

Project Management in Spain: Monthly report

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PMI Madrid Chapter - the importance of volunteering

At the end of the month of November took place the PMI Madrid Chapter's annual Conference, which also celebrated its 15th anniversary of existence. The most important for me, as a project management practitioner and volunteer over the years, was the recognition for the PMI Madrid Spain Chapter volunteers.

This year's event was something special, because the Organization and presentation was run by volunteers who are let see, and therefore we want to bring to this space Elisabeth Matt and Ana Briseño, who were responsible for several weeks of the planning and control of all matters relating to the Congress.

Susana (S) Welcomed.

Elisabeth (E) *Hi all,*

Ana (A) *Hello Susana, a salute to all those who read this interview*

S We'd like to know a bit more about you professionally?

E *I am a lawyer's training and work of office manager at a telecommunications company, whose main objective is the submarine optical fiber and now we are starting with the ground-laying.*

Too *I am Director of consulting and projects, and work as a consultant, implementing and providing coaching in practice mainly focusing in the area of project management and*

PMOs; I also give training on the different processes of PMBOK, for certification PMP and soft skills for the PMs.

S Elisabeth you're a lawyer, but are you certified or have specific training in Project Management? Increasingly also in less technical careers such as law seeks to acquire knowledge of project management, but until now it was less common.

E At the moment I am not certified but I have it on my to-do list. A couple of years ago I was standing work, and wanted to return to study, to learn new things and read about project management and their areas of reach. I did a master's degree in Project Management, I signed the VRMS (Virtual Relationship Management system) from PMI to continue to learn and am now a mentor to launch me to fly alone. Project Management is also revolutionizing the world of law and is a train that we cannot pass.

S Ana, you are working on training services. Would you say that currently is there a growing interest in learning and developing soft skills?

A yes, there is a lot of interest, and it has been growing up, mainly to adopt agile methodologies, where I think these skills are more relevant. Not because they are not necessary for the traditional ones, but there is more interaction working with self-managed teams. I think that this type of skills is not only necessary for the PM but for all team members.

S Did you have participated previously at any PMI Congress, or at any other Association as volunteers?

E it is the first time I have worked as a PMI volunteer but I'm sure it will not be the last one.

A yes, I had participated previously at other events as a volunteer, either for professional and personal interests.

S Why to be a PMI volunteer? Was there any particular reason that would push you to make that decision?

E Since I finished my Project Management Master I wanted to see and participate front first line how to apply all that I learned during my training period. As soon as I saw the opportunity to collaborate, I applied for it.

A The volunteer experience is very rich, then when i saw the call for applications for the Congress, I was interested in participating and add value. On the other hand, is absolutely true that you learn a lot from this type of experiences. I'm coming from Mexico and I have been living in Madrid only for one year approximately, then to be part of the PMs community in Madrid and being in relationship with professionals with a similar profile is quite interesting for me.

S How did you hear about the volunteer opportunity?

E *I am registered in the VRMS, then an email arrived containing the call for applications.*

A *I saw the call for applications at PMI website 😊*

S Was it a Good experience for you?

E *No doubt about it. Anne is a great professional. I learned a lot beside her. We worked hard and the results came up to the Congress. We have received a very positive “feedback” confirming a good outcome. Participants and speakers were very satisfied. It was a wonderful experience and I recommend it to anyone.*

A *Very much. First of all, to meet and work with Lisa. We have worked very well together, forming a good team. Furthermore, seeing afterword that all the effort we invested had a good result, it was worth.*

S What was the most complicated?

E *To verify that nothing was failing at the event. You need to control that all stakeholders are satisfied and everything work, even when not all is under your control.*

A *Achieving stakeholder’s expectations was the most complicated. It is difficult to satisfy all stakeholder’s expectations. Everything can be improved, lessons learned were very interesting.*

S There were several volunteers introducing the keynote speakers. How was that initiative started?

E *At the beginning, we asked for volunteers’ collaboration to introduce the speakers. Personally, I believe it was a success.*

S Was it difficult to select the speakers?

E *Many presentation Submissions were received and we applied the selection criterio that were defined previously. The criterion was: public speaking experience, professional career, subject, etc.... We had an evaluation committee and every presentation was scored according the defined criteria.*

S From your experience what was the most significant for you?

E *The event day. We felt many different feelings. It was the day to demonstrate our effort, and the effort of the previous months.*



From left to right side : Ana Briseño, Evis Rosales (Chapter President), Elisabeth Maté

S Do you believe PMI volunteers add value to the Chapter?

E *No doubt about it. Every volunteer adds value in the matter he/she is an expert and at the same time learns and collaborate among the whole team.*

S Do recommend to be a PMI volunteer?

E *Yes of course. As I told you, it is an exchange. It's a giving and taking. But the most important is to learn, renew and see new things through collaborating among professionals.*

A *Yes. Participants give their value and sharing thoughts, ideas and experiences is very important and key for any association success.*



What started in 2003 with only the BOD voluntarism is now a PMI Chapter where volunteering has acquired the relevance and recognition that it deserves.

TODAY IS A GOOD Day and 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, the PMI Fellow Award on October 22nd 2011 and the PMI Eric Jenett Excellence Award on October 28th, 2017. Mr. Bucero can be contacted at alfonso.bucero@abucero.com.