

Project Management update from Argentina



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Annual Survey of Software and Computer Industry in Argentina

In line with technological advances worldwide, the demand for Knowledge Professionals grows strongly in Argentina. At a time when the country is experiencing difficulties, the software and information technology industry is showing growth, both in terms of employment generation and exports.

The study entitled "Permanent Observatory of the Software and Computer Services Industry" (OPSSI), carried out annually by the Chamber of Software and Computer Services Companies (CESSI), has determined that in the last 10 years the employment rate in this industry has doubled and during the year 2016 registered an average increase in employment of 3.1%.

The survey revealed that expectations for this year 2017 are increasing, as companies expect employment growth of 13.8%, which implies the creation of more than 12,800 new jobs, an increase of 25.5 % in total sales in Argentinian pesos and a 16.4% increase in exports in dollars.

According to the aforementioned study, during the 2016, 7,800 new positions were generated in this industry, 65% of which remained vacant due to lack of professionals. Companies need to fill positions of software engineers, systems analysts and programmers, among other roles, but they are not available in the local market.

As mentioned by Gustavo Guaragna, a member of the CESSI Steering Committee in charge of the OPSSI study, "The software industry generated jobs again, incorporating

2,800 new professionals and leaving an unsatisfied demand of more than 5,000 positions, which would have 7,800 jobs that the sector projected for 2016 ".

In Argentina, about 4000 professionals graduate each year from the universities in information technology careers, which covers only 30% of the almost 13,000 positions required in the industry for this year 2017.

111mil Program

As a response to this problem, and in order to take advantage of this great job creation opportunity, the national government has launched in December 2016 a program that seeks to form 100 thousand programmers, 10 thousand engineers and one thousand entrepreneurs within 4 years.

This national plan, called **111mil** (111thousand), promoted by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Nation, together with the Ministry of Production of the Nation, aims to cover the labor demand of knowledge-based industries, while providing a specific job placement for young people who have recently completed or are completing their high school.

The initiative aims to "promote the technical training of human resources oriented to the sector of knowledge-based services and favor the generation of quality employment and greater accessibility."

The Undersecretary of Technological and Productive Services at the Ministry of Production of the Nation, Mr. Carlos Pallotti, argues that this program aims to change the educational matrix for work. According to Pallotti, "if the program manages to train the 111 thousand people, the objective set for the 4 year time-frame, considering the high demand in the industry, this directly impacts on a 1% increase in the country's GDP, that is, 5 billion dollars, which represents 10% of Argentina's exports."

The one year of training program, will provide young people with software development tools, given in different locations throughout the country, ending with a certification exam that will validate the acquired knowledge. The certificate granted by the 111mil Plan to those who pass the exam, has national validity and is endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Nation and the Ministry of Production of the Nation.

As part of the same program, those students who obtain their certificate will be guaranteed a job, ensuring their job placement in the more than 200 private companies that have undertaken to hire them.

It is interesting to note that the 111mil program does not only target young people, but is open to anyone who wants to re-enter the labor market through retraining and updating their knowledge.



Photo: Carlos Pallotti, Undersecretary of Technological and Productive Services at the Ministry of Production of Argentina.

Another axis of the program is the incorporation of more women in the information technology industry, which has been relegated to less than 20% of the total number of workers. In this sense, the program is working together with some NGOs such as "Program Girls Club" and "Girls in Technology".

Also, students from other university careers and professionals from other disciplines can benefit from the program, thus increasing their possibilities of employability and improving their income level.

An additional benefit of the program is the training of teachers who teach the program at 900 institutions throughout the country.

It is interesting to note that the program vacancies for the year 2017 have been exhausted, but registrations for the year 2018 are already open.

For more information about the 111mil Program, visit its webpage through the following [link](#).

PMI Chapters in Argentina

In the context of the PMI Chapters of Argentina, interesting activities are being developed for the continuous diffusion of the Project Management profession and the development and professional growth.

It's worth highlighting the development of the events generated by the so-called "Communities of Interest" of the PMI Buenos Aires Chapter that attract a large number of professionals in each meeting. These communities are made up of groups of professionals with common interests who meet monthly to discuss and develop knowledge about their specific topics, such as Leadership, Strategic Positioning, Business Analysis, Agile Methodologies, Risk Management, Construction Projects and Projects in areas of Government and specifically in Defense.

In the City of Rosario, in the Argentine province of Santa Fe, a new PMI chapter is being formed with volunteers who have been working hard for several years, as a Regional Community of the PMI Buenos Aires Chapter, called the PMI Rosario Community, so far that the formation of the PMI Rosario Chapter be completed.

At this moment, these volunteers are beginning to disseminate meetings of the profession through a space of interaction between the participants and a panel made up of professionals from the region, all with PMI certifications, who have been Rosario Community Leaders since its formation in 2009, and are current volunteers of the formation of the local chapter.

The purpose of this panel is to provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions, share opinions and experiences related to Project Management, including day-to-day activities, PMI certifications, PMO concepts, PMI as an institution, etc. The second objective of the panel is to demonstrate to the regional community that all of the participants of the PMI Rosario Community are people who work day after day in project management, that they are referent professionals in project management in the region and that, it is possible to develop more professionals in the community to share their own experiences in the region.

Regarding the New Potential Chapter PMI Córdoba Argentina, it is developing the events scheduled for the year, including monthly meetings open to the entire professional community of the Province of Cordoba.

And as a finishing touch to the events held by all the Chapters, current and future of the country, the PMI Tour Southern Cone 2017 will take place in November in 4 Argentinean towns, starting with Mendoza, organized by the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter,

On Friday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 4th, then in Rosario, on Wednesday, November 8th, continuing through Buenos Aires on Thursday, November 9th, and ending in Cordoba on November 14th.

In all cases are receiving the proposals for exhibitions which can be consulted in the following links: [Call for Papers Mendoza](#), [Call for Papers Rosario](#), [Call for Papers Buenos Aires](#), [Call for Papers Córdoba](#).

To view information about local Project Management events, log in to the sites **PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter** [website](#), **PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter** [website](#) and **PMI Cordoba Potential Chapter** [website](#).

About the Author



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Cecilia Boggi, PMP is founder and Executive Director of activePMO, giving consulting services and training in Project Management and Leadership skills in Argentina and Latin America. After graduating with a degree in Computer Science Engineering from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, she has managed software development projects and PMO implementation projects for more than 20 years both in the government and private sector. Cecilia has an Executive Master in Business Administration from Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Spain and also has graduated from an Executive Program in Business Management at Universidad del CEMA. She holds the Project Management Professional (PMP®) credential since 2003, is certified as SDI Facilitator from Personal Strengths©, is a Professional Executive Coach accredited by Association for Coaching, UK, and alumni of the PMI Leadership Institute Master Class 2012.

Ms. Boggi is Past President of the PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter, and is a founding member of the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter and PMI Santa Cruz Bolivia Chapter. She has been designated by PMI in the role of Mentor of Region 13, Latin America South, for the years 2014-2016. Cecilia has participated in the development of PMBOK® Guide 5th Edition, leading the Chapter 9, Human Resource Management, content team and she is professor of Project Management and Leadership in some Universities and Institutes in Latin America.

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