



## 10 reasons why project managers should get certified

by Mark Milotich, MA, PMP

Project management is hot! More and more organizations are harnessing the power of projects to implement the business strategy. Projects are all about innovation – doing something new. But projects are also about doing things quickly and cost effectively. In other words, projects are at the center of what is important to today's business organizations.

A project manager is the person who can succeed at the seemingly impossible task of making it «good, cheap and quick.» Often, I am asked by clients about the benefits of professional certification for project managers. Excellent project managers will always be in high demand – professional certification is one way to show that you can pull off this trick. **Certification by the International Project Management Association (IPMA) focuses not only project management knowledge but also on behavioral competences needed to manage a project successfully.**

The reasons for certification are many. Here are ten.

- 1. Boost your self-confidence.** While certification alone won't make you an excellent project manager, you will learn what the recommended way of doing things is. This will increase your confidence in dealing with unexpected or difficult situations.
- 2. Increase your employability.** These days, more and more advertised positions for project managers are requesting or requiring certification. Don't miss out on a great opportunity because you are not certified.
- 3. See the big picture.** Get the details down so you have time to see the big picture. Understanding how projects align with and help the organization achieve its strategy is a prerequisite for many management positions.
- 4. Advance your career.** If you are already working as a project manager, earning your certification is a good way to make sure your name is among those on the short list for the next big, exciting, career-making project.
- 5. Get feedback.** Part of the certification process for IPMA Level C includes personal feedback from professional project managers on your experience and skills.
- 6. Join the community.** Business networking sites such as Xing and LinkedIn host groups that are open to certified project managers only. These are great places to join in the discussion and profit from the experience of your peers.
- 7. Gain credibility.** People are hungry for answers from experts. While there is no short cut for experience, a professional certification in project management will make you an expert in the eyes of many.
- 8. Get the recognition you deserve.** If you've been doing things right all along, why not show the world?
- 9. Show your dedication to the profession.** By getting certified, you are making a public commitment to adhere to professional standards.
- 10. Give something back.** There are many ways for credential-holders to give back to the profession and to the community at large. From disaster relief efforts to teaching the principles of project planning in schools, the opportunities are limited only by your imagination.



Mark Milotich is a founding partner of Claxus GmbH in Zurich ([www.claxus.com](http://www.claxus.com)). Claxus helps companies professionalize their leadership and project management practices. Mr. Milotich is trained as a Psychologist/Anthropologist (M.A., USA) and is certified as a Project Management Professional PMP®. He instructs leadership seminars, coaches project leaders and facilitates team development workshops for international teams.