

## **One PMO World, One Community! <sup>1</sup>**

### **Interview with Mayte Mata Sivera**

Head of PMO  
Ambassador Americas for the PMO Leader Community  
Provo, Utah, USA



**Interviewed by Yasmina Khelifi**  
International Correspondent, PM World Journal  
Paris, France

#### **Introduction to the interviewee**

**Mayte Mata Sivera** works as head of the project management office (PMO) for a leading beauty and wellness company based in Provo, Utah, USA. She is a PMP certification holder, and ScrumAtScale Practitioner. She enjoys public speaking engagements and is a passionate volunteer at PMI and some PMI Local Chapters. For six years, she has been a volunteer at TEDxSaltLakeCity. She is also now the Americas Ambassador for the PMO Leader new community (a volunteer role). She has more than 15 years of experience leading teams and programs & projects around the world, and her passion is to share her knowledge and nonstop learning from volunteer opportunities. You can connect with her on [LinkedIn](#)

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## Interview

**Q1:** First of all, thank you for accepting an interview request from PMWJ. What's your definition of PMO?

**Mayte Mata Sivera (Mata Sivera):** The Project Management Institute (PMI) defined a PMO as “An organizational body or entity assigned various responsibilities related to the centralized and coordinated management of those projects under its domain”.

Trying to adapt that to a more chewable definition, the department that defines and maintains project management standards across an organization.

PMOs are becoming increasingly popular for organizations of all sizes, and each organization tailors the mission and the vision of the PMO to adapt to their business strategy and project needs.

For me, the PMO is the subject matter expert in the company that is responsible for governance, guidance, support to the different business units in the organization, to ensure that the business strategy/goals are delivered on time and with quality. The PMO should support the business strategy by bringing transparency and visibility to the activities happening within it.

I believe that the PMO should get involved in some of the day-to-day activities of the project activities, to learn and support the different team members. Also, from my point of view, the PMO should be framework or methodology agnostic. The PMO leaders should learn continually the most common practices, industry-standard methodologies, and use them as a toolkit to support the team needs. As I always say: There isn't a Project...without People, so the PMO should be able to learn from the people and propose the best tools to ensure that the teams are delivering value in each activity that they perform.

**Q2:** Have you worked as a PMO or would like to evolve to a PMO role? Why?

**Mata Sivera:** During my professional career, working in different industries, and companies, I was part of different PMO's, ePMO. I also participated in the formation of PMO, in some cases we failed, in others we succeed.

My professional career and development are a journey; I never stop to learn. I believe that we need to learn fast, sometimes you will fail others you will succeed, however the key point is learning in each step of your journey.

Nowadays I'm the Head of a PMO. Under the leadership of the VP ePMO, direct and oversee the Core functions and Business Development PMO. Developing and implementing PMO processes and policies in an Agile environment. We will try to ensure that portfolios, programs, and projects meet organization goals and requirements.

In my new role, I will keep learning and developing my skills to become a PMO Leader.

**Q3:** What is the role of the PMO Leader Community?

**Mata Sivera:** [The PMO Leader](#) is a global community that provides support, information, knowledge, networking, and services for the PMO community.

The vision of the PMO Leader is to become the trusted global hub for Information, Knowledge, Networking, and Services for PMO Leaders. Regardless of your location or industry, we want to provide a home for PMO Leaders to connect with peers, find information to support your team, and gain access to service providers who can help their PMO.

The PMO Leader site provides both free and paid content from Industry Leaders and Influencers across the globe. It truly is a community, in the sense that all the content, information, and services offered in the community is from community members. We aren't focusing only on a select few personalities in the industry to promote their experiences. The community allows those who want to have a voice in the industry a platform to do so. We have bloggers, podcasters, webinar hosts and more who are "regular PMO Leaders" who wanted to share their experiences but didn't have a platform to do so.

We truly are a global community sharing our knowledge and experiences for the good of the industry. There are the Articles, Books, Coaches, Consultants, Podcasts, PPM Solutions, Speakers, and Trainers. We also have a long backlog of additional features and services coming this year as requested by the community members so be ready for some exciting announcements coming soon.

**Q4:** I have a provocative question; is it in competition with other project management communities?

**Mata Sivera:** I really appreciate that you raise this question, you aren't the first one. We don't believe we are competing with other communities such as PMO Global Alliance or House of PMO. We encourage, promote, and support these other communities. Our Mission Statement is: "Using Community to Improve PMO Leadership Around the World". We don't single out only for those who are part of our community, we are inclusive of all communities supporting PMO improvements.

Each community has their unique strengths and targets. Some provide certifications, competitions, and related services. The PMO Leader community mindset is to build a community not focused on specific certifications or methodologies as every PMO is unique so not one single approach is best for the industry. If we promote all methodologies and allow the consumer to decide which is best for their specific circumstance, then our industry benefits.

Our tagline of “One PMO World, One Community” reflects our mindset. Regardless which community you belong to, we all want to improve PMO performance. With that thinking, The PMO Leader community is acting as a consolidator of all views and perspectives to provide community members the broadest possible views on the industry.

