

*Making a Modern Project Manager*¹

Experiment with new things²

Yasmina Khelifi

Something extraordinary has happened to me

I launched my [website](#) one year ago, I've been [blogging](#) for almost two years. I've been producing a [podcast](#) for one year. I'm neither a professional blogger nor a podcaster. I was just curious and eager to learn something new.

Looking back, I've met amazing people and I've developed my leadership skills. However, I was about to give up several times on this new path.

Do you want to try something new, but you don't dare to? Here are some ways to overcome imposter syndrome. It worked for me, why not for you?

Surround yourself with a trusting squad or join a community

Having a trusting squad can give you feedback or listen to your doubts. Podcasting was a new field; I lacked self-confidence. I have two close friends who listen to each episode to give me their honest feedback. I was also lucky to get technical support from seasoned podcasters!

Joining a like-minded community will also push you to move forward; advertise your project in the community. It's a way to build accountability. That's what occurred to me when I joined Dorie Clark's [recognized expert community](#).

¹ Editor's note: This series of articles is by Yasmina Khelifi, a relatively young successful project manager, for project professionals of all ages, but especially Gen X, Y and Zers or others starting a PM career or looking for success tips for today's complicated, turbulent VUCA world. Yasmina is a project manager with a large multinational telecom in France while also an active PM professional, authoring articles, interviews, a popular LinkedIn blog and a podcast with a global audience. Also active in PMI France for many years, she has been an international correspondent for the PMWJ since 2021. We are delighted that she has agreed to author a series of articles based on her personal experiences and perspective.

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Volunteering

If you volunteer, you can try out something new in a safe environment without bad impacts on your career. Let's say you'd like to work in a more international setting: you can choose to volunteer for an international organization. As far as I am concerned, I volunteered in a French-based association to experiment with working with a less international environment than I'm used to. Or you'd like to improve your presentation skills at work, why not presenting some webinars? Or taking part in a public speaking association? Choose your next volunteer role with the idea of experimenting and taking a small step towards your goal. If you'd like to read some testimonies of worldwide volunteers I've interviewed, go [here](#).

Don't let feedback derail you from your goals

Along the way, I got well-intentioned feedback about my podcast that made me doubt my abilities to move forward.

I have a questionnaire: some people told me they didn't have any time to fill. I thought: 'Shall I stop sending the questionnaire?'. Meanwhile, others told me they loved the instructions and the questionnaire. I kept it and it is up to the guest to fill it or not.

Some asked me why I talked in English in the podcast: well, when you speak about global leadership it is obvious the podcast has to be in English, the language I've been using for 20 years in the workplace. In the first episodes, I tried to speak slowly to articulate well. Unfortunately, it doesn't sound natural.

At the beginning, I followed a script without follow up questions. Now that has changed.

Reframe failures

In her latest book [The Long Game](#), [Dorie Clark](#) writes: "Failure is upsetting to so many of us because it implies finality; you tried to accomplish something, and it didn't work. But an experiment, which you recognize from the beginning has an uncertain outcome, can hardly be called a failure."

Trying out small experiments will help you confirm if you need to adjust, rewind or stop.

Whether you are successful or not, take the plunge: leadership skills are built through small experiments. Don't be too quick: there's a learning curve when you start something new.

"Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit at home and think about it. Go out and get busy." Dale Carnegie

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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