

MAY 2023

# IAPM MAGAZINE

Welcome to our May 2023 IAPM Magazine!

In today's world of increasingly complex and fast-changing business, effective project management is critical to the success of organisations. For some time now, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has also been in the spotlight and we are pleased that our new white paper combines the two.

In our 'Why is this important for project managers' section, we look at the personality traits of project managers and figure out why it is important to have them. In this issue, we introduce four personality traits.

As usual, you will also find an overview of all the blog posts that have appeared on the IAPM blog over the past month.

We hope you will find the content of this magazine useful and enjoy reading it.



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# AI in Project Management: Why you shouldn't do without it

At a time when Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly important, it is crucial to use it not just for its own sake, but because it brings real benefits.

Discover how AI has become an essential part of project management, offering scalability, more realistic forecasting and a co-pilot approach to complement human skills in our new white paper. The white paper examines the role of humans in project planning and execution, the best environments for using AI, and the limitations of AI in projects.

Read the full white paper: [iapm.net/en/iapm-academics/white-paper-ai-in-pm/](https://iapm.net/en/iapm-academics/white-paper-ai-in-pm/) and learn more about how AI can help overcome the biggest challenges in project management.

We would like to thank the two authors Thomas Schlereth, Managing Director of Can Do GmbH, and Michael Fenske!

## Project management terms

In April we introduced you to four project management terms:

- [Contract design](#)
- [Procurement logistic](#)
- [Supplier specification](#)
- [Matrix organisation](#)

You can find these and many more definitions in our glossary for both agile and traditional project management terms: [iapm-cert.net/documents/glossary-en/index.html](https://iapm-cert.net/documents/glossary-en/index.html)

## Published articles

### **Project manager vs. product manager: what are the differences?**

From projects to products and beyond, there's so much to manage in an organisation. You may be wondering how much the responsibilities of project managers and product managers overlap - or whether they perform completely different functions.

Before delving into the similarities and differences between project and product managers, it's important to understand the purpose of each role. Spoiler alert: they share similar skills, but have different day-to-day focuses and priorities. Working together, they can help lead organisations to success. Find out the differences and similarities in this article: [iapm.net/en/blog/project-manager-vs-product-manager](https://iapm.net/en/blog/project-manager-vs-product-manager)

### **Personal development as a project manager**

An essential part of project managers' self-organisation is their personal qualification. They need to invest time and money in their professional future. Those who further qualify as project managers increase their chances of being assigned projects and completing them successfully for the sponsoring company. Professionally trained people are the capital of any successful organisation. In order for projects to achieve their goals and for project management to be embedded in the organisation, special measures in the area of qualification and certification of project personnel are helpful. Read our article to find out what these measures are: [iapm.net/en/blog/personal-development/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/personal-development/)

### **Spark self-motivation as a project manager**

However, personal development is not the only pillar needed to become a good project manager. Self-motivation also plays an important role. As the main responsibilities of a project manager include leading a team, managing schedules and budgets, and overcoming unexpected obstacles to make the project a success, a high level of self-motivation is essential in this role. You can imagine that a self-motivated manager will achieve more than one who has to force oneself to work. A prerequisite for self-motivation is an understanding of the personal benefits of one's work. This is particularly true for the project manager, who is a role model for their team members. Therefore, the importance of self-motivation for project managers should not be underestimated. Read our article to find out how to boost self-motivation: [iapm.net/en/blog/self-motivation/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/self-motivation/)

## Published articles

### **Why a good physical condition is beneficial for project managers**

Once you have been successfully recruited as a project manager, it is important to keep an eye on yourself. As a project manager, health and wellbeing are crucial factors for optimal performance. You can increase your mental resilience by creating space for rest and actively looking after your physical resources. Eating a healthy and balanced diet, getting enough exercise and avoiding addictive substances such as alcohol and nicotine will all help. It is important to take care of yourself and not to ignore your own constitution. Find out how self-awareness can help you achieve success: [iapm.net/en/blog/physical-condition-project-manager/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/physical-condition-project-manager/)

### **Potential through delegation**

One thing newcomers to project management quickly learn is that delegation can and will be necessary in this profession. However, the classic understanding of delegation, closely associated with the Eisenhower principle, is no longer sufficient. At a time when digitalisation and increasing agility are playing an ever greater role in projects, the delegation of responsibility is becoming increasingly important. It is a key factor in unleashing the full potential of a team. Through strategic and targeted delegation, project managers can effectively manage their workload and focus on the important tasks. At the same time, it has a positive effect on the motivation and development of employees, as they are given new tasks. Want to find out how you can benefit from delegating? Check out our article: [iapm.net/en/blog/potential-through-delegation/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/potential-through-delegation/)

