

## **Interview with David W. Power<sup>1</sup>**

Program Director, Microsoft  
Association of International Project Management Officers  
New York, USA



### **Interviewed by Ipek Sahra Ozguler**

International Correspondent, PM World Journal  
Istanbul, Turkey

### **Introduction to the interviewee**

David W. Power is an academic author and practitioner who has worked at Fortune 100 Organizations across the Globe. David has over 20 years of experience leading PMOs, Portfolios, and major strategic programs with budget sizes of \$300M or more. A full MBA graduate (top tier), Master's in Program Management, Stanford University (CA) - Certified Program Manager, and a Master Black Belt (MBB). He is director of the Global Ambassadors for PMOs initiative for the Association of International Project Management Officers (AIPMO).

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<sup>1</sup> How to cite this work: Ozguler, I. S. (2024). Interview with David W. Power, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XIII, Issue X, October/November



Lead Global Ambassadors for PMOs champion excellence in project management offices worldwide. We inspire and mentor emerging leaders, drive innovation, and foster a culture of continuous improvement. Our role is pivotal in shaping the future of PMOs, ensuring they deliver strategic value, thought leadership, focus on AI innovations, and operational efficiency.

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## Interview

**Ipek Sahra Ozguler (Ozguler):** *First of all, thank you for accepting the interview invitation.*

**David Power (Power):** Welcome and thank you for the opportunity to elaborate and share our thoughts on this platform related to AIPMO and the Ambassador Program team.

**Ozguler:** *Could you please elaborate on the new initiative behind the “Ambassadors Program 2024” and your new role?*

**Power:** It creates a framework where PMO professionals across the globe can share their experiences and best practices related to PMO, Portfolio, and Project management. Secondly, it provides support to aspiring PMO Leaders and academic professionals who want to collaborate with active practitioners. My role as the overall lead is to facilitate, collaborate, and prioritize our goals with the Ambassador team. Then support the team to drive these goals and priorities over the next year.

**Ozguler:** *How did you get involved in this program?*

**Power:** I got involved with the program based on my relationship with the founder of AIPMO (Robert Joslin) a few years ago when we worked on an important book together regarding Project Portfolio Standards v4.0. From there we agreed for me to be part of this program a few months ago.

**Ozguler:** *What makes this program “Ambassadors 2024” so important?*

**Power:** We act as the voice of the PMO, promoting its value and highlighting its role in project success within the communities and organizations. Apply thought leadership and creativity based on best practices developed to date within an academic and practitioner view. Best of both sides. Engaging with executives, clients, and external partners to support their goals and objectives. Apply these learnings back to the Ambassador team and AIPMO.

**Ozguler:** *Could you tell us about the vision and mission that drive the program?*

**Power:** Vision Statement: **“Championing global PMO excellence through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.”**

Mission Statement: **“To advocate for best practices, foster a vibrant PMO community, and drive continuous thought leadership in project excellence worldwide.”**

**Ozguler:** *It is stated that “PMO ambassadors think for the present and the future, driving transformative change across industries. This program empowers to lead by example, inspire peers, and contribute to a legacy of project management office excellence. Ambassadors play a pivotal role in mentoring emerging talents and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and strategic foresight. They inspire a new generation of PMO leaders, ready to navigate the complexities of tomorrow’s project management*

landscape.” \* (<https://www.aipmo.org/ambassadors/>) How?

**Power:** Simple. By acting as role models and best practice practitioners within the Global PMO community. PMO ambassadors help enable transformative change by challenging and implementing innovative practices and fostering collaboration across industries. They mentor emerging talents and promote a growth mindset and continuous improvement. This directly supports strategic foresight in execution excellence.

**Ozguler:** *Robert Joslin stated that “Advancing PMO standards is crucial because it ensures that PMOs are aligned with the latest industry practices and equipped to handle the complexities of modern project and program portfolio environments. Empowering PMO community growth is equally important as it fosters a collaborative environment where professionals can share insights, challenges, and solutions. This collective intelligence drives innovation and improvement in PMO practices, leading to more successful outcomes and enhanced organizational value”.*

\*(<https://pmworldjournal.com/article/interview-with-robert-joslin> ) What do you think about advancing PMO standards and empowering PMO community growth?

**Power:** Advancing these standards means PMOs stay flexible and adaptable with industry best practices. This enhances their ability to manage complex programs effectively across a rapidly changing global economic environment. Empowering PMO community growth facilitates collaboration and knowledge sharing. This in turn drives innovation and continuous improvement, which ultimately leads to better-sustained outcomes and increased organizational value. Another important facet is the PMO's integration and partnership with the business executives and their strategy development/execution. PMO standards are important yet the relationships between the PMO and its stakeholders internal and external are critical to its success across the product development spectrum

**Ozguler:** *What do we see as the future vision of PMOs as of today and beyond?*

**Power:** AI Technology to enable PMOs to support optimized Risk Management, Communications/Collaboration, Administration and Intelligent project planning.

Adaptable and flexible governance structure to support driving optimal cost-effectiveness, maturity levels required, and integration with sustainable business value benefits.

Continuous learning, improvements and refinement tied to resource planning/requirements.

**Ozguler:** *Please share more information about the program structure?*

**Power:** Community Engagement, Promote PMO Excellence, Networking, Knowledge sharing, Aspiring Leaders Development, Innovation/Thought Leadership

**Ozguler:** *Lastly, what message would you like to convey to potential project management professionals being an AIPMO Ambassador?*

**Power:** Aspire to be the best you can be – obstacles are opportunities. Never stop learning and educating throughout your entire career. A growth mindset is critical to that. “Model, Coach, Care” are best practices for established or evolving leaders across any project industry. Ask for a sponsor beyond a coach – personal or professional. It is more important to be nice than nice to be important. Relationships and connections prevail. Lead with wisdom, spirit, heart, and courage

**Ozguler:** *Thank you for sharing your time and perspectives with PMWJ readers.*

**Power:** The opportunity to discuss our Ambassador program is greatly appreciated. We should connect again in 1 year to see how the program has evolved to date. Thank you!

## About the Interviewer



### **Ipek Sahra Ozguler**

Istanbul, Turkey



**Ipek Sahra Ozguler** graduated from the Istanbul University, Turkey with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and from Middle East Technical University, Turkey with an MSc degree in Software Management. As a project manager, she has more than 13 years of experience in various areas such as portfolio management, program management, project management, software management, business analysis. She became a certified PMP in 2012 and a certified SCRUM Master in 2014.

She has gained broader insights in a variety of projects across manufacturing, defence, FMCG (Cola Cola), insurance (Euler Hermes), audit (Deloitte), telecommunication, aviation and finance sectors. In addition, she has been working as an international correspondent for the PM World Journal since 2014.

Ipek is the creator and editor of the highly acclaimed book, [The Perspective of Women Project Management Professionals](#), interviews with leading female PM experts and professionals around the world. The book was published in March 2020 and is available [here](#).

Ipek is based in Istanbul, Turkey and can be contacted at [ipeksahra@gmail.com](mailto:ipeksahra@gmail.com). Her portfolio is published at the <http://ipeksahra.strikingly.com/> and <https://pmworldlibrary.net/authors/ipek-sahra-ozguler/>.