

## *Making a Modern Project Manager*<sup>1</sup>

### **Network to Share and Learn (Part 2)**<sup>2</sup>

**Yasmina Khelifi**

Now it's time to take the leap. Here are some strategies for practising networking.

#### **Join a community**

When you join a community, you have the opportunity to meet people and to hone your networking skills 'naturally'. Make a list of what you'd like to give and learn from the communities. Do you want to join a community in your own domain of expertise or in an area you'd like to develop? Do you prefer virtual meetings? What are the rules of the communities? Some communities encourage meetings, others don't. Are there regular webinars?

I take part in project management communities but also coaching and intercultural communities. Through the latter, I can meet fabulous people whom I would never have the opportunity to work with.

#### **Lead a study group**

If you take part in online training, you can create a study group. I do this whenever I can, and I look for students from different backgrounds and in different countries.

#### **Volunteer**

One of the best ways to practice networking is by volunteering. You'll have to carry out a task or deliver a project with strangers. Sometimes you won't have time to talk much or get to know each other well. Volunteering will help you think about how you build relationships.

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: This series of articles is by a project manager for Gen X, Y and Z project professionals. The author Yasmina Khelifi is a project manager with a large multinational telecom in France while also an active PM professional, authoring articles, interviews and a popular LinkedIn blog as well as 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 over the last decade.

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## Interview people for articles, blogs, or podcasts

Interviewing people for blogs, articles or podcasts is also a way to network.

Through these activities, I got to know and talk to people from around the world, in different industries, and with different professions.

## Follow a ‘super-connector’

We all know someone in our family, at work, or in our communities, who can talk to anyone anywhere. Observe this person in their way of building relationships. How do they approach people? What body language do they use?

## Go to conferences and events

[Karen Wickre](#), in her book *Taking the Work out of Networking, An Introvert's Guide to Making Connections That Count*, encourages you to remain open to events that can help you. She recommends preparing for them:

- Will there be people you know and like?
- Is there a speaker you’d like to hear?
- Does it help you professionally?

By networking, you can develop your skills and your career. But more importantly, you can discover new things, and you can create or develop meaningful collaborations. By increasing your leadership skills, you remain open to new perspectives – and you have access to new sources of information and knowledge.

Another key to overcoming your fears about networking for a need is to practice a little bit every day—and do it when you don’t need specific help. I call this “keeping in loose touch”

-Karen Wickre in *Taking the Work Out of Networking: An Introvert's Guide to Making Connections That Count*

## About the Author



### **Yasmina Khelifi**

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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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