

## CaProSoc 2020 Update<sup>1</sup>



By Reinhard Wagner

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*„Capabilities for delivering projects in the context of societal development”*  
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The year 2020 was certainly a very extraordinary year for all of us. A year of challenges but also of opportunities. Many events, trips and assignments were cancelled, postponed or carried out on a purely virtual basis this year. Working on a virtual basis is certainly an opportunity, especially for international networks like CaProSoc, but we miss the interpersonal exchange a lot. In addition to the preparatory meeting for CaProSoc in March at the Vienna University of Economics, we also had a virtual kick-off meeting in June and meetings of individual CaProSoc partners in various constellations for projects, discussions and the exchange that we so much need.

What we´ve achieved this year despite the pandemic and the challenges associated with it:

- Two publications in the PM World Journal, edited by our member David Pells (USA) about the CaProSoc Research Programme (<https://peworldjournal.com/article/research-programme-capabilities-for-delivering-projects>; <https://peworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/pmwi92-Apr2020-Wagner-corona-pandemic-and-importance-of-societal-projects.pdf>)
- An interview with our member Jonathan Norman (UK), facilitating the Major Projects Association´s Knowledge Hub, was released just a few days before the outbreak of Covid 19 in Europe on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tfVSzmLUeo&feature=youtu.be>)
- Preparatory meeting in Vienna and virtual kick-off meeting with the participants (see results and documentation on Slack)

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- A Call for Action on “Cognitive Readiness in Disruptive Times” was published by our member Ivano Di Filippo (Italy) who received interest from universities in Italy, the European Commission and some PMI Chapters and wants to get started in 2021 with a research programme. Learn more at <https://pmworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/201230-Cognitive-Readiness-call-for-action.pdf>
- A Call for Action of Professor Jiwat Ram (Australia) led to a joint research endeavor on the “Capabilities of project personnel coping with a crisis such as Covid-19 pandemic”. Publication of results is expected in 2021
- Based on a proposal of our member Dr. Eckhard Heidling (Germany) an approval for a 3-year research grant of the German Government was received during fall supporting a research programme on business development, innovation and project management, which will be jointly undertaken by CaProSoc members in Germany and Serbia
- Call for Action of our member Professor Vladimir Obradovic (President of IPMA Serbia) regarding a new research project “Sustainable business change: Project management toward circular economy” (was shared with you in an eMail on August 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Our member Professor Arvi Kuura (Estonia) published an article regarding “25 years of Projectification Research” in the PM World Journal (<https://pmworldjournal.com/article/25-years-of-projectification-research>)
- My article “Projectification and its impact on societal development in Germany” was published through the proceedings of the Annual Conference of Alma Mater Europaea “All about people 2020”, which was conducted as an online event this year

Our member IPMA has performed several activities that contribute to the purpose of CaProSoc:

- Initiation of a new Journal “Project Leadership and Society” (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/project-leadership-and-society/>). It’s worth mentioning that the journal will waive the APC (Article Publishing Charge) until 31st March 2021. This will be applicable for any submissions received before this date, which are accepted for publication after peer review. I am preparing an article and hope that others will follow...
- A highlight was certainly the IPMA research workshop on “*Projects as arena for self-organizing*” with the Hackdays, from which we derived a Whitepaper (will published early 2021 by IPMA), a podcast and two blogposts. A Springer book will summarize the key contributions of this conference and will be released next summer

- Next year's IPMA Research Conference 2021 will be held either in China or performed virtually on the topic of "Project Leadership and Society". The proposed dates are June 12-13, 2021 and more information can be found here: <http://www.ipma-research-conference.world/>
- A member of CaProSoc, Professor Gilbert Silvius (Netherlands) and his team was awarded for his outstanding contribution to the research in the field of project management (<https://awards.ipma.world/news/2020-ipma-global-research-award-winners/>)
- IPMA performed two surveys in 2020 together with partners, one on "(Scaled) Agile 2020" (<https://www.hs-koblenz.de/en/bpm-labor/status-quo-scaled-agile-2020>) and the other survey on "Artificial Intelligence impact on Project Management" together with PwC Romania ([https://www.ipma.world/assets/IPMA\\_PwC\\_AI\\_Impact\\_in\\_PM\\_-\\_the\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1641UvsoWBlqmSsWMqW4Ix2WGct8UafQsd-6eXzZXLjhAlgoWZQsGBVGE](https://www.ipma.world/assets/IPMA_PwC_AI_Impact_in_PM_-_the_Survey_Report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1641UvsoWBlqmSsWMqW4Ix2WGct8UafQsd-6eXzZXLjhAlgoWZQsGBVGE))
- Just recently the Springer book related to last year's 31<sup>st</sup> IPMA World Congress in Mexico was published. It's title is "Research on Project, Programme and Portfolio Management. Integrating Sustainability into Project Management" and was co-edited by our member Professor Constanta-Nicoleta Bodea (Romania). There are several articles of interest for you (<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030601386>)

