

Project Management Update from Italy ¹

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The Associations of Project Management Community in Italy

Introduction

After my first report on the Italian condition of the Project Management sector and the dissemination of discipline during the pandemic situation, I feel the necessity to make a starting point concerning the storytelling of Italian Community of Project Management from a fellow point of view like me that is grown in Project Management profession working in my companies of course and at the same time observing and practicing as volunteer in one of the several Project Management cultural associations operating in Italy. Considering the actual 9819² PMI credentials holder and the 15080³ ISIPM certified, without considering IPMA & PRINCE2 certifications, at the moment the community it is estimated in more than 25.000 people interested in. This report will try to set up a “baseline” for those who doesn’t know how many associations or entities there are in Italy that have been playing an important role for the development of the community, what kind

¹ How to reference this work: Quagliarini, A. (2021). The Associations of Project Management Community in Italy: Project Management Update from Italy, report, *PM World Journal*, Vol. X, Issue X, October.

² <https://www.pmi.org/certifications/certification-resources/registry>

³ Data is a courtesy of Italian Institute of Project Management

of opportunity they give, how they are, or better could be synergic in a Project Management Culture's Proposal.

The Project Management entities operating in Italy

Italy is a relatively young nation since its unification process which started in 1861 and we can say it is a still ongoing process in many aspects between the twenty regions composing the country, so It's the same for all the Project Management Associations that operate in each region. Currently, after more than twenty year from the birth of the first Project Management fellowship there are many organizations contenders the leadership of the discipline dissemination. Thus, in a market point of view, has a positive effect of the even better quality of proposal, on the other hand, there is the risk of a community fragmentation. In the following, I will try to briefly resume their history and the principal opportunity they made available for the entire community.





The Project Management Institute: Northern Italy's Chapter (PMI-NIC)⁴

The oldest one of the three Italy Chapter was founded in 1996 by a group of “pioneers” with the mission of promoting the project management culture in Italy, actually it counts approximately 120 volunteers in various roles who actively contribute to sharing knowledge among peers and help developing the next generation of project managers.

It was grown and developed throughout five different presidents until 2019 with the new one President Giusi Meloni⁵ that have revised the Chapter By-Laws and created a new organizational structure.

To better serve and develop and maintain direct contact with members and volunteers, the Chapter during its lifetime has progressively founded seven territorial Branches covering all north of Italy (Lombardy, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino Alto Adige/Sud Tirol, Piedmont/Val D'Aosta, Liguria, Emilia Romagna) now which promote the association with local events and dedicated initiatives. Each Branch reinforces the regional traditions and peculiarities to guarantee a constant and qualified response to the local needs and specific interests.

Every year Branches organize the majority of the Chapter events and propose different formats to engage people and attract new members and volunteers.

In 2008, PMI-NIC founded also other Branches as Tuscany and Umbria that moved into PMI- Central Italy during 2017.

In fact, during 2016 PMI-NIC promoted the establishment of a strategic agreement between the 3 Italian Chapters (Northern Italy Chapter, Central Italy Chapter and Southern Italy Chapter) to cooperate at national level and guarantee the PMI presence all over the territory. The Federation of PMI Italy Chapters was then born.

At the moment, PMI-NIC offers many resources to get in touch with them:

- A pranzo con il NIC: “At lunch with NIC” is a series of short webinars (30 min) held at lunch time and focusing on the latest trends in project management. Launched and held frequently during the Covid-19 lockdown, the “lunches” will continue as a stable initiative

