

Project Management Update from Italy¹

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2025 Achievements and 2026 Plans of Italy's Project Management Associations

Introduction

In this first report of 2026, we examine the results achieved in 2025 by the main Project Management associations active in Italy, together with the perspectives and initiatives planned for the current year. During the past year, each organization presented its main activities and flagship events, outlining strategic initiatives aimed at fostering the development of competencies and the diffusion of professional certifications in Project Management.

Data concerning certifications issued in 2025 show an average increase about of 6.8% in the number of certified professionals. Although this represents a slowdown compared with the significant growth recorded in 2024 (+13.7%), it nevertheless confirms the continued expansion of the discipline in the Italian context. This outcome reflects the ongoing commitment of the national Project Management associations in promoting professional standards, strengthening competencies, and supporting the evolution of the profession.

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A closer look at the results achieved by each association highlights the following growth rates:

- Project Management Institute (PMI): +5.3%
- International Project Management Association (IPMA): +4.7%
- Istituto Italiano di Project Management (ISIPM): +10.3%

Overall, these figures indicate a sustained positive trajectory and underline the key role played by professional associations in encouraging education, certification pathways, and the advancement of Project Management knowledge and practices across Italy.



The Associations of Project Management Community in Italy



The Project Management Institute: Northern Italy’s Chapter (PMI-NIC)²; Central Italy’s Chapter (PMI-Central Italy)³; Southern Italy’s Chapter (PMI-SIC)⁴

The PMI Italy chapters, started this new year each of them with their own General Annual Meeting in which they resume results and show the 2025 forward activities roadmap.

PMI Northern Italy Chapter: New Leadership for the 2026–2027 Term

On January 30, the Annual General Meeting of the **PMI Northern Italy Chapter** marked a significant milestone in the Chapter’s governance, with the official appointment of the new Board for the 2026–2027 biennium.

This transition represents not only a renewal of leadership but also a reaffirmation of the Chapter’s commitment to continuity, professional excellence, and community development within the project management ecosystem.

The Chapter will be led by **Chiara Canavera**⁵ as President, supported by **Maria Cristina Barbero**⁶ as Vice President, Organization, and **Giuseppe Stefanoni**⁷ as Vice President, Treasurer. The Board is further strengthened by **Valerio Pianella** as Director, Branch Development; **Andrea Ciolini**, MBA, PMP, as Director, Communication; **Francesco Alibrandi** as Director, Membership & Volunteers; and **Davide La Valle**, PMP®, as Director, Professional Development.

Together, the newly appointed leaders bring a combination of experience, strategic perspective, and dedication to advancing the Chapter’s mission. Their mandate will focus on enhancing member value, reinforcing regional engagement, and promoting a culture of knowledge sharing and professional growth.

As the Chapter enters this new cycle, the emphasis remains on supporting a dynamic and evolving community of project management professionals, capable of responding to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The 2026–2027 term thus begins under the banner of responsibility, vision, and sustained development. A new format and a memorable leadership transition.

² <https://www.pmi.org/chapters/northern-italy>

³ <https://www.pmi-centralitaly.org/>

⁴ <https://www.pmi-sic.org/>

⁵ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chiaracanavera/>

⁶ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-cristina-barbero-b6200b5/>

⁷ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stefgius/>



PMI-NIC General Assembly 2026

Registrations Open for the 9th National Project Management Forum – PMI Italy Chapters 2026

During last February 2026, registrations were officially open for the **9th National Project Management Forum – PMI Italy Chapters 2026**, one of Italy's leading events for professionals who aim at not only to keep pace with change, but to actively drive it. The Forum will take place on June 19, 2026, at the Centro Congressi Lingotto in Turin, under the theme *“Steering the Future.”* Designed as a full day of discussion and professional exchange, the event will explore the evolving landscape of Project Management, focusing on decision-making in complex and interconnected environments, the role of leadership, and the tangible impact of project managers within organizations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the transformation of the project manager's role, from operational executor to strategic enabler, highlighting the responsibilities, choices, and direction required in today's dynamic contexts. More than a theoretical gathering, the Forum aims to foster practical dialogue, encouraging participants to reflect on real challenges, emerging practices, and forward-looking perspectives shaping the profession.

The 2026 Forum will address this challenge by exploring eight macrotrends identified by the **Project Management Institute** as critical areas of focus. The event will present real-world case studies, practical applications, and high-level testimonials designed to bridge

theory and practice. Key topics will include Artificial Intelligence, with insights into the organizational mindset required to successfully integrate and scale AI initiatives. Sustainability will be examined through the evolving role of the Project Manager, highlighting leadership responsibilities in driving long-term value. The agenda will also feature Agile approaches applied to real operational contexts, alongside perspectives on gigaprojects, showcasing experiences from initiatives exceeding one billion dollars in value. Further discussions will explore Product Management, Change Management, and the growing strategic relevance of PMO, TMO, and VMO structures in connecting transformation efforts with value creation. Attention will also be dedicated to Social Impact projects, emphasizing inclusion, skills development, and the broader contribution of Project Management to society. Adding an international dimension, the Forum will host a distinguished global speaker from PMI, reinforcing cross-border dialogue and professional exchange.

