

A brief overview of the Euram conference in Lisbon in June 2019¹

Helgi Thor Ingason

Euram or European Academy of Management is one of the larger academic conferences in the field of management. This annual conference typically attracts about 1000 people from across the globe, but it is usually held in Europe. In June 2019 the Euram conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal. A record number of participants attended the conference or 1800 people, and more than 1200 studies were presented, within different fields of business and management. The conference venue was ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL).

It is of course impossible to explain the vast number of research papers presented at this conference in a short article, but one of its many streams is dedicated to project organising. As a consequence, many of the world leading scholars came to Lisbon for the conference, much-admired researchers from universities in North America, Australia, Africa, Asia and Europe.

The editors of four important academic journals in project management presented their journals. These were Martina Huemann, editor of the International Journal of Project Management (IJPM), Ralf Müller, editor of the Project management Journal (PMJ), Natalie Drouin, editor of the International Journal of Managing Projects in Business (IJMPB) and Young Hoon Kwak editor of Journal of Management in Engineering (JME). All of these journals have a different focus, and the editors briefly outlined the aims and scope of their journals and how their impact has grown.

A total of 80 lectures on project management were given, divided into a number of themes. Action research was discussed, a useful research method within project management. The management of portfolios was discussed, and the development of new knowledge for that purpose. Major projects were specifically addressed in a number of papers, as well as project teams, leadership, communication, projects as practice and the project management profession and its capabilities. A very interesting session focused on sustainability and the circular economy of projects. It was quite difficult to choose between interesting lectures, not just in the field of project management, but in all possible fields of management at this huge conference. At one time I left the project organising tracks and visited a track that had caught my attention in the proceedings. This was a track on lean management in the health sector, and I found it quite interesting.

I had two formal roles at the Euram conference. On the one hand, I presented a paper I wrote with professor Haukur Ingi Jonasson on our experience of teaching a course in the MPM program at Reykjavik University for years, where students work on the preparation, planning, and implementation of a real-life project which is supposed to deliver a direct benefit to the

¹ How to cite this report: Ingason, H.T. (2019). A brief overview of the Euram conference in Lisbon in June 2019, *PM World Journal*, Vol. VIII, Issue VII, August.

society. I also co-authored a paper with professor Yvonne Schoper on the analysis of the national capabilities in project management, through a system dynamics approach. Another role I had was to chair an interesting session on collaborative Research, leadership and governance. This was a well attended session with highly respected presenters such as Shankar Sankaran, Ralf Müller and Erik Lindhult.

One of the rituals of the Project organizing track of the Euram conferences is the delivery of the best paper awards, jointly sponsored by IPMA and PMI. This time, the student prize was awarded to Carsten Kaufmann from the Technische Universität Darmstadt for the paper *Does project management matter? The causal impact of project management effort on project success*. The best paper prize was awarded to Alfons Marrewijk and Nick Dessing from the VU University in Amsterdam for the paper *Negotiated reciprocity in engaged scholarship studies: safeguarding academic and project intentions*.

The Euram conference in Lisbon was successful, a well organized and smoothly executed conference. It took place in the beautiful city of Lisbon and I was so fascinated with Lisbon that I wrote a [blogpost in Icelandic](#) on my visit to the city. The group organising the project management tracks consisted of Martina Huemann, Alexander Kock, Monique Aubry, Tuomas Ahola and Mia Martinsuo, and they did a fine job!

This conference is truly an important event to attend for project management researchers, to see what others are working on and to get feedback on their own research. It is a unique opportunity to learn about research in management, not only within project management but also to expand the horizon and learn what is happening in other fields of management. We can start to look forward to the next Euram conferences, in Dublin 2020, in Montreal 2021 and in Zürich 2022.

Some photos from the conference follow







About the Author



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Helgi Thor Ingason (b. 1965) holds a PhD in process metallurgy from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), MSc in mechanical and industrial engineering from the University of Iceland and a Stanford Advanced Project Management Certification from Stanford University. He is an IPMA Certified Senior Project Manager (B level).

Dr. Ingason is a professor at Reykjavik University. He is co-head (with Dr. Haukur Ingi Jonasson) of the MPM - Master of Project Management - program at the university. The research fields of Dr. Ingason range from quality- and project management to system dynamics and renewable energy, production, transport and utilization, changes in the energy infrastructure and energy carriers of the future.

Dr. Ingason has reported on his research at conferences and in several reviewed conference and journal papers. He is the co-author of 7 books in the Icelandic language on project management, strategic planning, product development and quality management. He is also co-author, with Haukur Ingi Jonasson, of the books *Project Ethics* (2013), *Project: Leadership* (2018), *Project: Strategy* (2018), *Project: Communication* (2019) and *Project: Execution* (2019). To learn more about these books, [visit the Routledge publishing site here](#).

Dr. Ingason was interim CEO of Orkuveita Reykjavíkur (Reykjavik Energy) from 2010 to 2011. A co-founder of Nordica Consulting Group, Dr. Ingason is a management consultant and a recognized speaker. In his spare time he plays piano and accordion with the South River Band (www.southernriverband.com), and Kólga (www.kolga.band), two Icelandic world music ensembles.

More information on Dr. Ingason can be found on www.academia.edu and on www.helgithoringason.com. Information about the MPM program at the University of Reykjavik can be found at <http://en.ru.is/mpm/why-mpm/>. Dr. Ingason can be contacted at helgithor@ru.is.