**Q5:** What is your mission as an Americas Ambassador?

**Mata Sivera:** My main goal for 2022 is to create awareness and support the growth of the PMO community. As a global community we recognize there are differences in how business is conducted around the world. Some as obvious as language, currency, and political influences. We’ve organized into 3 regions, Americas, EMEA, and APAC.

For the Americas Ambassador Leader my mission is to work to support the overall community mission with a focus in the US, Canada, Caribbean, Central and South America. Bringing together Ambassadors from these regions to understand the local needs and then establish plans to support those needs at the local, regional, and global level.

The PMO industry is huge and as a global community our reach is quite significant with over 65 countries represented in our membership. Our regional approach to understand industry needs allows The PMO Leader to be globally focused yet not singular in our deliverables. We’re satisfying the diversity of our regions while sharing across regions to foster growth globally.

We’d love to have more members from the Americas and invite all within our Project Management, Agile, and PMO industries to visit the site and see how you can contribute as well as learn from the community.

**Q6:** Are you going to organize events? Webinars?

**Mata Sivera:** Yes, we have several webinars currently being produced by The PMO Leader community members as well as our own community podcast. Our community mindset, “For the Community, By the Community” allows members to suggest events and then empowers them to follow through on those ideas.

A great example is our **Certifications Around the World** webinar series. Michael O'Connor suggested we have a webinar series in which we speak with the leaders of various certification authorities around the world so that members understand the benefits of these different certifications. Everyone is aware PMI, but there is so much beyond the PMP and we bring that to the community.

Our podcast, **Great Practices**, is another example of a community member bringing an idea to the community. Chris Kopp, PMP suggest we don't focus on a best practice, because who is to say what is best. How do you evaluate and who determines that something is a best practice. In the Great Practices podcast Chris speaks with community members to learn what great practices they have learned over the years which they can share with the community.

We also have a book club series, **Books and Beyond**, in which we speak with authors to understand the story of the book beyond what was written on the pages. This provides community members the opportunity to ask questions to the authors. Our **Spotlight on Thriving Services** series shines the spotlight on Professional Service firms who support PMO Leaders. So many other communities shut out service providers and limit commerce to only transactions for the community. Our mindset is different on this as well. PMO Leaders need support and as a community we want to provide access to service firms who can support the PMO needs.

We also launched our newest show, **Digital Transformations**, which will focus on the technology and digital world our PMO Leaders must work within. We'll hear from the leading providers in the industry on how to best deal with our evolving digital world and the solutions we need to be aware of to make an impact.

The production of these shows also separates us from other communities. We are allowing community members to host shows which address the key topics in our industry. We are a platform for production for the good of the community.

**Q7:** I have a more personal question now: why did you volunteer in the PMO Leader whereas you are already TEDx organizer, PMI volunteer?

**Mata Sivera:** I am a passionate volunteer. Volunteering is helping me to [develop my leadership skills](#). and [adapt to the new normal](#).

I am always looking for volunteer opportunities that will allow me to experiment with new skills in a low-risk environment or at least lower than in my daily work. Halfway thru 2021, I wrote down all volunteer opportunities that I was engaged in. I realized that:

- I had some spare time for a new volunteer opportunity.
- All my volunteer opportunities were in well-established non-profits.

Then, I look for a volunteer opportunity that fits my criteria:

- Time commitment
- Community forming or starting up.
- Related to the PMO world

I found the PMO Leader organization was looking for Ambassadors, reached out to them, and we had a few conversations to understand if we were a good fit.

One of the first activities that I participated in, was a work session to define the mission, the value of the PMO Leader. This activity was a huge learning experience, that I have never been exposed to before.

This opportunity is helping me to learn from other peers, industries, and countries, what are their challenges in their PMOs, what are the market trends... and the beauty of volunteering is that I can take all these learnings and the experience and bring it to my daily work.

I very thankful that they selected me to be part of the amazing journey.

**Q9:** Do you have a last message to PWJ readers, please?

**Mata Sivera:** I believe that volunteering is a superpower. We can improve our self-awareness, and we've become more empathetic to other people, more patient about the pace of deliverables, and more pragmatic in execution.

I will recommend to the PWJ readers to look for their next volunteer opportunity. Keeping in mind following tips:

- Write down your goals What will you offer? What is your goal?
- Understand the mission and values of the organization that you would like to volunteer.
- Be realistic with your time commitment. Volunteering doesn't need to take all you free time or impact in your family, work schedule. Just a few hours per week can offer you some of the benefits that you are looking for. When you are volunteering, you need to feel that is fun, that is rewarding, that you enjoy, like a hobby...not like another TODO list, or an activity in your backlog.

And if the supporting the growth of The PMO Leader Community is something that fits their interest, they are more than welcome [to apply to become an ambassador.](#)

## About the Interviewer



### **Yasmina Khelifi**

Paris, France



**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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