The event is jointly organized by the **PMI Northern Italy Chapter**, the **PMI Central Italy Chapter**, and the **PMI Southern Italy Chapter**, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing the Project Management community across Italy.



PMI-CIC Reflections on Project Complexity - Insights from the Sardinia Branch Event

On January 23, in Cagliari, during an event organized by the **PMI Central Italy Chapter – Sardinia Branch**, an important theme emerged around the essence of Project Management: meaningful results are achieved when visionary ideas, even the boldest ones, are transformed into structured initiatives built on clear responsibilities and collaborative effort. The discussion centered on the **Einstein Telescope**, a project whose scale and ambition perfectly illustrate the challenges of managing complexity. Beyond its scientific significance, the initiative represents a compelling case study in governance, stakeholder alignment, and long-term risk management. Several key reflections arose from the conversation. First, the critical importance of stakeholder engagement. Projects of this magnitude require shared objectives, transparent decision-making processes, and governance structures capable of balancing diverse expectations.

Second, the need to approach risk management progressively. Technical uncertainties, process-related constraints, and regulatory considerations must be addressed through staged evaluation and adaptive planning. Third, the value of a common language. Effective collaboration across science, engineering, and institutional domains depends on mutual understanding and integrated communication. The event provided not only technical insights but also a broader perspective on the societal and territorial impact of large-scale initiatives. The major event contributors were **Maurizio Boi**, **Alessandro Cardini**, and **Raffaele Marras Giorgio Todde** for skillfully moderating the discussion.

Sardinia, and **Sos Enattos**⁸ in particular, has the potential to play a pivotal role in this transformative journey. Ultimately, it is the strength of the community that will make the difference.



Picture from the Sardinia Branch Event

PMI - SIC - Insight from Branch Campania: From Growth to Leadership – Looking Ahead to 2026

For the Branch Campania of the PMI Southern Italy Chapter, 2025 marked a year of genuine evolution. It was not just about metrics, but about structural consolidation,

⁸ http://www.igeaspa.it/it/visita_guidata_alla_minie.wp

stronger coordination, and an increasing focus on quality. By year-end, the Branch reached 220 members, reflecting a vibrant and expanding professional community. This achievement highlights engagement, collaboration, and the invaluable contribution of volunteers. The year 2026 opens with a strategic leadership transition. After guiding the Branch with vision, energy, and team spirit, **Danilo D'Amato**⁹ joins the Chapter's Board. A natural progression that elevates local experience to a broader strategic level. Leadership now passes to **Ludovico Di Lemma**¹⁰, the new Branch Campania Lead. A transition grounded in continuity, stability, and organizational strength. At the same time, **Giovanni Frascadore**¹¹ assumes the role of Caserta Area Coordinator. A step that further reinforces territorial presence and proximity to the local PM community. The direction for 2026 is clear: strengthen regional areas, increase engagement, and grow as a true Branch Family. Objectives that resonate deeply with core Project Management principles: planning, collaboration, and continuous improvement. The future is not perceived as uncertainty, but as a conscious transition built with method, shared responsibility, and a forward-looking mindset. Because, as every well-managed project demonstrates, sustainable growth is rooted in solid foundations and evolving leadership.

The collective results of its Italian Chapters during 2025¹², PMI certified about 677 people. New trusted people reaching globally upper about 12.800 since 1998 (+5,3% Vs 2024).

⁹ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/danilo-d-amato-311168a0/>

¹⁰ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ludovico-di-lemma-b43122a/>

¹¹ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/giovanni-frascadore-2612b937/>

¹² Data is a courtesy of the observatory of Italian Institute of Project Management



The International Project Management Association (IPMA ITALY)¹³

Developing the Next Generation of Project Leaders: Initiatives from IPMA Young Crew

The **IPMA Young Crew**¹⁴, the global network of young professionals within the **International Project Management Association**, continues to play a significant role in promoting the development of the next generation of project management leaders. Through international initiatives and collaborative programs, the organization promotes learning opportunities, professional growth, and global engagement among young practitioners.

A recent initiative in this direction is the launch of the *Young Project Manager of the Year (YPMY) Award*¹⁵, an international recognition designed to celebrate emerging professionals who demonstrate strong leadership, innovative thinking, and a measurable contribution to organizational and societal progress. The award highlights the importance of recognizing individual impact and encourages young project managers to share their experiences, achievements, and perspectives within the broader professional community.

The YPMY Award reflects a growing awareness within the profession that the future of Project Management depends on investing in new talent and empowering young professionals to take an active role in shaping the discipline. By providing visibility and recognition, the initiative contributes to strengthening global dialogue around competence development, responsible leadership, and sustainable impact in projects and organizations.

Alongside this new recognition, the Global eCollaboration Competition (GeCCo) continues to represent one of the most dynamic initiatives promoted by IPMA Young Crew. The 2026 edition has reached a historic milestone, attracting more than 500 applications from over 60 countries and confirming the growing international interest in collaborative learning experiences focused on Project Management.

