Why PMI Standards?

- Project Management Institute (PMI) was founded in 1969.
- With a mission to continuously improve the practice and methodology of PM and set global professional standards in this area.
- PMI currently has 200,000 members in 180 countries worldwide.
- PMI is the leading project management organization in the world.

PMI Certifications

- CCA – Certified Associate in Project Management
- CAPM – Certified Associate in Project Management
- PMP – Project Management Professional
- PgMP – Project Governance Management Professional
- PMI-SP – Project Management Professional in Specialized Knowledge
- PMI-RMP – Project Management Professional in Risk Management
- PMI-ACP – Project Management Professional in Agile Practice

The training consists of a three-day training in fundamental concepts of Project Management, based on PMI methodology and delivered by qualified PM trainers and practitioners from the region. Upon completion of the onsite course, the trainees receive access to the online learning platform, the PM Knowledge Portal by SkillSoft, which enables them to obtain additional training hours and prepare for the PMP exam.

2.4 MODALITY OF TRAINING PROGRAM

The training program is based on the blended learning model, combining onsite and online tutorials, with the ultimate goal of providing candidates with the knowledge needed to successfully plan, implement, and manage projects, and at the same time satisfying the eligibility requirements for the PMP certification exam (at least 35 hrs of PM training). You can find out more information about PMI and its certifications, Project Management Professional (PMP) and Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM), at the official website of the Project Management Institute, www.pmi.org.

PMP - the World’s Leading PM Credential

- Requirements
  - University degree
  - 36 months of PM experience (60 months if no university degree)
  - 35 hours of PM training
  - Successfully completed certification exam
  - Credential renewal every 3 years – continuing professional education and PM practice required
  - CAPM requires 1500 hrs of experience or 23 hrs of PM training.
- Value and benefits
  - Practical knowledge
  - Marketing value to the company
  - Membership in the PMI and listing in the online PMP registry

2.5 HOW TO APPLY

To register for the training or get detailed information about the upcoming training opportunities, please contact Mr. Pavlin Delchev, pdelchev@bcserdom.com.

The next round of sponsored training courses will be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in October 2010. The training will be conducted in the region to identify and address the skills needed for the regional workforce. The training will be conducted in the region to identify and address the skills needed for the regional workforce.

www.RCIPrivate.com

1.0 WHY IS PROJECT MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT FOR WESTERN BALKANS

The growth potential of a country’s technology, engineering, and service industries is based on the existence of favorable conditions in several areas. These include, among other factors, the IT and communications infrastructure, the research and development environment, the legal regime and the quality of the overall business environment. The lack of supply of local talent, however, represents the most important factor contributing to the competitive disadvantage of an economy over another. The skills, knowledge and business acumen of the local employees, together with the quality of service, reliability and flexibility of supply, are key factors required to compete effectively in the global markets and attract foreign investments. In addition to technical knowledge, employees must also possess expertise in areas such as project management, change management and risk analysis, among others.

Studies such as the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report in 2009-2010 show that a significant gap between the skills supplied by the education sector in the region and the skills needed by the private sector represents one of the key areas that impede the region’s economic growth. Options for life-long learning, on-the-job training and continuous professional development are still very limited, as is the possibility of attaining globally accepted professional credentials.

With the entry of global corporations into regional markets, local firms are faced with tough competition for important domestic projects, especially those financed by international donors such as the World Bank, EBRD, USAID, European Commission and similar institutions. To be able to compete with global players, local firms need to build credibility and demonstrate superior service quality. Project management in particular represents an area of competence that is indispensable for ensuring quality of the final product or service, increased productivity of the workforce and efficient, transparent allocation of resources. This has been acknowledged by the skills-gap studies conducted in the region to identify and address the skills needed for the regional workforce.

1.2 GLOBAL NEED FOR PROJECT MANAGERS

According to the Project Management Institute, US $12 trillion, 1/5 of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP), is being spent on projects this year. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in the need for skilled project managers.

The global need for skilled project management is being raised by such organizations as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Parliament.

Gartner Inc., the leading provider of research and analysis to the global IT industry, found that project management was the number one hiring priority of companies surveyed, and at the same time the most frequently reported as “difficult to hire.”