⁴ <https://www.pmi.org/chapters/northern-italy>

⁵ <https://it.linkedin.com/in/giusi-meloni-pmp-csm-8795908>

- Aperitivi: These convivial pre-dinner meetings are a long standing tradition for all PMI-NIC Branches. They are usually held in special locations, have a guest speaker and ample networking time. In answer to the Covid-19 emergency, we recently launched the first virtual “AperiNIC”. Check our event calendar to join!
- Corporate Ambassador Program (CAP), a European Chapter Collaboration (ECC) initiative aimed to engage multi-national corporations in joint events and research on the application of project management.
- Light-Up: A joint event of the Central European Chapters (Austria, Croatia and Slovenia Chapters with the North-Eastern Branch of the PMI-NIC) which brings together people and ideas across the borders.
- “Project Management On The Go” podcasts are short interviews in Italian or English on trendy topics in Project Management. You can find them on our Youtube Channel, Spotify, Apple Podcast or Google Podcast, and listen to them comfortably from a smartphone or any portable device.
- ProgEtica: PMI-NIC has a long history of research on the value of ethics in Project Management. The “ProjectEthics” Program and the “E-Mentors” (volunteers whom members can contact if they have questions about ethics)) aim to disseminate PMI Ethics toolkit and advocate professionalism in project management.
- Progettando: One of the oldest and most successful Chapter event format, Progettando is aligned with the principle of the project economy and it aims to present project management best practices applied in unconventional sectors.
- PMI@Schools: After developing and donating to the PMIEF the “Projects From the Future: Kit for Primary School”, PMI-NIC continued to spread project management best practices at primary school with “Progetti in Erba” (Projects in Bloom). Now the goal is to find innovative ways to engage schools and children.
- The “Project Management Notebook” is a collection of short and informal articles written by members who want to share their experience about project management from different perspectives. Articles are collected and published periodically on website and on LinkedIn Group.
- Volunteering Empowering Program is a program specifically designed to engage and inspire our volunteers and it includes both in-person study groups and virtual group work to explore the most relevant topics for successful volunteering experience.

In the early 2021 PMI-NIC announced this year that the Chapter will celebrate its 25th anniversary. They say on their website: “Stay tuned in the PMI-NIC website, it will be fun!”



The Project Management Institute: Central Italy’s Chapter (PMI-Central Italy)⁶

Born as “Rome Italy Chapter” in 1996, it was grown consistently between 2006 and 2011 during which the chapter doubled its members (from about 400 to approximately 800). In the following period there was a consolidation until in 2016 the chapter changed name into PMI-Central Italy involving progressively several regions of Italy as Lazio, Umbria, Tuscany, Abruzzo, Marche and Sardinia. Actually, the president in good standing is Anna Maria Felici⁷ who has already been part of the chapter steering committee. PMI-Central Italy count now more than 1600 members and offer more than 50 webinars and events as, training and Professional Meeting (full day event), afternoons at Universities, seminars on Project Management Tools, seminars at companies, Project Management evenings, and the Chapter newsletter: “Corriere del PM” (PM Messenger) is a quarterly electronic magazine: “Il Corriere del PM”: twenty-four pages in Italian, full of news on the PM community, together with the advancement of Project Manager profession and Project Management awareness in Italy.

PMI Central Italy Chapter arranges a lot of free Webinars in Italian and English, covering the latest trends in Project Management. Presented by experts in their fields, the webinars can be consulted “on demand” in the reserved area of the PMI ® or PMI Central Italy Chapter website. And from 2021 the chapter launched several new initiatives to get in touch and develop its members, as:

- “CIC to CIC” Virtual Welcome for New Members
- Il PMI® per le PMI (dedicated to small and medium-sized enterprises)
- “La strada verso il Project Management”: a course to learn PM base concept
- “Dialoghi sugli standard di Project Management” (Dialogs on Project Management Standard)
- “Start-up: viaggio verso una destinazione sconosciuta” (dedicate to start-up)
- Il Project Management secondo noi (Project Management according to us).

⁶ <https://www.pmi-centralitaly.org/>

⁷ <https://it.linkedin.com/in/anna-maria-felici-pmp>



The Project Management Institute: Southern Italy's Chapter (PMI-SIC)⁸

The Chapter PMI-SIC is the South Italy location of the PMI operating in Campania, Molise, Puglia Basilicata & Sicily, a community of people (professionals, entrepreneurs, teachers, students, etc.) interested in the discipline, professionalism and values of Project Management, founded in 2004 and registered as a non-profit association according to Italian law, which has about 400 members (updated in July 2021). The Chapter was born in Naples during summer of 2004 after some meetings and events organized by PMI-NIC the year before. In the following years, it grows in collaborations, activities and organizations. In 2008 the Chapter set out its Research Commission and next year it was established a first group in Puglia that became its first branch. In 2010, the Research Commission of the PMI-SIC starts the SIC Journal, an experimental editorial initiative to deepen scientific topics and research on Project Management, which will see the publication of some single issues. Until 2015, the Chapter established cooperation with several institutions as Universities and Industries Associations and improved in collaboration with other Italy chapters. As of 2015 it started with a series of events called "Contamination Event Program" for expanding toward other southern Italian regions and the next year the three Italian Chapters of the PMI sign a strategic agreement that establishes the birth of the federation of the Italian Chapters of the PMI (PMI Italy Chapters). In the aftermath of "Italian Chapter Unification", PMI-SIC won several PMI international awards establishing progressively new branches in each southern region of Italy. The PMI-SIC current President in Office is Paola Mosca⁹, she was one of the founding members of the PMI Southern Italy Chapter and over the years participated actively in the Chapter as a member of the Board.

