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Editorial

It is our great pleasure to bring you the third number of the IJISPM - International Journal of Information Systems and Project Management. The mission of the IJISPM is the dissemination of new scientific knowledge on information systems management and project management, encouraging further progress in theory and practice.

In this issue, readers will find important contributions on project management tools and practices for improving project performance.

As Robert Pellerin, Nathalie Perrier, Xavier Guillot and Pierre-Majorique Léger state in their article “Project characteristics, project management software utilization and project performance: An impact analysis based on real project data”, project management software packages are increasingly used by companies. These tools require a substantial financial investment, hence the importance of identifying the real contribution of project management software packages to the realization of projects. However, studies on the impacts of software packages on the performance of engineering project management are rare and mostly based on perceptions. The objective of the first article of the present edition of IJISPM is to investigate, from real project data, the level of utilization of a project management software package and its link with project performance and project characteristics. Results stemming from non-parametric tests and correlation analyses show that the level of use of the software, and some of its subsystems, appears to be linked to project performance. Project duration also seems to be the most critical project characteristic.

The second article “Scorecard and KPIs for monitoring software factories effectiveness in the financial sector” is co-authored by Vicente Rodríguez Montequín, César Álvarez Pérez, Francisco Ortega Fernández and Joaquín Villanueva Balsera. Although financial corporations have always paid a special interest to investing in management and organizational policies to improve their efficiency, there have been always an important lack regarding to the control and monitoring of the software projects. They do not have suitable tools for monitoring actual process effectiveness. Adapting scorecards to this environment could be a useful tool for monitoring and improvement the process. Scorecard could here be used both as a tool for internal effectiveness measurement as well as externally, presenting sustainability indicators for the shareholders. In this article, the authors identify and define a collection of Key Performance Indicators which permit effectiveness to be improved under this context, focusing in the specific supply-chain model given by owner (financial group), software factory and software developers.

Mum effect is a situation when one or more project stakeholders decide to withhold critical information for particular reasons. In software project where most of the production is intangible, the seriousness of this challenge increases exponentially. There have been reports indicating that mum effect can surface during any phase of development and ultimately lead to disaster in software projects. Mum effect can be influenced by several factors such as organizational and national cultures. Sakgasit Ramingwong and Lachana Ramingwong, in their paper “A tale behind Mum Effect”, investigate potential mum effect scenarios and reveal specific reasons which induce this challenge among information technology practitioners.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the distinguished members of the Editorial Board, for their commitment and for sharing their knowledge and experience in supporting the IJISPM.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who submitted their work, for their insightful visions and valuable contributions.

We hope that you, the readers, find the International Journal of Information Systems and Project Management an interesting and valuable source of information for your continued work.



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