

## **Unlocking Inspiration: Personal Insights and Positive Impact from PMI Leadership Institute Meeting (LIM) Europe 2023 <sup>1</sup>**

**Manuel Ancizu**

### **Abstract**

In this article, the author addresses his experience and key learnings from attending the Leadership Meeting (LIM) of the Project Management Institute (PMI), including concrete examples that show the tremendous benefits of talking, interacting and exchanging ideas with inspiring people who share the common goal of having a positive impact in society.

### **What is LIM?**

The Leadership Institute Meeting (LIM) is an annual meeting organized by the Project Management Institute (PMI) that brings together PMI chapter leaders, PMI staff, members of its Board of Directors and volunteers.

It is held in different geographical areas, including Europe, Latin America, the United States and Asia.

The purpose of LIM is to:

1. Develop Chapter Leaders to be effective leaders of sustainable, successful chapters.
2. Keep Chapter Leaders up to date on PMI strategy and initiatives and build alignment with PMI's cultural values and behaviors.
3. Help Chapter Leaders focus on the unique needs and goals of the region.
4. Promote collaboration among fellow Chapter Leaders, regional PMI employees, PMI senior leadership, and the Board of Directors.

### **LIM Europe 2023**

In 2023, I attended LIM Europe for the first time; it was held between December 1-4 in Lisbon (Portugal), with representatives of the 41 chapters of PMI Europe.

I attended as a member of PMI Madrid, the organization where I volunteer and serve as its Secretary, leading also the area of Social Impact, Youth and Sustainability.

During two days, we were able to engage in multiple parallel conferences and panels on various topics of interest related to the purpose of the event, such as sustainability, youth,

---

<sup>1</sup> How to cite this work: Ancizu, M. (2024). Unlocking Inspiration: Personal Insights and Positive Impact from PMI Leadership Institute Meeting (LIM) Europe 2023, commentary, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XIII, Issue II, February.

communication, leadership styles, or an interactive session with PMI's CEO on strategy. There were also slots for team activities to share lessons learned and strategies between Chapters, where ideas, possible synergies, and possibilities for collaboration emerged.

All the aforementioned represented multiple possibilities to learn and engage with numerous diverse people; it brings a lot of value, interacting, engaging, meeting, exploring and chatting with people who are full of positive energy, eager to contribute and to make a better world around us. It is so rewarding and fulfilling being in inspiring environments.

A complete documentation of the LIM presentation can be found at the following address:  
<https://www.pmi.org/lim/europe> .



## Some representative moments for me

### 1) **Keynote delivered**

I had the opportunity to co-present a keynote with Stuart Thorp, from PMI Belgium; it was called "People, sustainable value and projects: Connecting Chapter's strategies with the SDGs to communicate, inspire, and engage".

Through an interactive, engaging, practical and dynamic session, the keynote guided attendees on a journey through people, projects and their connection with the SDGs,

putting focus on its application to the specific case of their own Chapters, as there is a virtuous and impactful relationship between SDGs and Chapter's strategy.

This activity was based on my article "Creating, fostering and communicating sustainability: published in the Project Management World Journal:  
<https://pmworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/pmwj112-Dec2021-Ancizu-creating-fostering-communicating-sustainability.pdf>

The session had the following phases and learning objectives:

- 1) People are at the heart of sustainability and projects are key to materialize the benefits.
- 2) Projects are key to deploying and materializing the SDGs into specific results that improve the world we live in.
- 3) Connecting and communicating chapter strategy and activities with SDGs: attendees learned a simple and highly effective technique that enabled them to connect their chapter's strategy and activities with sustainable development goals, as well as communicate this positive value both internally and externally, inspiring and engaging their partners and stakeholders.
- 4) Shared experiences and learnings that were intended to inspire attendees to apply them in their own chapters.

Each person can be a catalyst to spread a positive effect to other people and thus, improve the communities the Chapter serves. Inspire, engage and uplift your communities, who knows if that will be also the seed for new sustainable actions. As it is usually said, "improving the world, one person at a time".

## **2) PMI's Youth and Social Impact Coordinators**

One of the central moments of the LIM was the presentation of the social impact initiatives developed by PMI and its Chapters in Europe, including those from PMI Madrid, focused on Social Impact, Youth, and Sustainability.

It felt great to see the dedication and enthusiasm of PMI Madrid's volunteers reflected along with those of the other European Chapters and enormously inspiring to learn about their initiatives and their positive impact as well. It is awesome to see the work of so many enthusiastic volunteers and examples of how projects can serve to improve the world in which we live.

## **3) Recognition of initiatives in the area of Social Impact**

And what a feeling for all PMI Madrid's representatives when PMI recognized the PMI Madrid Chapter for the activities developed in the area of Social Impact.

