

Project Management in Italy

End of February 2018



By Massimo Pirozzi

International Correspondent for PM World Journal
Rome, Italy

INTRODUCTION

This first Regional Report includes an overview about the people of Project Management in Italy, which has been derived from the analysis of the relevant certifications, and, in its second part, a description of the major Italian Association of Project Management, the “Istituto Italiano di Project Management” (Italian Institute of Project Management, ISIPM for short) by its President, Enrico Mastrofini.

THE PEOPLE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN ITALY: AN OVERVIEW

The major Project Management Associations that operate in Italy are the Italian independent Istituto Italiano di Project Management (Italian Institute of Project Management, ISIPM for short), the International Project Management Institute, which is structured in three Chapters (PMI Northern Italy Chapter, PMI Central Italy Chapter, PMI Southern Italy Chapter), and the International Project Management Association (IPMA), through its Member Association IPMA Italy. Each of these three organizations offers its own certification path in Project management, both at Basic and Advanced Levels: it can be interesting to notice that, in all Europe, in terms of Advanced

Certifications, ISIPM, together with the largest National Association, the British APM - Association for Project Management, are the only National Project Management Associations that provide a “National Certification Path”, just as much as, in terms of National Basic Certifications, only the German GPM - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Projektmanagement, and the Austrian PMA - Projekt Management Austria, are in addition to the above two Associations.

The total number of Project Management certifications, including both basic and advanced, that have been issued in Italy by the three above-mentioned organizations until 31 December 2017, is more than 18000¹: about 48% of these certifications have been released by ISIPM, 42% by PMI, and 10% by IPMA, respectively. From the historical point of view, we can assume that Project Management, in Italy, started twenty years ago: in fact, first PMI certifications were in 1998, while IPMA and ISIPM certifications started in 2001 and 2008, respectively. In Italy, we are witnessing a steadily increasing positive trend in the dissemination of Project Management discipline, which follows a somewhat slow start: in fact, almost 2/3 of total PM certifications have been issued in the last five years, and about 17% in 2017 only; in this last year, ISIPM released about 63% of certificates, PMI 31%, and IPMA 5%, respectively. Basic Certifications (ISIPM-Base, IPMA D, and CAPM) represent about the 55% of the total, while Advanced Certifications (PMP, IPMA A-B-C, ISIPM-Av) represent about the 45%, but the two contexts are actually very different.

The framework of Basic Certifications, which, in Italy, are more than 10000, is dominated by the ISIPM-Base Certification, which represents about 85% of the total, versus about the 10% of IPMA D, and the 5% of PMI's CAPM: last year percentages were about 90%, 4%, and 6%, respectively. One of the main reasons of the success of ISIPM-Base Certification is that it is very well acknowledged, and it is considered beneficial, also outside the project manager community, in particular by students, and by professionals of different sectors (e.g. small entrepreneurs, consultants, business development and marketing specialists, accountants, doctors, dentists, lawyers, criminologists, principals, officials in cultural heritage, etc.) who do not necessarily want to proceed towards an advanced certification, but who do consider both project management a useful support to their work, and ISIPM-Base Certification a good reference for themselves.

On the other hand, the framework of Advanced Certifications, which, in Italy, are more than 8000, is dominated by the PMI's PMP Certification, which represents about 86% of the total, versus about the 11% of IPMA A-B-C, and the 3% of the recent ISIPM-Av (Av stands for “Avanzata”, which means “advanced” in Italian): last year percentages were about 79%, 8%, and 13%, respectively. It is then remarkable that national ISIPM-Av Certification, although it was born less than three years ago, already gained a very good position, and it has a still increasing trend.

In addition, in Italy, since about one year and half, “Project Manager” was included in the “Certified Professionals”, too. UNI, the Italian Standardization Body, issued in late 2016 the National Standard “UNI 11648: Project Manager - Definizione dei requisiti di conoscenza, abilità e competenza (Project Manager - Definition of the Requirements in terms of Knowledge, Skills, and Competence)”, so that Project Managers that meet the above mentioned requirements can be certified by proper Accredited third-party Certification Bodies, after passing a written and oral examination (generally, written examination is not needed if the candidate holds an Advanced Certification in Project Management). The lists of Certified Project Managers, who also meet the additional requirements in terms of continuous training, are merged in a Public Consultation Databank, which is managed by ACCREDIA, the Italian Accreditation Body. Presently, these types of “Certified Professional Project Managers” are almost 200.

ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI PROJECT MANAGEMENT (ISIPM)

“Istituto Italiano di Project Management” (Italian Institute of Project Management, ISIPM for short) is the major Italian Association of Project Management: in the following, a brief description of ISIPM, with some reference to its very significant achievements, is made directly by Enrico Mastrofini, who is the President of both ISIPM, and ISIPM Professioni, ISIPM’s brand new Professional Association.

« The Italian Institute of Project Management (ISIPM) is a non-profit independent cultural association, which promotes both the knowledge and the diffusion of the Project Management discipline. Especially in the last five years, in which ISIPM invested deeply in increasing quality of its delivered contents, services, and events, the Association became actually a center of competence and reference for Project Management in Italy: today, we are very happy and proud to communicate that almost 9000 Italians, due to the success of ISIPM Certifications, moved to Project Management discipline, as well as our Members and our Followers, due to the success of our services and events, reached the very significant numbers, in Italian context, of 3000 and 10000, respectively ... and, moreover, that all our growth trends are still more than positive.

Specifically, ISIPM:

- organizes and develops, on the national territory, different events that are characterized by significant professional, educational and scientific contents, such as seminars, webinars, conferences, debates, conferences, round tables, as well as professional development initiatives, and cultural and educational activities;
- favors training, and continuous vocational training, of its Members, also by promoting the dissemination of its ISIPM-Base and ISIPM-Av Certifications, and, moreover, of other International Certifications (ISIPM is a PMI R.E.P., too), as well as of the National Professional Project Manager Certification;

- provides educational contents and continuous training to its Accredited Project Management Teachers, as much as manages their nominations and their presence in a Public Consultation Register;
- participates, with speeches and/or stands, to major scientific or dissemination events that are organized by other Institutions;
- promotes and supports specific study, research and information initiatives, including the books "Guida alle Conoscenze di Gestione Progetti (Guide to Project Management Knowledge)", and "Guida ai Temi ed ai Processi di Project Management (Guide to Project Management Themes and Processes)", and the magazine "il Project Manager", published by FrancoAngeli;
- constitutes a permanent observatory on the state of the art of Project Management, in Italy and around the world, even with respect to national and international standards, and best practices;
- develops collaborative relationships with universities, schools, associations, bodies and institutions that are interested in Project Management;
- forms a network for the exchange of experiences, opinions, and documentation that are relevant to Project Management and to other related and / or contiguous disciplines.

ISIPM organizes and promotes also PM Expo®, the greatest event dedicated to Project Management in Italy, which generally occurs on a single day in last week of October: the participation to this event is open, and completely free of charge. The 2017 Edition included several National and International Speakers, different Workshops, an International Round Table, and we were pleased to welcome about 1000 participants. Finally yet importantly, I am pleased to communicate also the very recent birth of ISIPM Professioni, our Professional Association with the goal of supporting at best all the Professions, which are related to Project Management in Italy. »



FOOTNOTES

¹ Data are a courtesy of Biagio Tramontana, ISIPM, and are updated as at December 31, 2017 (only 2017 data relevant to IPMA Italy have been estimated based on 2016).

About the Author



Massimo Pirozzi

Rome, Italy



Massimo Pirozzi, MSc cum laude, Electronic Engineering, University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Principal Consultant, Project Manager, and Educator. He is a Member and the Secretary of the Executive Board, a Member of the Scientific Committee, and an accredited Master Teacher, of the Istituto Italiano di Project Management (Italian Institute of Project Management). He is certified as a Professional Project Manager, as an Information Security Management Systems Lead Auditor, and as an International Mediator. He is a Researcher, a Lecturer, and an Author about Stakeholder Identification and Management, Relationship Management, Complex Projects Management, and Project Management X.0.

Massimo has a wide experience in managing large and complex projects in national and international contexts, and in managing relations with public and private organizations, including multinational companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, research institutes, and non-profit organizations. He worked successfully in several sectors, including Defense, Security, Health, Education, Cultural Heritage, Transport, Gaming, and Services to Citizens. He was also, for many years, a Top Manager in ICT Industry, and an Adjunct Professor in Organizational Psychology. He is registered as an Expert of the European Commission, and as an Expert of the Italian Public Administrations.

Massimo Pirozzi serves as an international Correspondent in Italy for the *PM World Journal*. He can be contacted at pirozzi@isipm.org