Among the main activities that PMI-SIC established there are:

- SIC Academy: launched and presented in October 2016 on the occasion of the second edition of the PMI Academic Workshop, is a meeting, discussion and discussion place where experts from the world of the University, of research, industry and culture share knowledge, individual and collective experiences in order to make it "common knowledge" useful for the growth of the PMI community SIC and Project Management;
- Project Management Skills for life: It is the initiative carried out by the PMI-SIC in collaboration with the Regional School Office (USR) of Campania, which provides

⁸ <https://www.pmi-sic.org/>

⁹ <https://it.linkedin.com/in/paola-mosca-b7711bb>

for the provision of seminars on Project Management in secondary schools in order to disseminate this discipline and help young people, through its competences, to pursue the objectives of life.

- Project Management Olympic Games: created with the collaboration of several public and private partners, initiated by the Branch Puglia at the schools in Puglia and then extended to schools in Campania, which includes training sessions on Project Management for teachers and students, with application of the concepts explained to design works and a competition to reward the best group work, Project Manager and speaker.
- Euro PM: It is an initiative led by the Federation of Italian SME Chapters (PMI Italy Chapters in collaboration with other European Chapters - Enterprise Europe Network, with the aim of extending Project Management best practices within European projects (those financed by the European Union).



The International Project Management Association (IPMA ITALY)¹⁰

IPMA Italy was born from the evolution of the Project Management Section of ANIMP (National Association of Industrial Plant Engineering), located in Milano, which is for Italy the Member Association of IPMA® (International Project Management Association). Since 2000 ANIMP has the exclusive national for the professional certification of Project Managers according to the IPMA methodology and mandated the representation to IPMA Italy. IPMA Italy, whose President in Office is Max Panaro¹¹, wants to be the reference point for companies, public administration, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, for all aspects related to project management and efficiency development, disseminating the Standards (ICB® 3.0 IPMA Competence Baseline) and the Best Practices of Project Management to be applied to the realities of national organizations. Moreover, IPMA Italy is focused on:

- ensure Professional Certification in Project Management according to the International Standards IPMA® exclusively in the national territory. IPMA® has developed an International Certification System based on 4 professional levels
- collaborating with Associations, Universities, Business Schools, Training Bodies for the organization of courses and specific seminars on Project Management.

¹⁰ <https://ipma.it/ipma/>

¹¹ <https://it.linkedin.com/in/maxpanaro>

Numerous collaborations are underway, including MIP, Politecnico di Milano, LIUC di Castellanza, LUISS Business School, SDA Bocconi

- promote initiatives of study, research and information in the field of Project Management, organizing conferences, seminars and publications in specialized magazines
- supporting the Young Crew IPMA. The Young Crew is a key programme for developing the potential of the younger generation of Project Managers. Actually, in addition to Milano there are also a Turin young crew.

One of the last event formats that IPMA Italy launched is called S&LFIE (Sharing & Learning From IPMA Event) that are convivial pre-dinner meetings focused on Project Management matters

The most recently initiative (July 2021) is “The Project Management Championship” that is an international 3 stage competition supported by IPMA and organized by National IPMA Member Associations with their Young Crews composed as following:

1° STAGE: Qualification Round: Each team, composed by 3/4 people, is allowed to take the Qualification Test;

2° STAGE: National Final in collaboration with BTO Research: The winning teams of the Qualification Round will participate to the National Final, that will be in collaboration with BTO Research

3° STAGE: International Final: The winning team will be invited to participate to the International Final of Project Management Championship, that will be online, from September 10 to September 12, 2021

PM Championship objectives are to enhance student involvement in the field of project management, to rise the interest in professional project management at a national and international level, as well as to advance the dialogue, the knowledge sharing and know-how between research and the business world.



The Italian Institute of Project Management (ISIPM)¹²

The Institute was born in October 2005 from the initiative of a group of Italian experts of Project Management with the aim of spreading the culture of project management in the various fields of application and with a particular attention to Public Administration and new approaches "Agile". The President in Office is Enrico Mastrofini¹³ (one of the founder members) and the Board of Directors of the Institute employs experts from different sectors: consultancy, large Italian and multinational companies, universities, public administration. ISIPM promotes the growth and development of the culture of project management among all stakeholders in the sector in their different roles: customers, project managers, suppliers, sponsors, consultants, etc. through methods and processes based on the application of the best knowledge today acquired at international and national level, as well as on new agile and lean methodologies. Particular attention is paid to the contribution that Project Management can make to the introduction of innovations, also in the field of digitization, and to the creation of value in the public sector, as well as on the contribution to the responsibility of the role of the project manager towards project stakeholders and towards society in the broadest sense (social responsibility), in order to ensure - from the perspective of Project Portfolio Management - the achievement of the sustainable development objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda to which 193 United Nations countries, including Italy, have subscribed.

