

*A series of short articles*¹
on

Transparent leadership and sustainable project management²

Article 1 of 5

Helgi Thor Ingason and Haukur Ingi Jonasson

We have written a series of four books for the modern business professional who needs to be able to lead and participate in different kinds of projects and understand and practice different contextual, leadership, technical and communication aspects of project, programme and portfolio management. For the readers of the *PM World Journal*, we are introducing our series through a set of short articles, where we explain our ideas and scope. This first article gives a brief overview of the series in whole.

The series is tailored to creatively strengthen four key proficiencies of the reader; strategy, leadership, implementation and communication. We intend the reader to develop his/her personal leadership and managerial style and the ability to take ideas and advance them through planning and execution – with the transparency and accountability that successful project management today demands. In line with the demands of the modern business environment, emphasis is put on both the technical and human elements of effective management, aligning the objectives of the project leader, team, and organization within the project's social and environmental context.

The series is primarily written for the next generation of project, programme and portfolio management. Icelandic versions of the books have been taught for years in the most popular and successful management education and training program in the country. They reflect the integrated nature of this successful program and the integrated nature is designed to meet the needs of those who want to lead well in both their professional and private lives, deploying self-realization into the leadership of businesses, public bodies, NGOs and society in general.

The books are fully aligned to the most recent version of the IPMA Competence Baseline ICB4; they are practical as handbooks and as important support documents for those aiming to get certified according to the IPMA certification system. Businesses, government agencies and all manner of organizations require people with the vision and skills to conceive and execute their plans.

¹Editor's note: This series of articles is by Professors Helgi Thor Ingason and Haukur Ingi Jonasson at Reykjavik University in Iceland. Active researchers and educators in the field of project management for many years, they are the authors of *a series of books on project management and related fields*, published by Taylor Francis / Routledge in 2018 and 2019. See their author profiles at the end of this article.

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The series will be of interest to an international readership as it is aimed at professionals who seek to gain and employ a better understanding of their own leadership capabilities to become successful practitioners of modern strategic project management. This is a challenge as modern projects are typically planned and operated in an international context, through the collaboration of people from different countries and with different backgrounds.

The international transparent leader is analytically and ethically ready to manage others in a spirit of self-reflection; flexible and taking advantage of criticism and communication. He works in constant, considered awareness of the project's content, context and consequences upon self, the team, organization, society and the environment. This is the vision on which our series is based.

Finally, we share with our readers a drawing by our long-time collaborator, Halldor Baldursson. His drawings have become an important part of our books and they really help to shed light on difficult concepts and Halldor often provides a different and interesting perspective with his drawings. The following drawing gives an overview of our series in whole and we challenge our readers to identify which part of the drawing refers to each part of our four books, *Project: Strategy*, *Project: Execution*, *Project: Leadership* and *Project: Communication*. We will provide the answers in our forthcoming sequel of short articles in the *PM World Journal*.



About the Authors



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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.



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He is also a psychoanalyst in private practice and a management consultant at Nordic Consulting Group ehf. As a consultant, his clients have included energy companies, banks, hospitals, the government and other public and private organizations. Dr. Jonasson is also a mountain climber and a member of the Reykjavik Mountaineering Air Ground Search and Rescue Squad.

He is co-author, with Helgi Thor Ingason, 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](#).

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