

Project Management Update from France ¹



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INTRODUCTION

In each report, I'll try to give you insights about project associations in France and some projects: this month,

PMI FRANCE



**Project
Management
Institute.
France**

PMI in France was founded in 1995 and unified as one chapter PMI France in 2013.

With more 5000+ members, PMI France is the 1st Chapter outside of North America, 1st in Europe and regularly ranked between the 3rd to the 5th in the world.

PMI France is a unified Chapter with 12 regional "branches": each branch can organize conferences, webinars, workshops, networking events, to name a few.

PMI France has launched a PMBoK7 study group. This PMBoK7 study group is a community of practice organised by the PMI France chapter. It is the second time that the chapter has organised such an initiative. In January 2018, the first study group was held on the launch of the sixth version of the PMBoK. This study group interested around forty people located around three continents: America, Africa and Europe, who collaborated for more than a year to produce fifteen webinars and deliverables. The goal was to study the differences between the fifth and the sixth versions of the PMBoK

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to learn and share knowledge on PMbok6 and the new Agile Practice Guide. We received several testimonies from some of the members of the study group who said the project helped them to prepare their CAPM and PMP certifications while others explained it gave them opportunities to further their knowledge in project management in general and PMBoK6 and Agile Practice Guide in specific. These participants truly appreciated the experience and expressed it through the project closure survey. Moreover, the study group contributed to fostering links between members.

Similarly to the PMBoK6 study group, the goal of the PMBoK7 study group is to help its members understand the content of PMBoK7 through discussion, conversation and sharing of experience, analysis and visual representation. Currently, there are 116 volunteers interested in the study. The study was launched on the 13th of January 2022 and will continue until July 2022. The study is divided into 15 sessions; every two weeks, it holds a webinar to discuss and share one subject of the PMBoK7 content. All the information about the group can be found on: <https://pmi-france.org/groupe-detude-pmbok-v7>

Major Projects / Programs in France

Ukraine – Russia war: some facts and thoughts

Some facts²

French investments in Russia are very important: 19 billions euros most of them in the energy sector. More than 500 enterprises are operating in Russia, which account for 160 000 employees. There is a French-Russia economic committee where French top managers talk with Vladimir Poutine. France is the fifth provider of Russia.

Consequences of the war

Lately, in the news in France, many CEOs of mid firms (not only big ones) called the radio because they were worried of the consequences of the economic sanctions. It doesn't mean they approve the Russian invasion but they were thinking of the local employees and their families who may lose their jobs and also of their societies.

So the conflict will have economic consequences in France.

² <https://www.usinenouvelle.com/article/l-invasion-de-l-ukraine-va-enrayer-des-relations-economiques-soutenues-entre-la-france-et-la-russie.N1787687>

Another unexpected consequence is that child adoptions from Ukraine and Russia are suspended. That's the war that kills projects and lives.

Generosity for all?

BNP Paribas, a French bank, doesn't take fees to money transfer to Russia.

French telecom operators (like in many countries) remove roaming costs from and to Ukraine. In this awful situation, we could see generous behaviours. Some French people went by car to bring back people. Some French families (and other European ones) welcomed warmly Ukrainian women and children. In social media, we've seen many CVs of Ukrainians reshared.

In France, we've also heard some voices of refugees' associations surprised by this outpouring of solidarity: in Paris, there are many Afghans and Syrians who sleep outside with no jobs and are waiting for a clear status for years.

- Is the refugee status different from a country to another?
- Has the life of a human being more value depending on a country?

Some thoughts

When I saw the first images of the war, I thought it was unreal that a war happened just after the Covid pandemic where people suffered a lot. My second thought was to the Ukrainian refugees who had to leave behind their lives and their country. When will they be able to get back? This is such a huge uncertainty – and yet, they have to handle it. This is not a theoretical project management issue but an awful reality.

I always think I'm fortunate not having lived any war and I'm against any war. We have witnessed several wars recently: Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and also some revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt.

Many people died, have their lives destroyed. Many people have flown their countries with no date of return.

- What's the price of the freedom? Of the democracy?
- Can our model of democracy be exported so easily?
- Do we have the right to encourage wars in other countries for the sake of freedom whereas we sit comfortably in front of the TV?

Perhaps I'm idealist but I always think we need to make all efforts to foster diplomacy.

I don't manage any project with Ukraine or Russia but I have both Ukrainian and Russian friends. I keep in touch with them regularly.

Another unexpected and sad consequence is in Africa.

I've been working for years. During the pandemic, I was very sad by how unfair the access was to RNA vaccines. This war will once more affect Africa negatively.

45 African countries³ import wheat from Ukraine and Russia as both countries produce one third of the wheat in the world. Starvation is a big threat and starvation is a source of political instability. So do prices increase. The holly month of Ramadan – period of inflation and revolts - will begin in April.

The war – as the Covid did – highlighted how interconnect the world is. Something that happens in one part has consequences in another part.

It also raises another question: how can we, as human beings, access and share the resources needed for our economic development?