According to the Project Management Institute, in 2008, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the world’s leading provider of industry and management analysis, conducted a survey of senior executives who were asked to identify the job category most important to their current and future success. The results showed that:

- Project Management
- Program Management
- Change Management
- Risk Management
- IT Management
- Leadership

Recommendations to gain control of your projects

- Understand your Project Managers
- Project Management Reports
- What challenges are they facing?
- What do they need from you?
- Communicate to your Team(s)
- Review your organization
- Improve project delivery
- Reduce project risk
- Rework, reengineer, reorient

Additional reading:

- Project management: a strategic approach to leading and delivering projects
- Project management: a guide for the practitioner
- Project management: a guide for the practitioner
• Project professionals were identified as the single most important management job category.
• 97% of the other disciplines they listed were integral parts of the project management profession.
• 60% stated that senior management collaborates directly with project professionals. More than half of them indicated that this collaboration would increase.

1.3 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AS MEANS TO INCREASE ABSORPTION CAPACITY OF ECONOMIC AID AND EU ACCESSION FUNDS

In the Western Balkans, the need for project management competence is augmented by the fact that, over the past twenty years, the region has been receiving significant amounts of foreign aid. According to the Centre for European Research (CES), the total amount of economic aid in the period 1995-2008 was more than EUR 6 billion per annum. Knowing that the key method for distribution of this aid is project-based disbursement, it becomes clear how critical it is to build local competence in project management in order to ensure that the foreign aid results in the positive impact on the economic performance and avoid fraud or ineffective use of resources.

Similarly, to be able to absorb the financing that is becoming available through the EU accession framework programs and ensure the funds are spent effectively and the projects accomplished successfully, the economies of the Western Balkans will need increasing numbers of qualified and certified Project Managers, possessing familiarity with the globally accepted methodologies and skills and competence in managing projects, stakeholder expectations, resources and risks.

This is why USAID regards competence in Project Management as one of the key tools in building sustainable competitive advantage for regional firms and individuals and has recognized project management training and certification as a region-wide priority.

2.0 PM AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY USAID RCI

2.1 INTRODUCTION

With the economies of the Western Balkans moving away from agriculture and heavy industry towards service-oriented, project-based sectors, such as ICT, construction, transport and trade, competence in project management is becoming a critical success factor. As the same time, major infrastructure and technology upgrading projects being implemented by governments in the region, especially those in support of EU accession, need skilled and qualified Project Managers to ensure that public funds are spent transparently and projects executed in time and on budget.

To be able to compete in global markets and increase exports, regional firms need globally recognized standards and certifications as a proof of credibility and service quality. One internationally recognized way of demonstrating project management competencies is through possession of professional certifications, such as Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, the world’s leading credential in Project Management granted by the US Project Management Institute (PMI).

PMI advocates that project, program and portfolio management can enhance and accelerate organizational change – driving innovation, improving organizational performance, and strengthening competitive advantage.

This is why the USAID Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) has designed a “PM awareness and training program” for the countries of the Western Balkans. The key goal is to provide world-class project management training, based on the globally recognized PMI methodology, for the managers of regional companies, key public sector institutions and local training providers, and equip them with the knowledge and tools required to achieve excellence in project management.

2.2 WHO IS THE PM TRAINING FOR?

This training program is designed for professionals from the selected industries (ICT, Construction, Public sector, training service providers) such as:

• Company owners, senior and mid level managers who initiate, approve, plan and supervise projects.
• Project managers and team leaders who plan, implement and manage projects.
• Key employees responsible for project-based assignments.
• Public sector officials who are responsible for preparing tender documents, issuing and evaluating RFPs, and overseeing implementation of projects in the relevant areas, i.e. ICT and construction including road projects.
• Training organizations (particularly private sector entities) that can build relevant skills and capacity to provide PM training in the future at market rates.

2.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

The main goals of the Program are to:

• Create awareness about the existence and benefits of the globally accepted project management methodologies.
• Build fundamental project management competence within selected regional companies and institutions.
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- Serbian PMI chapter was founded in 2003, now featuring 90 members and 40 PMPs

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www.RCIProject.com

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