

Project Management update from Argentina



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2016 is clearly a difficult year for our country.

Professionals involved in projects have conveyed their concern about the current situation in Argentina, especially in the first semester of the year.

In the first months of the new administration, the national government is in the difficult task of improving the economy, reducing the fiscal deficit, modernizing the state and cancelling debt with creditors, and thus leave the default, to insert Argentina in the world and attract new investment.

The first 100 days of President Mauricio Macri, recently met, have been aligned with those objectives. During this time, Argentina participated again in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, after 13 years of absence, where the president and his delegation held meetings with world leaders and executives of the largest companies in the world. Besides, our country received the visit of French President Francois Hollande, Prime Minister of Italy, Matteo Renzi, and the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

One of the main purposes of these visits is to rebuild confidence in Argentina and to attract productive investments in the hands of foreign capital.

After the meeting between Barack Obama and Mauricio Macri, both governments signed agreements about security, fighting crime and money-laundering, and to increase trade and investments. It seeks to deepen cooperation policies against drug

trafficking and international security as well as energy development, infrastructure, technology and trade.

Also in line with the opening to the world, President Mauricio Macri traveled to the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, and besides with his US counterpart, Barack Obama, Macri also held bilateral meetings with representatives of Canada, India, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the European Council President Donald, Tusk, in the importance to expand trade agreements between Mercosur and the European Union (EU) and reinforce actions in the fight against drug trafficking.

The results of these approaches are already being visualized. After signing the memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Commerce of the United States, in order to facilitate and promote investment, companies General Motors, Dow Chemical, AES, Genneia, Tabacal and Ford announced a commitment to invest in the country 2,000 million dollars for this year and 13,800 million in the next four.

In particular, the multinational company Dow Chemical and Argentina's company INVAP high-tech signed a memorandum of understanding for the construction of a wind farm in Argentina, province of Rio Negro, which would mean an investment of USD 123 million to reach 50 megawatts of installed capacity in two phases. The first phase of the project, according to the expectations of the two managers, could be completed in six months, by spending USD 50 million and the installation of five mills with an installed capacity of 15 megawatts. The second would involve an additional USD 75 million and reach 50 megawatts, with 20 wind turbines.

By these ads it will open a new picture, regarding the implementation of projects in Argentina, for the second half of 2016. In this perspective, the concerned referents agree that probably there will be a failure of professionals with skills and competencies to manage demand growth.

On the other hand, during the last days of April, the government managed to close the deal with creditors, leave the default and again put Argentina in a friendly situation for investors.

As mentioned by Engineers Osvaldo Ucha and Claudio Arfeli, from the firm Metacontrol Argentina SA, an engineering and constructions company specialized in Project Management, "The volume of projects in the coming years should be very high, based on the needs of Argentina and investment expectations". "A good segment of professionals is ready for the challenge, but it will require experienced leaders in project management for the creation of new management teams, demanding the expected flood of projects to come."

The work developed by the PMI Chapters in Argentina is very valuable to contribute to the development of new professionals who demand the market in the near future.

In the PMI Buenos Aires Chapter, the communities of interest Risk, Public Management, PMO and Agile meet monthly, to allow professionals to exchange experiences and participate in research on topics of interest. Also members and guests meet monthly, starting last March 8th with a talk of "Design Thinking applied to project management" by exhibitor talk Mr. Ezequiel Kahan, and on April 6th the conference "Coaching Tools for Project Leaders" by Ing. Jorge Gadze.

From Chapter PMI Nuevo Cuyo, at the National Technological University, on March 16th it was issued the workshop "Leadership and Collaboration Workshop for Enterprising Women" by Paola Simonetti, Consultant for the area of Social Responsibility Businesswoman of IBM since 2011, responsible of the program Institutional Strengthening of Local Economic Development of Organizations of Argentine of Argentina communities, and on March 17th it was issued the "Workshop on Leadership and Change Management", by Valeria Estela, Project Manager Transition and Transformation for IBM Global.

*For information about local events Project Management, enter sites **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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