Activities already planned for 2021:

- Alma Mater Europea has scheduled its annual conference "**All about people 2021**" (<http://conference.almamater.si/?lang=en>) between 12th and 19th March 2021 as an online event. The theme will be "*Digital Transformation in Science, Education and Arts*". On Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March Professor Mladen Radujkovic and myself will facilitate a stream based on CaProSoc. See the **Call for Participation** at <https://pmworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/201220-AMEU-Conference-2021-call-for-participation.pdf>
- We want to analyse the "Impact (positive or negative) of Projectification on Society" and need researchers to help us perform an international research project. The survey shall start in February 2021 and gather many of the CaProSoc members. If you are interested to join in, just send me an E-Mail and state your interest. See the **Call for Participation** at <https://pmworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/201230-Impact-of-projectification-on-Society-research-call-for-participation.pdf>

We hope for your continued support and many joint projects and research activities. Just share your thoughts and opportunities via Slack or send an email to me.

The year 2020 has made it abundantly clear that only with international cooperation and joint measures we will be able to meet the challenges of the time, whether these are the still ongoing pandemic, the climate crisis that continues to exist, or other societal challenges (<https://www.ipma.world/project-based-cooperation-at-global-level-as-a-condition-for-mastering-current-and-future-challenges/>).

We wish you a great start into a healthy and productive year 2021. Happy New Year!

### About CaProSoc

Capabilities for delivering projects in the context of societal development (CaProSoc) is an international research programme initiated in 2019 by Prof. Dr. Mladen Radujkovic and Reinhard Wagner through the Alma Mater Europaea (AME), an international university based in Salzburg (Austria), with campuses in several European cities. AME was founded as an initiative by the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 2017, a Doctoral Study Programme »Project Management« was started at the campus in Maribor (Slovenia). The study programme prepares students to think and act strategically, making positive contributions to the society through project management. The CaProSoc research program is based at the AME campus in Maribor.

Through this programme it is aspired that all actors involved in societal development are aware of the important role projects have, the capabilities needed to implement projects sustainably and how they can be used effectively in their respective contexts for the benefit of society. CaProSoc aims at forming a global collaboration network of researchers, practitioners, professional associations, NGOs, governmental agencies and other institutions which share similar responsibilities for delivering projects in the context of societal development.

The activities of the research programme include but are not limited to the following: 1) exploring, analysing, researching -the situation, requirements and potential solutions; 2) sharing, discussing, recognising -experiences, cases and international best practices; 3) co-creating, developing, innovating -concepts, knowledge and practical applications; 4) applying, utilizing, sustaining -pilot applications, concepts and customized solutions; 5) informing, lobbying, publishing –research findings, solutions and information services.

A website is under development; on Facebook you can stay connected via [@CaProSoc](#). Or you can contact the author at [Reinhard.wagner@almamater.si](mailto:Reinhard.wagner@almamater.si).

## About the Author



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**Reinhard Wagner** has been active for more than 35 years in the field of project-related leadership, in such diverse sectors as Automotive, Engineering, and Consultancy, as well as various not-for-profit organizations. As Managing Director of Tiba Managementberatung GmbH, a leading PM Consultancy in Munich/Germany, he supports executives of industrial clients in transforming their companies towards a project-oriented, adaptive and sustainably successful organization. Reinhard Wagner has published 36 books as well as several hundred articles and blogposts in the field of project, program and project portfolio management. In more than 20 years of voluntary engagement he served the German Project Management Association (GPM) as well as the International Project Management Association (IPMA) in a range of leadership roles (including President and Chairman) and was granted for his international commitment with the Honorary Fellowship of several IPMA Member Associations. Reinhard is Senior Lecturer at the Alma Mater Europaea and is currently finishing his doctoral thesis on the topic of Project Society. He can be contacted via [reinhard.wagner@almamater.si](mailto:reinhard.wagner@almamater.si)