

Foreword

I have been involved in IT governance research for the last 15 years, and it is quite clear to me that creating business value through IT needs proper IT project management. This book on new IT project management techniques is right on time and is a solidly research-based text that is relevant for academics and practitioners.

Traditional project management involves very disciplined and deliberate planning and control methods. It assumes that the events that are affecting the project are predictable and the tools and activities are well understood. However, today, business processes are more complex than ever before. For projects involving a significant software component, traditional project management can be somewhat ineffective since the requirements are volatile and subject to change.

Modern techniques are increasingly used in IT project management. Project management professions need to manage IT projects in a dynamic environment. Therefore, there is a need for researchers and practitioners to understand how modern techniques for successful IT project management, such as agile project management, IT project alignment, and SOA governance, to mention only a few, can be used in achieving a successful IT project management.

The purpose of this book is to examine how modern techniques influence IT project management. In this direction, the book covers a wide range of relevant topics and examines issues ranging from strategic project management to agile project management, from IT project governance to IT project alignment, from case studies in Europe to case studies in Brazil.

The authors have accomplished the objective of this book and have provided an appropriate theoretical perspective, have employed sound analytic and research methodologies, and translated their results into practical advice. The book captures the current state of knowledge in IT project management, as each chapter begins with a review of the past and relevant research. Moreover, the book provides useful insights to scholars, users, and also practitioners who desire to understand the role of modern techniques in successfully managing IT projects.

An important feature of this book is also the scope. The authors have employed in their studies multiple research methods (e.g., case studies, surveys, experiments, etc.) and have collected their data in multiple countries (e.g., Sweden, Norway, Brazil, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, and USA) with the purpose of examining important fields of IT project management like:

- Agile project management
- Project success
- Project management methodologies
- IT project governance

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- Project controlling practices
- Project lifecycle management
- Modeling approach for IT project management
- Managing IT outsourced projects
- Coordination of IT projects
- Theories used in IT project management
- Pedagogical issues on modern techniques for IT project management

Through careful examinations of such diverse topics in IT project management, the editors of the book have looked to draw the attention of the reader to the importance of modern techniques used today in successful IT project management in different environments across the world.

In summary, I wish to congratulate the book editors, Shang Gao and Lazar Rusu, for this collection that makes an important contribution to both research and practice on modern techniques for IT project management.

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