The main activities and services for members are:

- Certification of knowledge and skills in project management, both at the basic level (ISIPM Base®) and at the advanced level (ISIPM-Av®).
- Certification of the areas of knowledge of euro-design and project management, in the achievement of qualification ISIPM eu-Maps®.
- Qualification Assessor ISIPM-Prado®, which attests the possession of knowledge, skills and skills of a candidate assessor with regard to the ISIPM-Prado® model and its implementation methodology.
- Certification of the Maturity of Project Management for Organizations, which recognises and attests formally the level of maturity of an organization in project management through the application of the model ISIPM-Prado®.

¹² <https://isipm.org>

¹³ <https://it.linkedin.com/in/enrico-mastrofini-382950a>

- Seminars and cultural updating webinars on project management issues; participation in these events allows members to acquire the credits needed to maintain the registration to the Professional Registers (AICQ-SICEV, CEPAS and others) professional lists and valid as PDU for the maintenance of certifications.

ISIPM is a cultural association and does not provide training on its own but offers its members conventions and discounts to access training initiatives and to achieve the certifications offered by the accredited Odcs, maintaining an independent and independent role and, therefore, without entering into privileged agreements with anyone in particular. ISIPM is also a PMI Registered Education Providers.

Since 2010, ISIPM tried to contribute in learning within schools of key competences and good practices of active citizenship and entrepreneurship through the dissemination of the discipline of Project Management creating opportunities of the alternation school-job. Moreover, since 2016 ISIPM give the opportunity of a Project Management School Competition in which Professors and Students can submit their best school projects and the winners receive awards and the opportunity to presenting results at the annual PMEXPO event. ISIPM announced PMEXPO 2021 scheduled on next October the 22th (www.pmexpo.it).

Conclusion

As shown above, associations, chapters, branches and so on, during last twenty years played a huge and fundamental role for the development of the Project Management Community in Italy. At the same time, despite of the great effort of all that entities I briefly described in this report, no one of them still grab the attention of the entire people of project management. Many passionate researchers, free-lance professionals, practitioner, bloggers, students that are not yet joined one of the several Project Management Associations, demonstrate that discipline goes beyond a single scheme or credential that have anyway its importance within the community. For instance, if we count the PMWJ Italian readers¹⁴, we can see that summarized more than 8.000 since last year started, so that we can suppose that are a lot of people that have interest in Project Management matters that may not yet belong as a member to no one of the entities reported in this article. In that sense, I think each Italian Project Management entity still have many things to do to stimulate the dialog among them to find a way to work together for increasing and inspiring the community to became stronger in disseminating the discipline specially towards the Italian institutions.

¹⁴ <https://s11.flagcounter.com/countries/kGwP/>

About the Author



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Alessandro Quagliarini, MScEng, PMP, MBA, is an experienced Program Manager, with more than 18 years of experience in the ICT sector. He holds a Master's Degree in Telecommunication Engineering from the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" and a Doctor's degree in Business Administration from the Bologna University Business School. He got both PMP® and ISIPM-Av® advanced certifications in Project Management, and he is also certified as an Information Management Systems Lead Auditor. He is a Member of the Board of the "Italian Institute of Project Management" (ISIPM) for ten years, and he is an Accredited Teacher in Project Management.

Alessandro is currently engaged in the "Digital Transformation" engineering and industrialization programs of the new Italian "Open Fiber" telecommunications network, with particular focus on the engineering of delivery and assurance processes for the provision of retail, business and industries customers, on the operational management and procurement support for the definition of specifications and contracts, on the definition of operating rules/ instructions for maintenance and of requirements for systems development, on the support to the commercial and regulatory lines for the definition of services and processes for customers (Other Licensed Operators and Industries), and on the definition and management of operations compliance with ISO Standards and International Best Practices.

As a Member of the ISIPM Board, he focuses his volunteer activities mainly on the cultural diffusion of the project management to young people – specifically to high school students and also staff, including teachers. As an ISIPM accredited teacher, he has taught project management in public and private institutions, in schools and in universities. He has experience in the organization of events and as a speaker in conferences, and also in proposing and managing EU-funded projects.

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