



Participants at the IPMA World Congress: The Diversity of the Global Project Management Community

Berlin, Germany – September 2, 2025 –*The IPMA World Congress is the annual summit of the international project management community. Every year, hundreds of professionals from across the globe gather to discuss the latest trends and exchange knowledge. A look at participant numbers and countries of origin from past congresses already shows how global and diverse this event is—and who benefits most from attending.*

On the morning of September 18, 2025, the lobby of Berlin's TITANIC Chaussee Hotel buzzes with voices in dozens of languages. English, Spanish, Mandarin, German, and countless other dialects fill the air, underscoring the diversity of the event. It is the first full day of the [34th IPMA World Congress 2025](#), and project management professionals from around the world are here to network, learn, and exchange ideas about the future of the profession.

Near the entrance, four people stop to greet one another. Dr. Lucia Fernández, a seasoned project manager from Argentina, embraces an old acquaintance—Koji Tanaka, an agile coach from Japan with whom she had long discussions on intercultural leadership at the last World Congress in Mexico. "I tried your new agile method on an energy project in Patagonia," she says, her eyes lighting up. Koji nods approvingly. "And? Did it work?" "Better than expected," she replies. "But the clients were skeptical at first. We had to do a lot of convincing."

Listening nearby is Samuel Osei, a young IT project manager from Ghana, attending his first IPMA World Congress. He is struck by the openness and the willingness to share knowledge. His gaze moves across the hall, where a tall Scandinavian with glasses and a notebook quietly observes the scene. It is Olof Andersen, a Norwegian project manager for large-scale infrastructure projects, in search of new approaches to sustainable construction.

By the coffee stand, a lively debate breaks out between Dr. Leila Hussain, who works on smart-city projects in Dubai, and Jean-Paul Martin, a French expert in aerospace projects. "Artificial intelligence is going to radically change project management in the next ten years," Leila insists. Jean-Paul laughs and counters: "Maybe—but we will still need people to make decisions."

As the conversations hum around the lobby, an announcement comes over the speakers: "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the IPMA World Congress 2025! Please take your seats, we are about to begin." In that moment, it becomes clear what makes this event unique: a global gathering of project management experts from entirely different backgrounds, all sharing a common ground—project management.

Who Attends the IPMA World Congress 2025?

The scenes above are fictional, but they could easily unfold at the start of the 34th IPMA World Congress, held in Berlin from September 17 to 19, 2025. Participant data from past congresses show just how international the event is. Each year, several hundred to over a thousand professionals attend, representing dozens of countries.



According to pmworldlibrary.net, the 2013 World Congress in Dubrovnik drew about 700 participants from more than 60 nations. A year later in Rotterdam, attendance climbed to roughly 1,000 from a similar number of countries. Even earlier congresses demonstrated this global reach: the 18th World Congress in 2004 in Budapest attracted around 600 attendees from 58 countries. The IPMA community spans nearly every continent—Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas—making the congress a truly worldwide meeting place for project professionals.

A Mix of Professional Backgrounds

The diversity extends beyond geography. The congress deliberately brings together academics and practitioners to spark knowledge transfer between theory and real-world practice. Attendees include seasoned project professionals, corporate executives, industry specialists, researchers, and rising talent from universities. Professors present the latest research, while experienced project leaders share lessons learned from the field. Young professionals from IPMA's "Young Crew" network use the opportunity to learn from veterans and inject fresh ideas into the discussions.

The community ranges from senior managers running major programs to ambitious newcomers entering the field—all united by a shared commitment to professional project management.

Cross-Sector Perspectives

Attendees also represent an extraordinary variety of industries. Today, project management is embedded in nearly every sector of the economy and society, from construction, IT, energy, and transportation to finance, healthcare, and government. Past congress programs reflect this breadth.

At the 2019 World Congress in Mexico, thematic streams spanned clean energy, infrastructure, automotive and aerospace, smart cities, and education and well-being. The most recent congress, held November 27–29, 2024, at DHL Stadium in Cape Town, South Africa, centers on the theme "Hope." Discussions explore four dimensions:

- **Hope:** the role of positive outlooks and expectations in project success.
- **People:** the critical importance of skilled professionals and strong teams.
- **Purpose:** how projects need a clear purpose and vision to inspire and align stakeholders.
- **Performance:** strategies and methods to boost project performance and efficiency.

These streams highlight the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of project management. They also open the floor for cross-industry exchanges. A construction project manager debates agility with an IT colleague, while health-sector experts compare experiences with leaders from NGOs. The result is a rich dialogue showing that project management matters everywhere.

Diversity in Action—Examples from the Community

The range of participants is perhaps best illustrated by individuals. At the 2013 Congress in Dubrovnik, for example, attendees included Dr. Prajapati Trivedi from India, a senior government official overseeing public-sector projects; Mike Brown from the UK, head of project management at



Rolls-Royce; and Dr. Ricaurte Vásquez from Panama, a former finance minister and senior executive at General Electric. Their perspectives—public administration, global industry, and Latin American infrastructure—could hardly be more different. Yet all converge around the practice of project management.

One attendee summed it up memorably, as documented in a [PM World Journal article that was published in November 2013](#): “This was the first IPMA Congress I have personally attended and it most certainly is not my last,” said Mike Brown, then head of the Center for Project Management at Rolls-Royce. “I enjoyed every presentation, but above all, I valued the chance to meet people with such varied backgrounds, knowledge, and expertise.”

Comments like this capture what makes the IPMA World Congress so distinctive: the exchange of diverse experiences and perspectives. Each day of the event feels like a journey through the global project management landscape—from agile IT startups to billion-dollar infrastructure projects to social development programs. The mix of people and viewpoints brings the profession to life in all its variety.

About GPM and IPMA

GPM ([Deutsche Gesellschaft für Projektmanagement e. V.](#)) is the leading competence network for project management in Germany and the GPM is the National Member Association of IPMA in Germany, with over 6,500 members. The [International Project Management Association \(IPMA\)](#) is a global umbrella organization for project management, with member associations in over 70 countries.