

## *Making a Modern Project Manager*<sup>1</sup>

### **Volunteer**<sup>2</sup>

**Yasmina Khelifi**

In 2018, I felt I needed to be involved in new activities, and I remembered the advice of my PMP instructor. I began volunteering at the PMI France chapter and never stopped. I'm now a passionate volunteer. This volunteering journey led me to write a book about volunteering and leadership with a friend who also volunteers, [Mayte Mata Sivera](#). The ideas below are taken from our book, [The Volunteering Journey to Project Leadership](#).

#### **What project volunteering is**

Project volunteering is giving your time and skills to deliver a project.

It can be face-to-face, virtual, or hybrid. You can do it in project organizations like the [Project Management Institute](#), [IPMA: International Project Management Association](#), or [Australian Institute of Project Management \(AIPM™\)](#). Or you can do it in your own workplace.

#### **Improve your leadership skills.**

When you volunteer, you'll expand your skillset. You must collaborate with people you have never met and motivate them. You have to adapt more quickly to communication styles or situations.

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: This series of articles is for Gen X, Y and Z project professionals by a real project manager. The author Yasmina Khelifi is an actual project manager with a large multinational telecom in France while also an active PM professional, authoring articles, interviews and a popular LinkedIn blog as well as a podcast with a global audience. Also active in PMI France for many years, she has been an international correspondent for the PMWJ since 2021. We are delighted that she agreed to author a series of articles based on her personal experiences over the last decade.

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## **Expand your network**

I've been working in an international environment for more than 20 years.

Through volunteering, I have been in contact with people in regions I have not worked with (like South America or Australia). Now, I have friends around the world and an incredibly diverse source of knowledge and experiences I can tap into whenever I need it.

This is more than a network – this is a strong and supportive community.

## **Experiment with new things**

I've grown exponentially as a more grounded leader, thanks to volunteering.

I've learned to design better visuals, something I would never have thought I could do because I did not get good marks in art at school.

I was able to improve my public speaking skills by speaking or hosting webinars.

I've dared to apply to present at live conferences.

I've written articles and blogs and now even a non-fiction book!

How did you become a better leader by volunteering?

## About the Author



### **Yasmina Khelifi**

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**Yasmina Khelifi**, PMP, PMI- ACP, PMI-PBA, is an experienced project manager in the telecom industry. Along with her 20-year career at [Orange S.A.](#) (the large French multinational telecommunications corporation), she sharpened her global leadership skills, delivering projects with major manufacturers and SIM makers. Yasmina strives for building collaborative bridges between people to make international projects successful. She relies on three pillars: project management skills, the languages she speaks, and a passion for sharing knowledge.

She is a PMP certification holder since 2013, a PMI- ACP and PMI-PBA certification holder since 2020. She is an active volunteer member at PMI France and PMI UAE, and a member of PMI Germany Chapter. French-native, she can speak German, English, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and she is learning Arabic. Yasmina loves sharing her knowledge and experiences at work, in her volunteers' activities at PMI, and in [projectmanagement.com](http://projectmanagement.com) as a regular blogger. She is also the host and co-founder of the podcast [Global Leaders Talk with Yasmina Khelifi](#) to help people in becoming better international leaders.

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