

Project Management Update from Switzerland



By Rüdiger Geist
International Correspondent
Zurich, Switzerland

1st spm / GPM PMO-Day, February 25th in Zurich

On the 25th of February the first PMO-Day in Switzerland took place. About 30 participants from companies in Switzerland, Germany and Austria discussed about the possibility and prerequisites of strategic outsourcing of Project Management Offices.

The idea for this event was born in autumn 2012, when representatives of Switzerland and Germany met on the yearly GPM (the IPMA organization in Germany) Project Management Conference in Nuremberg.



In the morning the participants had the chance to hear about two studies on the topic. First Prof. Dr. Gerhard Ortner from the university of applied sciences bfi in Vienna and Rüdiger Geist, Managing director of spirit@PM GmbH presented the outcome of their study on Outtasking of project management activities (the whole study in German can be downloaded at: http://www.gpm-ipma.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Know_How/studien/Studie_Ergebnisse_Outsourcing_Projektmanagement.pdf, a more comprehensive version in English is available at: <http://www.spirit-at-pm.com/index.php/downloads/veroeffentlichungen-und-vortraege/409-2012-pm-world-journal-outtasking-a-new-trend-in-project-management>).

This speech laid the ground for a common understanding of the terms PMO (not for a single project, on the organizational level) vs. PO (within a single project) and Outsourcing (as a strategic decision to give whole or part of the value chain to a service provider).

The second speech was from Simone Ruprecht, who wrote a master thesis where she developed a maturity model for PMO-Outsourcing.



In the afternoon the participants discussed several aspects of this complex topic (prerequisites, cases, motivation, ...). All went out with the feeling, that this topic is much more interesting and much broader than expected, and it was decided to go on with that PMO-Day in Switzerland in the future.

About the Author



RÜDIGER GEIST

Zurich, Switzerland

Rüdiger Geist, PMP, IPMA Level B is the Managing Director of Spirit@PM GmbH, a Swiss-based consultancy specializing in coaching, consulting, outsourcing and training in the areas of Project, Programme and Project Portfolio Management. He actually is also Associate Professor of Project Management at Kalaidos Fachhochschule (Zurich). In the past he also lectured for the International Institute of Management (Fribourg) and IFA AG (Zurich). He was Managing Director for Agora Associates GmbH during 2007-2008, where he was engaged in consulting, coaching and training in project, program and portfolio management. He was previously lead PM coach, project manager and project portfolio manager for Credit Suisse; senior project manager, coach and portfolio manager for SPOL AG; assistant CFO, contract manager, project manager, and coach for CSC Switzerland; project designer, manager and coach for CSC PLOENZKE AG in Wiesbaden, Germany; and information systems developer for BVV Versicherungsverein des Bankgewerbes AG, Freie University and others in Berlin. Rüdiger has a Diploma in Political Science from Freie University Berlin (1988) and in Informationsorganisator from Siemens/Nixdorf, Berlin. He is also a CMMI and SPICE certified assessor. Rüdiger holds an IPMA Level B project management certification and the Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI®), as well as the PMOS (CSC) and a Masters Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University (GWU) in the USA. Rüdiger has authored papers and presentations at IPMA and PMI conferences and sat on the board of the PMI Switzerland Chapter as Vice President Education & Certification. Fluent in English and German, Rüdiger is based in Zurich and can be contacted at rg@spirit-at-pm.com.