In 2023, the following initiatives were developed in this area:

a) Social Impact Projects Day:

It aims to put in contact NGOs, foundations and social entities with professional volunteers in project management in Spain; It brings speakers, mentoring sessions, exchange of experiences, best practices, training, awards... and, above all, a great desire to share knowledge, challenges and best practices that can be used to improve the management of social projects and contribute to their positive impact on society.

It is organized jointly by all the PMI chapters in Spain (Madrid, Barcelona, Andalusia, Levante and Galicia) in an online version.

All information about the event can be found at <https://pmi-impactosocial.org/>.

b) Translation from English to Spanish of three books on project management for young people originally written by Gary Nelson, which, in a fun and entertaining way, tells the adventures of a group of friends and shows how project management can help them in their daily lives to achieve their dreams and goals.

c) Jury of the National Entrepreneurship Competition for 14-18 year old students, promoted by the NGO Junior Achievement and sponsored, among others, by PMIEF, which is the PMI's educational foundation.

It is an Entrepreneurship Competition for students from 14 to 18 years old, where each team develops an entrepreneurial project during the school year and presents it to a jury composed of experts from different sectors.

All relevant information on this event can be found at:

<https://competicionnacionalemprendimiento.fundacionjaes.org/>.

Throughout the school year, more than 9,500 students participated in Junior Achievement Spain's entrepreneurship programs; the 30 best projects reached the National Competition.

PMI Madrid gave the award of "Best project management", showing once again the great potential that project management has in education and as a tool for youth to bring their ideas come true.

d) Speaker at PMI Sustainability Summit with the title "Synergyzing Wind Energy: wind power and project collaboration".

This sustainable event was a joint effort between PMI's European Chapters, led by PMI UK, with 20 different sessions addressing sustainability from different angles and +900 online attendees around the world.

All the live presentations of this event can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZdy9LADcaq8JlfUqbJIZWFMWdI9Yr1TX>

#### 4) **PMI Madrid, 20 years award**

PMI Madrid celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023, which was a reason for celebration throughout the year; the recognition at the LIM for such an important achievement was received by the president of PMI Madrid, Jesús Vázquez, on behalf of all members, volunteers, sponsors, partners and, in general, of all those people and institutions that, with their enthusiasm and dedication, have made it possible to reach these 20 years.

#### **Key learnings**

Undoubtedly, each session had its specific learning, but I would highlight the value of learning from other attendees, engaging, interacting, connecting, and sharing the spirit of building something meaningful together; these person-to-person exchanges were a boost of energy for attendees.

We also learned more about PMI's strategy, as well as talked and asked questions directly to members of its Board of Directors, which was very insightful.

#### **Why is it worth attending, what is the value?**

It is very important for the Chapters to attend this type of international event; among the benefits associated, the following could be mentioned:

- a) To have presence and visibility, highlighting the good work of the members and volunteers who contribute so much to a Chapter's life.
- b) To contribute to other chapters with our own wisdom, experience and initiatives, which can serve as sources of ideas for them to develop in their areas of influence.
- c) Meeting so many people facilitates the exchange of experiences and potential collaborations, multiplying the positive effect of the event. As one of the mottos says, "be the ripple effect you want to see in the world".

#### **Conclusion**

Attending the LIM has been a great experience: delivering a keynote, talking, engaging and exchanging ideas with so many people from different countries and who have in common their desire to contribute to society through projects is something enormously fulfilling and inspiring.

I am grateful to PMI Madrid for giving me this opportunity.

## About the Author



### **Manuel Ancizu**

Pamplona, Spain



Human leadership, Global Sustainable Projects, Renewable energy, Story-teller, Keynote speaker, Lifetime learner, Risk management, Standardization

**Manuel Ancizu** is passionate about human leadership, sustainable projects and people's motivations. Enjoys working in international multicultural environments and wants to have a positive impact in society.

Manuel graduated in Economics from University of Navarra and obtained an MBA from IESE Business School (Spain); he has also studied in CEIBS (China) and University Anahuac del Sur (Mexico). He holds a number of professional certificates such as the PMP by Project Management Institute, Lead Auditor in ISO 9001:2015 by IRCA Association and has also received training in Management of Development Projects and Risk Management by Interamerican Development Bank (IDB).

Manuel has lived in Spain, France, UK and Mexico; he currently works in the wind energy sector leading the quality management of Offshore projects. Manuel has been involved in wind energy renewable projects developed in different parts of the globe with external customers, as well as in internal projects of cultural transformation, IT and global processes.

Thanks to his experience, he has delivered training sessions, lectures and keynotes to a different number of institutions.

Manuel is a qualified member of the Spanish Standardization Body (UNE) and has been involved in the development of Standards and Norms in Projects, Programs and Portfolios; he has also participated in the translation of different ISO 21500 to Spanish language.

Manuel loves smiling, storytelling, dreaming and making ideas come true in a sustainable manner.

Manuel lives in Pamplona, Spain and can be contacted at [manuel@manuelancizu.com](mailto:manuel@manuelancizu.com)