### **Improving teamwork through psychological safety**

Project managers may be tempted to delegate tasks to their team members that they do not want to do themselves. But this can have a negative effect on teamwork, as team members feel they are the ones who have to work on the 'bad' tasks that project managers are 'too good for'. This can undermine the competence and expertise of the team member and affect the psychological safety of the whole team. But what exactly is psychological safety? You may have noticed that some teams work together smoothly and effectively, while others struggle and fail early - even when the circumstances are similar. This is where psychological safety comes in. Read our article to find out more: [iapm.net/en/blog/psychological-safety/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/psychological-safety/)

## Published articles

### **The Waterfall model in project management**

Let's move on from people in projects to the right project management approach. Choosing the right project management approach is not always easy, as it often depends on the project, the company and the industry. One method is the Waterfall model, which is a linear process model divided into phases that are worked through sequentially to deliver a finished project. This method is well known and used in many industries. The advantages and disadvantages of this method, as well as the best use cases, can be found in our article: [iapm.net/en/blog/waterfall-model/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/waterfall-model/)

### **Scrum vs. Waterfall: Which is right for your project?**

Another popular project management approach is the Scrum framework. Both the Scrum framework and the Waterfall model are very different in their implementation, as they are suitable for different types of projects. But when is it better to use the Waterfall model and when is it better to use Scrum? Discover the differences in approach, adaptability and planning to make the best choice for your project: [iapm.net/en/blog/scrum-vs-waterfall/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/scrum-vs-waterfall/)

### **Too many tools in project management**

Whether your project is planned in an agile or traditional way, you will always need to use tools to plan, execute or document. With so many digital tools now available for project management, it is not always easy to keep track of what is available and to choose the right tool. In our article, we explore the question of whether there are too many tools: [iapm.net/en/blog/too-many-tools-in-project-management/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/too-many-tools-in-project-management/)

### **Difference between business model, business plan, business case**

From lots of tools to lots of jargon: As a project manager or team member, you're navigating a sea of jargon every day. It is not always easy to draw clear boundaries between these terms, especially when they appear with different nuances. Three commonly used and often confused terms are the business model, the business plan and the business case. Anyone involved in project management will have come across these terms. However, it is worth taking a closer look at their meaning: [iapm.net/en/blog/difference-between-business-model-plan-case/](https://iapm.net/en/blog/difference-between-business-model-plan-case/)

# PM skills - Why is ... important?

## **Why is time management important for project managers?**

Time is an intangible resource that cannot be stopped, turned back or influenced by the project manager. However, since the time factor plays a central role in the project manager's project and self-management, time management is important for him. A well-organised project manager uses the time available to him and works efficiently, i.e. he sets priorities, delegates and can also say "no" if necessary. Efficient time management ultimately helps him to protect his health and the finances of the project-supporting company.

## **Why is stress management important for project managers?**

Working in a project team is always stressful. A project manager who constantly has to deal with several issues at the same time and cannot complete his tasks will quickly and intensively become mentally exhausted, which leads to negative stress (distress). This negative stress makes people ill, and therefore the project manager must avoid it as much as possible through appropriate stress management, but in any case reduce it and become stress resistant himself.

## **Why is leadership important for project managers?**

A project manager must be able to lead his project and his project team. To do this, he needs to identify the formal leadership skills he needs for his project, and to have these skills delegated to him by senior management. As a leader in his project, he needs team members to follow him and work with him to achieve the project goal. He needs to identify the skills and potential partners required for the project, assemble his team and ensure that everyone is pulling in the same direction.

## **Why is team work important for project managers?**

Effective and highly motivated teams are a prerequisite for successful projects. Only people who enjoy and are committed to working together can translate their skills into efficient project management and outstanding results. The project manager has to be able to lead his people and make them enjoy their work, and unfortunately he cannot just rely on his gut feeling. He needs to know how to put his team together, which team-building activities are appropriate, and which leadership concepts support teamwork.

## A few final words

We hope that you have found this issue of the IAPM Magazine valuable and that it has provided you with new insights and ideas.

We wish you all a wonderful May filled with success and joy. May this month be an opportunity for you all to achieve your goals and take on new challenges.

Finally, we encourage you to take action and share your insights and ideas with others. Perhaps you would like to write a white paper and share your experiences and perspectives on a topic that is close to your heart, as well? We are sure that your contributions will be enriching and inspiring.



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Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we and the whole IAPM team enjoyed creating it!

*Linda & Janek*