PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

Global SCRUM GATHERING® Orlando 2016

https://www.scrumalliance.org/courses-events/events/global-gatherings/2016/orlando-2016

Reporting from Orlando: **Theofanis Giotis,** MSc, Ph.D. C., PMP, CSM/CSP, PMI-ACP, CTT+, PRINCE2 Trainer
Global Correspondent at http://pmworldjournal.net/ and CEO at http://**12PM.consulting**

It took me 25 hours to reach this event. From Athens to Istanbul, to Washington DC, and then to Orlando. Loews Royal Pacific Resort was the hosting resort for **Global SCRUM GATHERING® Orlando 2016** event that took place between **18th and 20th of April 2016**.

This was the **biggest ever** Global Scrum Gathering event ever with **1150+ participants** from 30 countries.

More than 400 papers were submitted and about 50 were approved in three tracks:
- Agile Galaxy
- Orbiting the Earth
- Mission Control

PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

Phoenix Co-Chairs

The event started on Monday morning with welcome remarks from the two co-chairs **Anu Smalley & Kate Megaw** and Scrum Alliance CEO **Manny Gonzalez**.

The opening keynote was "*Agile Leadership, The Key to Scaling Scrum*" by **Brian Rabon**.

Theofanis Giotis and Brian Rabon

Lyssa Atkins presented "*Developing An Organization's Internal Agile Coaching Capability*"

Theofanis Giotis and Lyssa Atkins

PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

Dave Prior presented "***PMP Rehab - Personal Agility Canvas 2.0***" and **Angela Johnson** presented "Diversity in Agile".

Coaches Clinic

The Coaches Clinic set a record for attendance, reaching 306 coaching sessions – one-third of Gathering attendees – over the three conference days. This free service, organized by the Certified Scrum Coach community, offered 15-minute coaching sessions during conference breaks. Participants were matched with volunteer coaches, many who were CSCs and CSTs, to discuss their issues.

Roger Brown facilitated our Coaches Clinic, organizing everything from developing the schedule and sign-in board to securing coaches and warmly welcoming attendees who took the opportunity to be coached.

Theofanis Giotis and Roger Brown | Coaches clinic wall

Roger Brown, Las Vegas Coaches Clinic facilitator, noted:

> "*I love to meet people who come to the Scrum Gatherings – curious, concerned, and cheerful people working to improve their organizations and their individual work lives. It is very rewarding to see them walk out of the clinic with new understanding, new ideas to consider, and smiles on their faces.*"

PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

Interview with Manny Gonzalez, CEO of ScrumAlliance

Manny Gonzalez CEO of ScrumAlliance and Theofanis Giotis CEO of http://12pm.consulting

Q: It seems that Agile and Scrum adoption are exploding. What is going on?

Manny Gonzalez: The Agile Scrum movement is definitely underway, and we expect it to continue to grow as many more come to discover how well these frameworks work in almost any and every organization in the world. In our *2015 State of Scrum Report*, we uncovered findings that not only reflect where Scrum is today but also what we anticipate it will look like tomorrow. These findings include who is practicing Scrum, how they are practicing it, success levels associated with Scrum, and plans for its continued use.

Additionally, the report statistics provided intriguing insight and information, such as:
• 87% say Scrum improves teams' quality of work life
• 81% believe certification improves the practice
• On average, Scrum is successful 62% of the time
• 95% will continue to use Scrum

Q: Eight out of 10 job postings in information and communications technology (ICT) require Agile experience. Do you feel that there is lack of supply in the field?

Employees seek work with great companies and employers seek to hire innovative people, and we have seen the demand for Agile and Scrum grow exponentially in the past few years. We expect that trend to continue as we offer more certifications for leaders and managers.

Q: How big is Scrum Alliance today? How many members and certified people do you have?

Scrum Alliance has more than 500,000 certified practitioners around the world, and we are certifying more than 10,000 new practitioners each month. Our new membership platform

PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

launched this year and boasts significant value for members, including a collaborative user group area, member-only content including **coach- and trainer-led webinars**, access to **AgileCareers,** deep discounts on registration to our global events and on Agile software and products from our corporate partners, a free digital subscription to our new magazine **AgileVox**, and more!

Q: Which continent is expanding most rapidly in Scrum Alliance membership and certifications?

North America, specifically the United States, continues to be the largest and fastest-growing area for certifications. Currently the U.S. represents 44% of certifications, with Asia and Europe each at 10%. Specific regions also experiencing considerable growth include India, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and Canada.

As the demand for certified Agile and Scrum professionals grows, we believe the current trend will continue. We are anticipating many more certificants and members in the near future as we offer new certifications and certify more trainers and coaches in several strategic geographic regions.

Q: There is debate about whether we must choose either "Waterfall approaches" or "Agile approaches." Is this true or does it depend on the context of the project?

We observe some organizations begin their transformation with a hybrid of Waterfall and Agile, with varying success. However, the debate seems to be cooling down as thousands of individuals, leaders, and organizations embrace the Agile and Scrum movement and prove how well it works. We truly believe Agile is the way of work of the future. In our *2015 State of Scrum Report*, nearly all respondents — 95% — report that Scrum is used as their organization's Agile approach. While 54% said they use Scrum in combination with other practices, 42% reported exclusive use of Scrum.

Q: Are there any new certifications that Scrum Alliance has introduced in the last year?

Scrum Alliance is very excited to have introduced the first of several new certifications and programs with the Certified Team Coach certificates, and the Scrum Alliance Certified Agile Leadership (CAL) program.