I'm afraid that the scarce resources (energy and food) may create more instability but I'm perhaps too pessimistic. Let's all pray for the peace in Ukraine

Paris2Connect

Paris2Connect is a partnership private and public (Paris city) to prepare the future smartcity. The project will last until 2023 with several firms selected. It is only in Paris at the moment

The aim is to experiment new connected services, to improve and develop new public transportations. It is an ecosystem to test new technologies (like 5G) and to see how new technologies can bring new services to people living in cities. The data collected follow GDPR (European regulation on data protection and privacy)

To know more: <https://paris2connect.agorize.com/fr/challenges/appel-a-experimentations/pages/paris2connect?lang=fr>

Le Grand Palais éphémère – Temporary Grand Palais

On 12 March 2021, the Grand Palais⁴ closed entirely in order to start a renovation phase that will last until 2024 to be ready for the Olympic Games in Paris.

³ <https://www.europe1.fr/societe/pourquoi-la-guerre-en-ukraine-pourrait-declencher-des-famines-en-afrique-4099744>

⁴ <https://www.grandpalais.fr/en/article/restoration-sculptures-grand-palais>



Paris Grand Palais in the distance now in renovation Yasmina Khelifi

This architectural and technical renovation project, that is both understated and ambitious, will bring the Grand Palais to life again by rediscovering the places blocked off over time. It will also enable the monument to meet the requirements of its time (regarding standards and accessibility for example), and will project the Grand Palais and the Palais de la découverte into the future thanks to a completely redesigned experience for the public.

Meanwhile, a temporary Grand Palais was built.

Based on the Champ-de-Mars, the Grand Palais Ephémère⁵ is part of the history of this site, reactivating the place it held during the great Universal Exhibitions of the 19th and 20th centuries. The architectural feature of the curved double-vaulted frame gives the building a typology on the scale of the Champde-Mars composition and fits perfectly into this prestigious site.

- The urban and aesthetic integration of the structure was a major issue and the architectural object had to be at the level assumed by the prestige of the site that hosts it.
- Geometry : the arches provide a large useful volume covered by a reduced roof area.

⁵ <http://www.wilmotte.com/en/project/533/grand-palais-ephemere>

- Assembly : the wooden frame with double arched frame is made up of elements prefabricated in the workshop, allowing pre-assembly of complete sections of the structure, and therefore faster assembly, thus limiting pollution.
- Optimization of the materials used : the profile of the structural arches operating in compression makes it possible to minimize the mass of wood used.
- Demountable building: the project is conceived as a sum of modular elements that can be reborn in new forms in other places.

Bourse de Commerce renovated⁶

In Spring 2021, the Bourse de Commerce opened as a new museum in the centre of Paris. It hosts the Contemporary Art Collection of François Pinault, a French billionaire businessman, founder of the luxury group Kering (among them Gucci, Yves Saint-Laurent, Balenciaga).

The Bourse de Commerce bears witness to four centuries of architectural and technical prowess. The building has been revived by the contemporary architectural approach of the Japanese architect Tadao Ando. As of today, the Bourse de Commerce is the biggest production entrusted to Tadao Ando in France. Ando has placed a concrete cylinder nine meters high and thirty meters in diameter, whose function is to create an exhibition space, but also to form an abstract core in the heart of the building, in the rotunda, from the ground floor to the second floor. According to Tadao Ando, in Japan it means “nothingness, and at the same time, in an apparently contradictory way, the whole.”

Its form is perfect, however, the asymmetrical openings in his design of the Bourse de Commerce unbalance it and cultivate imperfection. Between the outer wall of the cylinder and the inner wall, the stairs accompany its movement and lead to the different levels. On the second floor, a passageway makes it possible to walk around the cylinder. It provides a new point of view on the glass roof and the murals at the base of the dome, painted in 1889 by five artists and representing French trade across the continents. The third floor houses a restaurant overlooking Paris. The auditorium for talks and performances is situated in the basement

⁶ Official Press Release

About the Author



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Yasmina Khelifi, PMP, PMI- ACP, PMI-PBA is an experienced project manager in the telecom industry. Along with her 20-year career at [Orange S.A.](#) (the large French multinational telecommunications corporation), she sharpened her global leadership skills, delivering projects with major manufacturers and SIM makers. Yasmina strives for building collaborative bridges between people to make international projects successful. She relies on three pillars: project management skills, the languages she speaks, and a passion for sharing knowledge.

She is a PMP certification holder since 2013, a PMI- ACP and PMI-PBA certification holder since 2020. She is an active volunteer member at PMI France and PMI UAE, and a member of PMI Germany Chapter. French-native, she can speak German, English, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and she is learning Arabic. Yasmina loves sharing her knowledge and experiences at work, in her 'volunteers' activities at PMI, and in projectmanagement.com as a regular blogger. She is also the host and co-founder of the podcast [Global Leaders Talk with Yasmina Khelifi](#) to help people in becoming better international leaders.

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