

Project Management in Spain: Monthly report ¹ End of July 2023



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PM World Journal

Interview with Jesus Vazquez, PMI Madrid Chapter President

Despite the high temperatures in Spain, project professionals continue to be active and deliver membership activities. The last one was the monthly meeting the last week of July, led by Jesus Vazquez, PMP, who has led those meetings for thirteen years. I met Jesus in 2009, and from there, we had a volunteer and professional relationship.



Jesus Vazquez, PMI Madrid President



Jesus Vazquez, and his BOARD OF DIRECTORS

¹ How to cite this work: Bucero, A. (2023). Interview with Jesus Vazquez, PMI Madrid Chapter President, Project Management in Spain, Monthly Report, PM World Journal, Vol. XII, Issue VIII, August.

Now Jesus is the PMI Madrid Chapter President thanks to his contribution to the profession as a volunteer and project management professional. I had the opportunity to meet Jesus and asked the questions as follows:

1. When did you know about PMI?

I have been a project management practitioner since 1989, working for several organizations in the IT environment. I knew that some global project management organization existed, and I investigated to find references about it over the years. I understood that the project management profession would become more and more relevant for business work, and little by little, I tried to gather more information about professional certifications. I prepared the PMP certification, and in the year 2009, I joined PMI, the PMI Madrid Chapter, and got my PMP certification.

2. What has been your evolution as a volunteer?

As soon as I joined the PMI Madrid Chapter, I discovered I was willing to participate and collaborate with such a group of professionals. It was a way of meeting other professionals periodically, exchanging thoughts, ideas and experiences and I discovered that many initiatives were necessary to move forward. Then in March 2010, I started as a PMI Chapter Board of Directors Officer and served for one year. There I began to lead the PMI Madrid Chapter meetings to now. Then I was elected as 2nd Vice-president and 1st Vice-president for several years till, in the last elections in 2022, I was elected as PMI Madrid Chapter President—almost 14 years of continuous service as a PMI volunteer.

3. Which strategic direction are critical for your Chapter development?

We are implementing the following strategic actions:

1. Improve chapter meetings:

We plan to resume our previous rhythm of events with monthly webinars and meetings with project managers. The idea is to have every year: 8 member meetings with webinars, eight additional webinars, two sessions of project managers, and one yearly Congress.

2. Improve volunteer opportunities and member recognition: Promoting volunteering work, its management, and results. Promote the welcome pack and a guest pass to new volunteers, giving us such satisfactory results. Maintain and improve the recognition of volunteers, new members, and new PMP accreditations. At the last meeting of members, on July 11, we resumed this recognition of certificates and new members with excellent reception.

3. Improve communications with members and improve our website:

The objective is to resume and improve communications, such as:

- A welcome letter to new members explaining the services in our Chapter.
- A reminder letter to renew soon with expired Chapter and certification.

- A farewell letter to members who did not renew, asking why.
- Guest Pass Program

Finally, in the field of Youth and Social Good, we have conducted some initiatives led by Manuel Anzizu that I would like to highlight:

- Organization of the Conference on Social Projects and the rest of the PMI Chapters in Spain, with more than 200 registered NGOs and social entities.
- Translation into Spanish of three books related to project management for students from 12 to 16 years old so that schools can also use them as material to engage students by combining learning about project management in collaborative environments and having fun.
- Collaboration with Junior Achievement in Spain, being a jury in its National Entrepreneurship Contest for students from 14 to 16 years old and awarding the prize for "Best project management"; We talked about how much value project management brings to students in their development.

4. What is your opinion about the project management profession development and evolution in Spain?

I believe that organizations are increasingly conscious of the added value of project management, and PM experience is one of the qualities they seek. Project managers in Spain are worried about how to grow in the profession; they are moving forward and traveling outside Spain. Now we can see more Spanish practitioners attending Global Congresses.

During the pandemic, we have slowed down face-to-face attendance at our meetings. Some people feel more comfortable with virtual events; we are trying to change that behavior. We need to meet people face-to-face.

5. Will you attend the PMI Global Summit in Atlanta this year?

I will not be there; we will send a delegate to the Global Summit. I will attend the LIM in Portugal this year. I know the importance of international participation and cooperation among Chapters worldwide.

Thanks a lot, Jesus, for your time. It was my pleasure interviewing you. Have a great day!

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY, and TOMORROW WILL BE BETTER!

About the Author



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Alfonso Bucero, MSc, CPS, ACE, PMP, PMI-RMP, PfMP, SFC, IPMO-E, PMI Fellow, is an International Correspondent and Contributing Editor for the **PM World Journal** in Madrid, Spain. Mr. Bucero is also the founder and Managing Partner of BUCERO PM Consulting. Alfonso was the founder, sponsor, and President of the PMI Barcelona Chapter until April 2005 and belonged to PMI's LIAG (Leadership Institute Advisory Group). He was the past President of the PMI Madrid Spain Chapter and then nominated as a PMI EMEA Region 8 Component Mentor. Alfonso was a member of the PMIEF Engagement Committee. Alfonso has a Computer Science Engineering degree from Universidad Politécnica in Madrid and is studying for his Ph.D. in Project Management. He has 36 years of practical experience and is actively advancing the PM profession in Spain and Europe. Alfonso received the *PMI Distinguished Contribution Award* on October 9, 2010, the *PMI Fellow Award* on October 22, 2011, and the *PMI Eric Jenett Excellence Award* on October 28, 2017. Mr. Bucero can be contacted at alfonso.bucero@abucero.com.