

Making a Modern Project Manager¹

Learn Continuously²

Yasmina Khelifi

Continuous learning is a valuable skill in a fast-paced changing world. But how can we put it into practice?

Let's find out!

Define what you want to learn

Skills are usually divided into two types:

- Hard skills or technical skills: the word 'technical' has to be understood in a broader sense than usual.
- Interpersonal skills or soft skills or power skills are social skills and how you get along with people.

Hard skills

This is the core of your expertise. At work you may have professional development opportunities. Or perhaps you are part of a professional association, and you can take part in conferences or present some webinars.

Interpersonal skills

If you work in corporate, you may have some professional training in leadership skills. If not, you can engage in a professional community where you volunteer.

¹ Editor's note: This series of articles is for Gen X, Y and Z project professionals by a real project manager. The author Yasmina Khelifi is an actual 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 agreed to author a series of articles based on her personal experiences over the last decade.

² How to cite this article: Khelifi, Y. (2025). Learn Continuously, Making a Modern Project Manager series article, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XIV, Issue VII, July.

However, these skills need practice, self-reflection, and guidance. Some people's professional training does not include any soft skills at all.

Choose your sources of knowledge

A wealth of content

What do you want to improve, to learn, or to change? This is not an easy question to answer. We are all connected to many people. We are part of various communities at work and outside of work. And we are bombarded with information from online courses and webinars. We can be tempted to begin a course, and then another one ... without finishing them. This has happened to me too. I've enrolled in some online courses that I didn't complete.

In terms of content, we now have many choices: audio and video podcasts, articles, blogs, newsletters, live interviews, webinars, online courses.

We can easily get lost. Take time to identify how you learn best.

Select intentionally

In your field of expertise, select two or three thought leaders to follow. You'll be aware of the latest trends in your industry or upcoming courses.

You can also subscribe to some newsletters of professional organizations. Professional organizations provide webinars, training, conferences, and newsletters. They also give you the opportunity to connect with peers to exchange information. I've recently discovered the power of mutual exchanges to facilitate learning.

I also listen to more podcasts than before: I can learn about books launched, research results, or real stories.

Take the next step

The conversations you will have will help you define your future plans to reskill or upskill.

Is there a certification in your field? A learning course? A community in your workplace in which you can take part? Or are there some 'lunch and learn' sessions at work?

For instance, I've enrolled in [a masterclass](#) on AI in project management to find out more about it and how it will impact my role.

When you begin an online course, persevere with it: work with an accountability buddy.

Are there colleagues at work who learn a lot? Can you ask them for advice?

Continuous learning is a journey. These days, learning doesn't just take place in classrooms or through formal training. Learning also happens in conversations and in communities.

What best practices can you share to facilitate continuous learning?

Learning, after all, is what enables people to adapt to change and even become drivers of change.- James McKenna, "Build a Strong Learning Culture on Your Team", *Harvard Business Review*, June 2023

You can [download](#) your call to action memo. You'll learn, you'll move forward, you'll thrive.

May you and your family stay healthy and happy -

Yasmina

About the Author



Yasmina Khelifi

Paris, France



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.

Yasmina can be contacted at <https://yasminakhelifi.com/> or LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yasminakhelifi-pmp-telecom/>

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