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SUCCESS FACTORS OF PROJECT AND PROCESS MANAGEMENT — LESSONS LEARNED FROM EPPM 2016

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this post-conference report is to present key-issues delivered by participants of the Project and Process Management sessions (PPM) at the 7th International Conference on Engineering, Project, and Production Management (EPPM 2016). EPPM 2016 was held in Białystok, Poland in 21-23 September. The conference was organised by Białystok

University of Technology (BUT), the Association of Engineering, Project, and Production Management (EPPM), the International Society for Manufacturing, Service and Management Engineering (ISMSME), the Committee of Production Engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture. The format of the EPPM 2016 Conference involved

a mixture of keynote speeches, individual presentations on topical issues, and extensive panel discussions. It featured 89 papers in five thematic sessions across the two conference days. Over 115 delegates attended EPPM 2016 from more than 20 countries across Europe, Asia, and the rest of the world. Further information is available at eppm2016.pb.edu.pl. This international event explored key business and scientific problems, including findings, and enabled the introduction of new achievements in the field of engineering management, project and production management.

PROJECT AND PROCESS MANAGEMENT ASPECTS ON THE EPPM 2016

One of the key sessions of EPPM 2016 was devoted to a key-aspect of modern organisations, i.e. project and process management. This session focused on several major and emerging issues including risk and knowledge management, project portfolio management (Dumrak et al., 2017, pp. 157-164; Pimachangthong & Boonjing, 2017, pp. 579-586; Hadjinicolaou et al., 2017, pp. 274-281) as well as agile approach and process modelling in business practice (Orłowski et al., 2017, pp. 524-531; Gabryelczyk & Jurczuk, 2017, pp. 198-205). Further points that emerged from the discussion during PPM sessions included: project scheduling, budgeting and IT systems (Gurcanli et al., 2017, pp. 265-273; Peng et al., 2017, pp. 563-570; Niazi & Painting, 2017, pp. 510-517; Ayessaki & Smallwood, 2017, pp. 42-49; Al-Hazim et al., 2017, pp. 18-24; Ahmad et al., 2017, pp. 3-9; Bazlamit et al., 2017, pp. 83-90; Snyman & Smallwood, 2017, pp. 651-657). During four PPM sessions, a total of 19 presentations were offered by more than 50 authors.

The main points that came out of the discussion during PPM sessions support the suggestion that aiming for successful management of projects, more intense effort should be exerted on a planning preparation, scheduling and cost evaluation. These aspects determine the project risk as well as its cost overrun (Al-Hazim et al., 2017, pp. 18-24). Moreover, implementation of effective IT systems can simplify and help organise the handling of the various work-related information and processes within the cycle of project management (Ahmad et al., 2017, pp. 3-9; Bazlamit

et al., 2017, pp. 83-90). It was also suggested that controlled and predicted transformation processes in organisations are crucial for project success (Orłowski et al., 2017, pp. 524-531). Considering the role of information technology in project and process management, it is worthwhile considering the problem with demanded competency, distribution and comprehension of new knowledge by project participants. Furthermore, employee competency should be improved to the level required by the project aim and scope (Ahmad et al., 2017, pp. 3-9; Bazlamit et al., 2017, pp. 83-90; Gabryelczyk & Jurczuk, 2017, pp. 198-205). However, one of the biggest challenges, which was highlighted by most participants, was communication by project stakeholders.

CONCLUSIONS

Challenges presented during PPM sessions suggested some implications for further research and possible ways for the engagement of businesses and researchers in the development of good practice for project and process management. Discussions and presentations covered different business and science perspectives on project and process management, helping EPPM delegates to discern some key-aspects. It is suggested that discussions of the EPPM 2017 conference could consider:

- project and process maturity,
- the financial and social contingency of a project,
- project team building and communication,
- the methodology for the project and process monitoring.

Most EPPM 2016 participants believed that the quality of speakers and the scope of the content was unparalleled. The PPM sessions allowed participants and EPPM delegates to enhance their research perspective and build relationships for scientific opportunities in the area of project and process management.

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