GeCCo is widely recognized as more than a case study competition. It represents a global platform where young professionals can test their analytical capabilities, develop

¹³ <https://ipma.it/ipma/>

¹⁴ https://ipma.it/ipma_/index.php/young-crew

¹⁵ <https://www.ipmagecco.com/index.php?p=home&m=home>

teamwork skills, and engage with complex project scenarios in an international and multicultural environment.

Following the closure of registrations, the competition moved into the national selection phase, during which Local Organizers across participating countries reviewed applications to identify the candidates who will represent their nations at the global level. This phase concluded on March 8, 2026, marking an important step in defining the international cohort that will proceed to the next stages of the competition.

Through initiatives such as the Young Project Manager of the Year Award and the Global eCollaboration Competition, IPMA Young Crew continues to strengthen its mission of supporting professional development, encouraging cross-border collaboration, and promoting a global mindset among emerging project management professionals.

These initiatives demonstrate how investing in young talent, fostering international dialogue, and creating opportunities for experiential learning are essential elements in shaping the future evolution of the Project Management profession.



During 2025¹⁶, in Italy, IPMA certified about 149 people (85 entry levels IPMA-D, 35 IPMA-C, 29 IPMA-B). New trusted people reaching globally 3019 since 1998 (+4,7% Vs 2024).

¹⁶ Data is a courtesy of the observatory of Italian Institute of Project Management



The Italian Institute of Project Management (ISIPM)¹⁷

Following the wave of success of last PMExpo¹⁸, the Italian Institute of Project Management is going to consolidate its major events and participations around Italy. At the moment ISIPM is implementing what was announced during last PMExpo, concerning their credentials and qualifications. It is particularly significant that, for the basic credential, attending a course of at least three days is becoming mandatory. This requirement undoubtedly ensures a higher level of preparation and awareness for those taking the exams. However, it goes somewhat disruptive against the distinctive feature that ISIPM has always set apart from others, such as accessibility to the discipline and the dissemination of its terminology, the true objective of a basic qualification. Only time will tell whether this choice will be appreciated and will bring real benefits to the development of the community.

During 2025¹⁹, ISIPM certified 2734 people (2.422 entry levels ISIPM-Base, 269 professionals ISIPM-AV and 43 ISIPM-EUMaps) New trusted people reaching globally 26.470 (+10,3% Vs 2024). Moreover, ISIPM give continuity to his historical agreement for the internationalization of project management culture in Italy, renewing for 2026 the free access to the PM World Library (PMWL)²⁰ for all ISIPM members.

¹⁷ <https://isipm.org>

¹⁸ <https://pmworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/pmwj159-Dec2025-Quagliarini-PMexpo-2025-Report-from-Italy.pdf>

¹⁹ Data is a courtesy of the observatory of Italian Institute of Project Management

²⁰ <https://pmworldlibrary.net/>

Conclusions

The data and observations presented reflect the core mission of the Italian Project Management Associations, which is to support professional growth and promote the wider adoption of the discipline throughout the country. The significant increase in the number of certified professionals in 2026 demonstrates the effectiveness of the initiatives implemented, highlighting their ability to strengthen the community and enhance the value of Project Management across different sectors.

Emerging technologies, innovation, and ongoing learning are increasingly influencing the profession's future. In this context, events, competitions, and professional forums play a crucial role in stimulating dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective development within the Project Management community.

Looking ahead to 2026, professional associations are called not only to build upon the results achieved so far but also to open new pathways to address the challenges of an evolving and complex environment. This effort will require positioning Project Management in a more strategic and interdisciplinary way, ensuring that the discipline continues to support organizations in navigating transformation and creating sustainable value.

About the Author



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Alessandro Quagliarini, MScEng, PMP, MBA, is an experienced Program Manager, with more than 18 years of experience in the ICT sector. He holds a Master's Degree in Telecommunication Engineering from the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" and a Professional Master in Business Administration from the Bologna University Business School. He got both PMP® and ISIPM-Av® advanced certifications in Project Management, and he is also certified as an Information Management Systems Lead Auditor. He is a Member of the Board of the "Italian Institute of Project Management" (ISIPM) for ten years, and he is an Accredited Teacher in Project Management.

Alessandro is presently engaged in the “Enterprise and Innovative Solutions Office” of TIM as Project Management Officer. Formerly involved in the "Digital Transformation" engineering and industrialization programs of the new Italian telecommunications network, with particular focus on the engineering of delivery and assurance processes for the provision of retail, business and industries customers, on the operational management and procurement support for the definition of specifications and contracts, on the definition of operating rules/ instructions for maintenance and of requirements for systems development, on the support to the commercial and regulatory lines for the definition of services and processes for customers (Other Licensed Operators and Industries), and on the definition and management of operations compliance with ISO Standards and International Best Practices.

As a Member of the ISIPM Board, he focuses his volunteer activities mainly on the cultural diffusion of the project management to young people – specifically to high school students and also staff, including teachers. As an ISIPM accredited teacher, he has taught project management in public and private institutions, in schools and in universities. He has experience in the organization of events and as a speaker in conferences, and also in proposing and managing EU-funded projects.

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