



Third International Scientific Conference on Project Management in the Baltic Countries

Project Management Development – Practice and Perspectives



PhD.cand.MSc.proj.mgmt. **Emils Pulmanis**
Member of the board of
Professional Association of Project Managers
Latvia

On April 10-11, 2014 in Riga capital of Latvia was held International scientific conferences on the Project management in the Baltic countries – „Project management Development – Practice and Perspectives”. This was the third year in a row that the Economics and management Faculty of the University of Latvia together with the Professional Association of Project Managers organized an international conference for project management, gathering professionals from a number of countries.

Project management has been developing rapidly over the last 30 years and become an important factor in business success. It opens new opportunities for businesses to increase their competitiveness in the market. Project management methods improve project transparency – cash flow tracking, project risk assessment, and risk prevention planning, project stakeholder analysis, project implementation planning and supervision. This is a particularly important aspect for Latvia, since the coming years will bring many large scale projects both in railway reconstruction and big construction objects, such as the

new concert hall, as well as various sizeable event organization, for instance Riga-2014 European Capital of Culture year in Riga.

Project management is currently one of the most topical forms of task organization. The necessity for its application is dictated by several factors. The most important among them are the ever increasing complexity of products and services, and market competition. The complexity of products and services causes higher requirements for interdisciplinary knowledge, and the growing competition in markets forces businesses to make better use of their resources, become better and quicker than their competitors, and make swifter changes in their organizations, pursuing their clients' interests. In such conditions project management opens new opportunities for businesses.

An increasing amount of work and tasks are already performed as projects rather than routine work methods. In future, tasks will be more sizeable and, respectively, the demand will grow for qualified project managers, possessing the knowledge and skills to succeed at their job today and tomorrow. Another result is more emphasis on the theoretical and practical questions of project management as well – how to initialize a project, how to assess it, choose the financially most advantageous projects, and assess project sustainability.

Evidence to the current importance of project management issues is the fact this year representatives of more than 16 countries have expressed interest in our conference. Conference gathered together experts, professionals and academic staff from such countries as United Kingdom, Estonia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Finland, Norway, Australia, Iran, Afghanistan, France, Palestine, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Turkey and Georgia.

This year conference after plenary session was 4 parallel sessions on the following topics:

1. Capacity of organizations in Project management, new approaches of Project management

Session chairs: Arvi Kuura, Žaneta Ilmete, Vjacheslav Andreevich Kozlov

2. IT Project management - practice and perspectives

Session chairs: Peter Reusch, Carsten Wolff, and Māris Pūķis

3. Project risk and finance management, quantitative modelling Session chairs:
Wolfgang Tysiak, Rima Tamošiūnienė, Pascal Reusch, Biruta Sloka
4. Problems and Solutions in Project Management (Implementation)
Session chairs: Edgar Bellow, Inesa Vorončuka, Margus Kõomägi

As the main finding I could conclude Georgian experience of setting up their Project management system after Russian-Georgian war back in 2008, as well as education system improvements including Project management subjects in study programs at the university. Also Lithuanian colleagues are just on the start of their way to develop special study programs in Project management at the master level. Iran and Germany colleagues showed high understanding and new approaches of Project risk management using different Project management tools and techniques. As usually one of the biggest topic in our conference is IT project management, as IT gradually becoming a most important field in nowadays business environment, but also as interesting could be considered section of Problems and Solution in Project Management, because this part involve participants who shared their own experience in project implementation. There was interesting case studies of Estonian experience, Hong Kong experience in using Building Information Modelling (BIM) methods in construction projects, Latvian experience in public infrastructure Project implementation.

I could say it was a great experience to share knowledge's and practical experience in managing different types of projects in different fields. And I really hope next year meet more Project management experts, academic stuff, students and Project management friends in Riga, Latvia – culture capital of European Union 2014.

Please remind conference webpage: <http://www.balticpmconference.eu> as it will be the same also next year, but for now you can still find information about 3rd project management conference.

About the Author



Emils Pulmanis

Riga, Latvia



Emils Pulmanis is a Member of the board of professional association of project managers in Latvia and senior expert of project implementation and control department, project control and monitoring division at the State Regional Development Agency of Latvia. He has gained a BSc. in engineer economics, have professional master degree in project management (MSc.proj.mgmt) and currently is PhD.cand. with a specialization in project management. Has elaborated and directed a number of domestic and foreign financial instruments co-financed projects. He was a National coordinator for European Commission-funded program - the European Union's financial instruments PHARE program project in Latvia. Over the past seven years has worked in a public administration project control and monitoring field. Was a financial instrument expert for Ministry of Welfare and the European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanism implementation authority as well as a expert for the Swiss - Latvian cooperation program as a NGO grant scheme project evaluation expert. Besides the professional work also is an lecturer at the University of Latvia for the professional master study program in Project management. Is an author for more than 25 scientific publications and actively involved in social activities as member of different NGO's.

Emils can be contacted at emils.pulmanis@gmail.com.