects other than the main hall program.

**Sub-Themes:**

- Development Programme, Sustainable Growth
- Public Private Partnership
- Project Program and Portfolio Management
- Environmental, Social , Economic and Cultural Factors
- Human Resources Management

## About the Author



### **İpek Sahra Özgüler**

Istanbul, Turkey



**İpek Sahra Özgüler** graduated from the Istanbul University with the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and from Middle East Technical University with an MSc degree in Software Management. She became a certified PMP in January, 2012 and a certified SCRUM Master in 2014. İpek works as project portfolio manager at TAV IT Project Management Office. TAV IT is a core technology provider and systems integration company specialising in aviation. It delivers turn-key airport systems and infrastructure solutions for various parties at airports, including airport authorities, airlines and ground handling companies. Her main responsibility is to move the organization to the future by executing the organization's strategy through portfolio management. Before joining TAV IT, she worked for global multinational companies and leading local companies such as Coca Cola, Deloitte, Turkcell Superonline and Havelsan. Over the years, she has gained extensive experience in managing various medium and large scale projects, programs and portfolios.

Her article named "When I Decided to Develop Multi Processing Project Manager's System" published in the book "*A Day in the Life of a Project Manager*". She has published several articles in the *PM World Journal* and one in PMI's *PM Network* magazine. İpek is actively involved in sailing, writing and discovering new cultures. She can be contacted at [ipeksahra@gmail.com](mailto:ipeksahra@gmail.com).