Happy Holidays & All the Best in 2016!

As we are approaching the end of the year and the holiday season, it is worth reflecting on our personal, professional and project management goals that we have achieved – but please take a break from milestones, deliverables and try to spend some time with the ones you love – friends & family.

I hope that the Belgium PM Report has been useful for you and that in 2016 we continue a fruitful collaboration while bringing our profession to new heights. I would like to wish you all the best in 2016 and Happy Holidays!
Linkedin Publication Series – Change.Challenge.Opportunity
As you know, I try to share my opinion on Project Management through a Linkedin Series, in parallel to my monthly reports. This month’s article focuses on Change.Challenge.Opportunity in the field of Project Management, which were the theme of PMDays in Bulgaria and the importance of adapting to change in Project Management, while finding the opportunities in the challenges for both young and old project managers. Check out the following link: http://linkd.in/1IlFItL

T-Systems Community Conference (November 2015)
I had the privilege to be a speaker at the PM Community Conference for T-Systems, where I met a young & enthusiastic team of Project Managers. I spoke on the importance of inter-generational cooperation in Project Management and in addition, I organized a workshop using the Project Management Canvas and how to organize a project in the non-for-profit world!

My personal take-aways from the event:

- Companies in Slovakia are showing great strides in Project Management building capacity in young people through innovative techniques, leadership skills and engaging with national and international PM stakeholders – I am very impressed!
PMDays Bulgaria (November 2015)

In November, I had the opportunity to be a speaker at PMDays in Bulgaria where I shared the stage with inspirational speakers such as:

- **Ricardo Vargas**, Director, Infrastructure and Project Management, UNOPS
- **Agnieszka Maria Gasperini**, PMI Region Mentor for Central Europe
- **Zornitsa Nikolova**, Agile Coach, Trainer & Practitioner, Leanify Ltd.
- **Georgi Kamov**, Consultant, Motivational speaker, Partner, DesignThinking.bg
- **Orlin Marinov**, Senior Service Management and Security Consultant and Trainer, ITCE

By definition PMDAY BULGARIA Conference every year gathers the most interesting and original presenters who contributed to the hottest and most popular topics in the world of Project management – and it was a success! I was very impressed with the quality of speakers, the content of the presenters and the engagement of the participants - I was very impressed!

**My personal take-aways from the event:**

- **The Only Thing That is Constant is Change** – and Project managements helps organizations cope with the increasing rate of change in the business world.
- **Leadership skills** are becoming more and more important in Project Management since they allow the PM to encourage, motivate, and relate to the members on his or her team, he or she can expect to see the emergence of a more positive environment to drive performance (**PMI’s Talent Triangle** focuses on Leadership).
- **Interpersonal Skills** in Project Management such as **soft skills, leadership and emotional intelligence** are becoming very important to a Project Manager’s success (IPMA has a strong theoretical basis of **behavioral competences**).

Here are a few pictures from the event!
PMI Belgium PMFair (October 2015)

PMI Belgium organised their annual conference on Saturday 3rd October 2015 at Solvay Business School of Economics and Management in Brussels, where I had the privilege to be a speaker and also a workshop leader. PM Fair is a new, unique congress concept – inspired by a marketplace – where knowledge and experiences can be shared in an inspiring environment.

There was an excellent report written by Erik Leung Shun, PMP available on Linkedin: Click Here

My personal take-aways from the event:

- Lean Six Sigma ties into Project Management, which is an interesting area to explore for the future and how it ties into benefits realization of projects.
- Project Management in the 21st century will be about striking the balance between the arts (PM soft skills), science (PM methodologies), but above all, practical PM experience (professional, volunteer work, student experiences and building bridges between generations).
Entrepreneurship in Brussels (November 2015)

On November 14, I had the opportunity to moderate a panel on entrepreneurship for an event entitled Think Bigger. This event was organized by Andreea Harna and brought together experienced entrepreneurs and experts to share their own experience and knowledge on how to grow your business from 1 to more employees. Some of the topics included:

- Complexities, barriers and hoops
- How to create the best team for the best results
- How to turn social media into your semi-automated HR recruiter
- Strategy – how Business Model Canvas will prepare you for the growth
- HR matters & how to get your first employees on board
- How to establish your business in Belgium – Banking perspective

My personal take-aways from the event:

- We are living in an era of Entrepreneurs spurred by great technological innovation. Every day, across the world individuals are starting something on their own. However, 90% of start-ups fail, I would argue that a strong project management approach to an entrepreneurial venture can lead to a greater success rate.

- I would encourage entrepreneurs to investigate principles of the Lean Startup to their approach, which bring principles from lean manufacturing and agile development to the process of innovation. There is a book by Eric Ries that I can highly recommend.
Project Management Tackling Youth Unemployment (December 2015)

In November, I had the opportunity to take part in the 6th edition of the (Y)our Future in Brussels project, which is the project for which I received the IPMA Young Project Manager of the Year Award in 2013. However, this time around I was not leading the project - there was a new project manager, Simona Scaringi, who did a spectacular job! I was relieved that this time, I only had to participate in the capacity of a workshop leader (leading a workshop on the PMCanvas) and panel moderator. My workshop on Project Management served to inspire the participants that project management is a means to boost a young person’s employability. I must also add that in September at the JCI Belgium National Conference, this project received an award in the category of “Best Inter-collaboration Award”.

My personal take-aways from the event:

- According to PMI, through 2020, 1.57 million new project management jobs will be created every year worldwide and so the 21st century is full of opportunities to launch a career in Project Management. Therefore, in situation where youth unemployment is still rampant in Europe, becoming certified in Project Management is a first step to boost your employability!
Kamil Mroz graduated from the University of Ottawa with a double Bachelor’s degree in Chemical engineering and Biochemistry, later completing a Masters of Arts in International Relations at the Brussels School of International Studies (University of Kent), where he also served as the President of the Graduates’ Student Union. In 2013, Kamil received the IPMA Young Project Manager of the Year award and in 2014 he was awarded the Young Alumni of the Year by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ottawa. In addition, he is frequently invited as a keynote speaker on leadership, entrepreneurship, community development, project management and youth empowerment. He enjoys contributing to articles and publications and in sharing his experience in project management, and in 2014 was invited to write the forward to Peter Taylor’s (award winning author) book entitled “Real Project Management”. Kamil was invited twice as ‘Leader of Tomorrow’ to the St. Gallens’ Symposium, received a Coin of Excellence from the Canadian Chief of Defence Staff, and is currently the President of JCI ‘The Heart of Europe’, which aims to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. He is also known to have conceptualized and led two successful international projects as a volunteer Project Manager (Quo Vadis Leadership Conference and Your Future).

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