The vision of the Scrum Alliance Certified Agile Leadership program is to make the values and principles of Agile accessible to every leader, regardless of prior education and experience, by making known the why, what, and how of Agile through a pragmatic and experiential approach. The program is education- and practice-based, and the best part is that it's flexible, as we know how difficult it is for higher-level managers and executives to step away from their jobs. Already the reception for this new offering has been very positive.

Scrum Alliance Certified Enterprise Coaches (CECs), formerly known as Certified Scrum Coaches, are experts in Scrum, with real-world experience in actual Scrum organizations. CECs successfully guide organizations through the challenges of Scrum adoption. The Certified Team Coach certificate is a great new coaching certification for someone who focuses on a subset of an organization in a project or program, or across multiple teams. Becoming a CTC helps bring Scrum out of the classroom and into the real world.

PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

Q: Why Agile, and why Scrum Alliance? What competitive advantages does Scrum Alliance offer?

According to an April 2015 *Forbes* article by Harish Venkat ("Adapt or Die: The Digital Disruption Imperative"), in the 1960s the average lifespan of an S&P 500 was about 65 years. Now it's about 15 years — and it's projected to become even shorter.

One major reason for this culling? Times have changed, and the way corporate leaders think and operate must change with them. Organizations must innovate, create, and deliver new products — and deliver them often. Otherwise, consumers will easily find what they need elsewhere.

The Agile mindset was built on the need to foster innovation and to foster workplaces that breed innovation. Agile sounds like constant communication and collaboration. It feels joyous. It looks like something we've not yet seen before but must embrace to survive in this new era.

Founded in 2001, Scrum Alliance® is the largest, most established and influential professional membership and certification organization in the Agile community. In order to enable the Agile journeys of individuals, leaders, and organizations, we must foster a collaborative and thriving Agile community all over the world. We have the highest educational standards and quality with elite trainers and coaches all around the world. We are also committed to bringing the community together, both in person at events and online with our membership platform. These things are essential to establish the Agile mindset and complete Agile transformations within companies.

Q: Are there any case studies that show how Scrum has been used for social good?

We hear from people all the time asking about good case studies for businesses, teams, and practitioners to learn from. They are harder to find than first thought, but Scrum Alliance is happy to announce that we are launching a new initiative this year to help collect case studies as one more resource for our community and members. There is a lot of debate about what makes a true case study and what data and other metrics are needed to showcase them. We have seen a lot of great success stories and many white papers, but data-driven case studies are just not plentiful in the market currently. We hope to be adding some specific case studies in 2017 that the community, practitioners, leaders, and executives can benefit from reading.

Q: What are your plans for 2016?

Our vision is to "Transform the World of Work" with a mission to guide and inspire individuals, leaders, and organizations with practices, principles, and values that create workplaces that are joyful, prosperous, and sustainable. We have put together a comprehensive strategic plan for 2016 and 2017 that will help us move closer to this vision. Just a few things we are working on include a new online coaching platform to make coaching more accessible to our global community; AgileCareers networking expos to further our initiative of connecting Agile practitioners with Agile organizations; and more gatherings, including the upcoming events in Bengaluru, Munich, and — just announced — San Diego in 2017!

PM World Journal
Vol. V, Issue VII – July 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Project Management Update from Greece
Thoefanis Giotis
Regional Report

About the Author

THEOFANIS GIOTIS

Athens, Greece

Mr. Theofanis Giotis (BA, MSc, Ph.D. C., PMP, PMI-ACP, PRINCE2 Practitioner, PRINCE2 Trainer, CTT+, CSM) is CEO of ITEC CONSULTING (12PM CONSULTING) (1988-now), Co-Founder and first President of PMI-GREECE Chapter (2005-2014) and Deputy BoD member of PMI-GREECE Chapter (2014-2016).

Theofanis has 27 years of professional experience in Project, Program and Portfolio Management, Economics and Management. As an entrepreneur, consultant, international speaker and trainer, Theofanis has worked in different cultural environments in EMEA region. Since 1992, he was heavily involved in Project Management as part of a team to setup the first PMO in Greece for managing a €200 million programme with 16 projects.

Since 1987 he has managed hundreds of projects in the EMEA region using plan driven (waterfall) and change driven (agile) approaches. He has envisioned, planned, designed, developed & implemented hundreds of projects with 22.000+ consulting and training hours. He has given 150+ presentations worldwide in ICT & Project Management and has passed more than 80 professional certifications. Since Sept. 2005, he has published more than 150 articles for Project Management.

Theofanis holds a BA in Economics from University of Athens, Greece, a MSc in Management (O.R.) from Lancaster University, UK and he is a Ph.D. candidate in Project Management at University of Piraeus. Also he holds a Computer Programming/Systems Analysis degree from ACE College, Greece. He was certified as a PMP in 2004 and graduated from PMI Leadership Institute Masters Class (LIMC) in 2007.

Theofanis serves as the International correspondent of PM World Journal and PM Ambassadors in Greece. Also he is a member of PMI, IEEE, ISACA & AMACON. Since 2001, he has taught 200+ Project Management courses (PMP, Agile, Scrum) with 2000+ attendees. As of July 2010, he had trained over 35% of all Greek PMPs.

He is an adjunct professor at four Greek Universities teaching Project, Program and Portfolio Management at MBA level. Also he represents Greek Standardization Organization (ELOT) at ISO TC 258 for Project, Program and Portfolio Management Standard. Theofanis can be contacted at Theofanis.Giotis@12pm.biz

To view other works by Theofanis Giotis, visit his author showcase in the PM World Library at http://pmworldlibrary.net/authors/mr-theofanis-giotis/