

Project Management Update from Turkey¹



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AFTER PM SUMMIT 2018 ANKARA



The project management conference **PM Summit 2018 Ankara** was held in the Turkish capital during 22-23 June 2018. It was a huge success. Below are some highlights from this big annual event in Turkey

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Levent Erkan

ANGEL INVESTOR AND ENTREPRENEUR

Title: *“Best time for Change is the time that you think the Change is not necessary”*

I had a privilege to speak at the Opening Session of the Project Management Summit in Turkey. I had two messages and a real life case study to share with.

It is a definite fact that “Change” is necessary when you think that your business is not doing well. The best time for change is when you think that everything runs perfect and Change is not necessary. In fact, it is usually the time where you feel like your work is doing great and things are moving forward.

If you are a learning organization, you can keep getting feedback from all your stakeholders to improve yourself constantly. So, when exactly is the time to make changes for real improvement in your business? It is said easier than done; when you have an investment budget that is high, when all stakeholders including your staff, clients, investors, public believe in you as a strong institution, you can hire Professionals to make “real change”. It is usually riskier and almost mandatory to make the change – when your finances are not doing well and you need to close a department, stop producing one of your products, downsize or etc. The real improvement can come to your business, when there is the motivation level is high in your company with sufficient budget to make investment to improve even further when you feel like you are doing pretty good. That’s why, the best time

for change to improve your business is when people feel that the company is doing well and there is no need for any change.

With this consideration, I changed the concept of PMO, EPMO or similar names in my new organization. There is no Project Management Office or Enterprise Project Management Office. There is now Continous Improvement Project Office (CIP Office). This also implies a mental change that people should be focused on for improvement. In fact, this way of thinking stresses that improvement should be continous in each unit of your business. All stakeholders should understand this mental change and utilize it very simply in daily life to continously improve our Business. We need to learn as a business to find new ways to improve continuously.

Project Management Ankara Summit's concept was Learning Organizations. And if you can apply this concept to your organizations, you will always be aware what needs to be changed or improved continously. Your CIP Offices will finalize improvement areas and map them out with your continuously improved strategies. Then, who will implement these improvement areas as mapped to your strategies? Tha answer of course is your Project Management Teams at your CIP Offices.



At the summit, to support this methodology, I wanted to share a real life example for this type of an organization. And I have invited the Deputy General Manager of Microsoft Turkey, Mr. Kerem Onar, who is also the Change Leader of the organization. We had a great

discussion at the Opening Session of the Summit. Microsoft is a best practice as a learning organization. It is a learning organization and gets continuous feedback from its stakeholders and understands and gauges its market position with its products. It is the only company which is at the Top 5 in the last 20-30 years in the World. In fact, it was at its peak last July in 2017, when they made a significant re-organization to improve their priorities as a company. Kerem also provided feedback on how they decided and improved / changed as a Team. It was another great Project Management Summit in Turkey, thanks to the PMI Chapter of Turkey.



Ahmet Akdağ

ENTERPRISE AGILITY CONSULTANT ACM CO-FOUNDER, AGILETURKEY CO-FOUNDER, AGILE MIDDLE EAST CO-FOUNDER, Professional Scrum Trainer (Scrum.org)

As being an Agile consultant and trainer, I was a little bit curious about how PMI was going to run an event that has lots of Agility knowledge and experience. But things went different when I see the venue and experienced the flow of the event. The line up and the content of the speakers fulfilled the need since the speakers were subject matter experts and people who had failed to the things and learned that way. That was also matching with the theme: "learning organizations." I also learned a lot from the speakers' experiences. As a panelist, I felt really well hosted from the moment got in touch with the organizers of the Ankara PMI Summit 2018. Everything was well organized. The stuff and people organizing the event were all friendly and on time.

Finally, I have been to many organizations so far and realized that audience interest is a huge factor on the event performance. I think this is also a success of the organization since the right people were there.

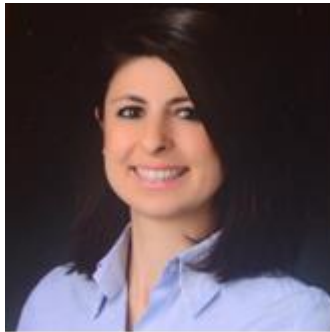


Ercan Altuğ Yılmaz

GAMFED TURKEY REPRESENTER, CO- FOUNDER AT TimeGO APP

PMI Ankara event had great success! More than 500 attendees focus on 'Learning Organizations' theme with lots of sessions and workshops. We had a chance to share about trendy topics like "Storytelling and Gamification". Every project needs some story to share and who like to be part of these project's journey they need motivation with game mechanic like point, bagdes and progress bar kind of. I shared some example of Gamification and storytelling all over the world and also shared some game design and Gamification Design to apply their projects.

About the Author



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İpek Sahra Özgüler graduated from the Istanbul University with the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and from Middle East Technical University with an MSc degree in Software Management. She became a certified PMP in January, 2012 and a certified SCRUM Master in 2014. She works as international correspondent at PMWJ. Before joining PMWJ, she worked for global multinational companies and leading local companies such as Coca Cola, Deloitte, Turkcell Superonline, Havelsan and TAV IT. Over the years, she has gained extensive experience in managing various medium and large scale projects, programs and portfolios.

Her article named “When I Decided to Develop Multi Processing Project Manager’s System” was published in the book “*A Day in the Life of a Project Manager*”. She has published several articles in the *PM World Journal* and one in PMI’s *PM Network* magazine. İpek is actively involved in sailing, writing and discovering new cultures. She can be contacted at ipeksahra@gmail.com.

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