

## Case study

# PMI Munich Chapter e.V. executes its projects with Projectplace

## Project Management Institute

PMI is the world's largest professional association for project management. Founded in the USA in 1969, the organization now has over 400,000 members, organized into more than 250 regional chapters around the world. The organization has been growing by around 14% a year for some time now.

## Project work as an honorary role

As an international voluntary organization organized in local chapters, PMI's effectiveness is dependent of the commitment of its top-class members. This has the advantage that the project managers represented in the PMI are not only experts in the theoretical basis and methods of project management but also have wide-ranging practical experience.

Because of their honorary role, the various chapters aim at effective collaboration wherever possible – after all, their work is unpaid. That is why the project managers within the PMI are very happy to use the tools and methods with which they have already had good experience. Particularly when it comes to major events, such as the biennial Project Management Congress (PM Summit) of the PMI Munich Chapter.

## Central platform provides for transparency

Various chapters of the PMI have been using Projectplace for over ten years and have had good experience with it. That is why the PMI Munich Chapter not only presents the web-based collaboration and project management tool to its members and runs workshops on it, but also uses the solution for its own communication.

Jörg Glunde, a long-time PMI member and VP Projects for the PMI Munich Chapter since 2012, explains how the association uses Projectplace for its own purposes: "In the PMI we have a complex global organization structure, but we still want to offer something to our members at the local level. That is why we organize regular chapter meetings, round tables and workshops, but we also run projects to organize unusual events, help refugees or introduce project



## Overview

### Company profile

The PMI Munich Chapter was founded in 1998 and is the largest chapter in Germany in terms of members. The PMI Munich Chapter supports the enhancement and dissemination of project management.

### The challenge

It is not just about informing PMI members about methods but also offering them tools for practical project work – ideally through solutions tried and tested by the PMI itself.

### The solution

The PMI Munich Chapter uses Projectplace for its own projects and also provides the tool to its volunteers, including best practice examples and training.

### The benefits

Regular work with Projectplace has made the communication and implementation of projects more transparent and more successful.

*“Projectplace contributes to greater transparency and better collaboration.”*

*JJörg Glunde, Vice President Projects for PMI Munich Chapter e.V.*

management to school pupils. And to ensure that these projects can be implemented smoothly in a voluntary, honorary context, we fall back on tried and tested tools and methods.”

## Project planning in line with Kanban boards

Jörg Glunde and his colleagues therefore use the software ‘out of hours’ almost daily, and not just to organize the PM Summit Congress. Projectplace is their central platform for exchanging data and communicating within a project. “In particular the close connection between the Kanban boards and the project plans is the best there is, and very helpful in project management,” he says.

This is not only true in the organization of major events but also pays off in small projects. “We aim to provide our members with good guidelines both in the methodology and in the practical implementation,” says Glunde. Many of his colleagues in the association also use Projectplace and endorse his personal experience: Projectplace makes communication and coordination within project teams easier, along with the associated exchange of documents. “Another aspect is resource management, which can be easily and efficiently implemented and monitored with this solution,” he adds.

## All good things come in threes

Glunde cites greater transparency, better collaboration and productive resource management as reasons why he and many other PMI Chapter members work so intensively with Projectplace: “The tool is really helpful and can be seen to help us to reach our goals.” He makes a lot of

use of the simple yet versatile facilities for exchanging documents – regardless of their file format. Glunde also sets great store by the integration of other cloud solutions such as Dropbox. “But when you have multiple projects and need an overview of the available resources that is when the functions in Projectplace are particularly helpful.”

He also finds the various display formats such as Gantt charts and Kanban boards a great benefit, and is happy to pass on this experience to project volunteers. “At the PMI we aim to offer our members added value and support them in their project work. Then the joint implementation of a project, such as the PM Summit, can be a very good exercise,” he says.

## Project management ‘out of hours’

Every two years, the members of the association also organize the PM Summit Congress. For this project too, they use Projectplace. Here, all the ideas are gathered, data stored, schedules produced, tasks derived and budgets drawn up. Step by step, the project then builds up and the initial topics turn into talks or workshops. The project members involved gradually work through their tasks, which can be tracked centrally by all via the Kanban boards.

The resulting transparency reduces the errors that can arise in such a big project, and so increases its success. The fact that the PM Summit in Munich has grown into a central meeting place in the project management world speaks for itself.

Besides being used by PMI Munich Chapter, the largest branch in Germany, Projectplace is facilitating collaboration and project management within the organization across Germany, from the Berlin Chapter to nationwide projects.