

## **Project Management in Spain: Monthly report**

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### **Project Management during crisis times**

We had the opportunity to know the opinion from Luis Chirivella, Manager of Project management at IDOM in Catalunya (Spain). Luis was part of the PMI Barcelona Chapter when we started that Chapter on 2003.

Luis, what is your opinion about the Project management discipline being applied during crisis times?

I believe during crisis organizations and individuals are reinforced... ” Even when it is not exactly that the popular opinion, it’s serving me to give a challenging and optimistic opinion about the interesting stage that people and organizations are living in the South of Europe and other countries worldwide. All crisis generate challenges and opportunities we need to discover and manage and, the Project management sector is totally immerse in this reality; 2009 year was characterized by a decrease on Project Management services demand derived from the construction sector crisis and, especially in the real-state business, what has made necessary that project management services companies to redefine their objectives and change their strategies towards services diversification and look to other countries business.

The European economic situation, and specially the Spanish one, forced the Spanish Government to set up several austerity measures. These measures pointed out to a drastic investment reduction, that may complicate the situation very much. We have been seeing investments cuts, work penalization and, more recently, bidding processes

eliminated, and in some cases even when proposals were presented. This panorama seems to be “interesting”, from an optimistic perspective.

We need to tune our mind and be creative to look and find alternative ways that allow us to stay in the market. Internationalization, projects participation and public and private collaboration, plus the need that organizations, have to count on, today more than never, on their projects and investments, with the capability and experience from experts in risk management. Internationalization implies a series of question-marks and problems that companies, like Idom, has implemented in other countries. We have visualized in advance: market difficulties, idiosyncrasy, public administration relationship, etc., that complicates the contracts execution and success. Furthermore, the economic charge that has to initiate an internationalization strategy for organizations that are not s outside Spain, does that decision more difficult. However, it is a clear field of action and it is giving some opportunities in some countries, where important groups of investors are focused, for example Mexico, Caribe and some countries from Asia and Africa.

The participation in public and private projects, either as managers or assuming some risk, has a major obstacle in the resources source, that, as we have told, the possibility to come from public sector is very far; however, we may hope that important economic groups to bet for that way to develop some projects. Then, we need to be positive, we have to underline the strengths we have acquired as Project Management services providers in Spain, that is the result of training our people and managing complex projects during more than 30 years in different environments: cultural, sport, touristic, residential.

That experience converts us into the best ally for an investment company that is looking for guarantee and experience, in order to control the investment effectively. It is important counting on an expert team, with detailed technical knowledge, that can offer a solution to complex problems.

That characteristic represents an advantage for many organizations to achieve their organizational objectives. I believe it is a very important strength, even when we know that new complex and large projects Will take a while before coming up again, it's serving for our current situation where is evident in the building rehabilitation and recovery field, being compliant with energetic efficiency and its maintenance, project managers play a key role on the technical definitions, planning and control about those investments.

## The last Congress organized by the PMI Madrid Chapter happened in Madrid on June 20th, 2017

The PMI Madrid Spain Chapter, celebrated successfully its Professional Congress on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017. The frequent activities organized by this Chapter help this Chapter growing and achieving a high level of membership's satisfaction. Counting on about 1800 members, the PMI Madrid Spain Chapter has submitted a proposal to be awarded as the "PMI Chapter of the year". We will have some news soon. All my support, passion, persistence and patience for all Spanish Chapters. Let's go for it!



All PMI Spain Chapter, Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Coruña, Branches and the potential ones, like Seville continue working to expand the best practices in Project Management.

**TODAY IS A GOOD DAY**, but working together **TOMORROW WILL BE BETTER!**

## About the Author



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**Alfonso Bucero**, MSc, CPS, PMP, PMI-RMP, PfMP, PMI Fellow, is an International Correspondent and Contributing Editor for the **PM World Journal** in Madrid, Spain. Mr. Bucero is also founder and Managing Partner of BUCERO PM Consulting. Alfonso was the founder, sponsor and president of the PMI Barcelona Chapter until April 2005, and belongs to PMI's LIAG (Leadership Institute Advisory Group). He was the past President of the PMI Madrid Spain Chapter, and then nominated as a PMI EMEA Region 8 Component Mentor. Now he is a member of the PMIEF Engagement Committee. Alfonso has a Computer Science Engineering degree from Universidad Politécnica in Madrid and is studying for his Ph.D. in Project Management. He has 32 years of practical experience and is actively engaged in advancing the PM profession in Spain and throughout Europe. He received the PMI Distinguished Contribution Award on October 9th, 2010 and the PMI Fellow Award on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

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