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Dear Chapter Members,

As 2024 comes to an end, we look back on a year of meaningful connections and growth. From promoting events in Vaasa and hosting our Annual Conference to representing our chapter at the PMI Europe Presidents Meeting in Cyprus, this year brought more face-to-face activities and stronger member engagement.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a fantastic start to 2025!

Sincerely,
PMI Finland Chapter Board
PMI Finland Chapter Volunteer

Annual Conference 2024



Reflections and Highlights



It feels like just yesterday when we kicked off planning for the Annual Conference 2024. What began in April as a member survey to find out which topics were top of mind quickly evolved into a full-scale project driven by passion and collaboration. Our amazing volunteers and board members joined forces, brainstorming ideas that aligned with the current and future needs of project management professionals. From those conversations, the theme 'Embracing Curiosity' was born, a theme that perfectly captured the spirit of exploration and growth we wanted to share.

With the theme set, we shifted our focus to finding the perfect venue, one that would be easy to access and leave a lasting impression on our attendees. By May, we had locked in the location and started reaching out to potential speakers who could bring the theme to life with their unique expertise and engaging stories. From there, the excitement only grew as we ramped up our marketing, building anticipation and connecting with participants across the community.

As the conference date drew near, you could feel the excitement in the air. Our team was buzzing with energy and hope, ready to welcome attendees and ensure they had an unforgettable experience. We wanted every participant to walk away inspired, with new ideas, meaningful connections, and a renewed passion for their work.

Looking back, we are filled with gratitude. To our incredible speakers, who shared their knowledge and sparked thought-provoking conversations; to our dedicated volunteers, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes; and to our enthusiastic attendees, who brought the conference to life, thank you. The Annual Conference 2024 was more than

just an event; it was a celebration of what makes project management a dynamic and ever-evolving field.



This year we welcomed 59 participants to the Annual Conference 2024, where they experienced insights from 8 distinguished speakers representing 7 companies. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 38 attendees sharing their thoughts and giving an impressive overall event rating of 4.5 out of 5.0. These numbers are a testament to the hard work and dedication that went into organizing the event, and they motivate us to continue creating experiences that foster learning, connection, and growth.

A Director's Perspective

To give an inside look at the journey behind the scenes, we asked Donna Bernabe our Director of Events, to share her experience leading the organization of this remarkable conference. Here's what she had to say:



At first, planning the annual conference felt a bit daunting. As an NGO, the financial side always loomed large, and I found myself weighing potential rewards against the risks every step of the way. Adding to the challenge, I was new to Finland, navigating a different culture and trying to establish connections from scratch. Although I'm used to networking, being new in the country made it feel somehow different. It was a learning curve, but I was determined to make it work.

Leadership often involves stepping out of our comfort zones, and this experience was no different. I rolled up my sleeves and started networking, reaching out to various contacts to find potential speakers. It wasn't always easy, but I enjoyed the process of connecting with people who shared our vision. I was incredibly fortunate to have a supportive team by my side, their belief in me and our mission, along with their commitment to meeting deadlines, were invaluable. I want to thank my fellow board members, our partners, and everyone who has been helping out the team. I've learned that great leaders empower their teams, and I like to implement this in my own leadership approach, trusting my team to take ownership of their roles. Their hard work gave me the confidence that we could pull this off.

When the day of the conference arrived, I felt a mix of excitement and nerves. As I greeted attendees, I was overwhelmed by the positive energy in the room. It was so rewarding to see our hard work come to life. Leadership is about creating an environment where everyone feels valued and inspired to contribute, and I felt that spirit among us. The moment I started receiving congratulations from members was truly special. Many expressed their happiness with how everything turned out, and I couldn't help but feel proud of what we had achieved together. Overall, the event was a success, and it reaffirmed my belief that with the right team, determination, and a willingness to embrace challenges, we

can overcome anything. Leadership is not just about the end result, it's about the journey and the relationships we build along the way.



Looking ahead to next year's conference, I hope to see each one of you there again. It would be incredible to have everyone—our entire community—united and together once more, building on the energy we created this year. Let's continue making a difference, side by side.

Now, moving forward, let's explore the impactful presentations that defined the Annual Conference 2024.

Speakers and Their Presentations

1. Frank Turley (OMIMO): The Transformative Role of Custodians in Project Management



We were honored to have Frank Turley, an accomplished project management author, speaker, and adviser with over 16 years of experience, as the keynote speaker.

Frank's dedication to transforming how the world learns and practices project management was evident in his presentation.

Frank explored a unique concept that goes beyond traditional project risk management. While most resources focus on the "risk owner," a team member responsible for tracking risks until they are resolved, Frank introduced the broader concept of "custodians" as used in P3.express, an open and minimalist project management system. He explained how this approach assigns custodians to follow up on various project elements, including risks, issues, lessons, and even deliverables, which has proven effective in projects worldwide. The method can be easily adapted to any project management framework, addressing key follow-up challenges and ensuring accountability.

Throughout his presentation, Frank detailed how custodians contribute to more thorough oversight and highlighted the benefits of this approach, such as improved project follow-up and efficiency. He also shared practical tips for integrating custodians into any project management practice.

2. Mari-Ella Juhola & Maria Könkkölä (Wärtsilä): Curious Catalysts: PMO's Role in Empowering Agile Evolution at Wartsila



Mari-Ella and Maria shared their insights on the evolving role of the Project Management Office (PMO) in fostering an agile culture within an organization. Mari-Ella, the Head of Development Management Office at Wärtsilä Information Management, has been at the forefront of the company's Agile



transformation, driven by her passion for leadership, agile methodologies, and emerging technologies.

Maria, a Project Manager, Agile Coach, and Founder of the Virtual Agile Coaching Network at Wärtsilä, brings relentless curiosity and a collaborative spirit to her work, inspiring others to

thrive and succeed.

Their session explored the transformative journey of Wärtsilä's PMO and how embracing curiosity enables project managers and the PMO to not only adapt to change but lead it. In a world where change is the only constant, they shared practical insights on how to stay relevant and champion agile transformation from the ground up. The presentation emphasized the PMO's vital role in fostering an environment where agility thrives and project teams can drive sustainable change.

3. Milla Ranta (Millainen Consulting): Co-creating Project Success



Milla is a change professional, coach, and project management developer with extensive expertise spanning various industries and sectors. Milla is known for providing lean, sustainable, and people-first solutions in project management development, with a value-driven focus on AI integration and PMO. Her approach emphasizes customer value and well-being,

positioning her as a strategic partner for long-term success.

Milla's presentation, explored the collaborative nature of achieving project goals. She began by explaining how project success is inherently a group effort, driven by the combined skills and dedication of diverse teams. While defining "success" as reaching

the project's set goals may seem straightforward, she highlighted the complexity introduced by a rapidly transforming environment.



Milla discussed the essential competencies that project teams must develop to adapt and thrive in such an environment. Her session emphasized the need for a co-creative approach where project groups work together effectively, leveraging varied strengths to navigate shifting objectives and achieve sustainable success.

4. Niklas Mannfolk (Huawei): Navigating the Maze: The Complexities of Regulating AI



Niklas, the Public Affairs and Communications Director of Huawei Finland brought his extensive experience in the tech industry and background as a Special Adviser to the Minister of Justice to the stage. With a keen understanding of the intersection between technology, regulation, and societal impact, Niklas provided valuable insights into the complexities of regulating AI. His focus on the opportunities that

technology presents for improving societies added depth to the conversation.

Niklas's session was deeply informative and addressed the challenges that come with the fast-paced advancements in AI. He discussed key strategies for project managers to navigate the complex and evolving AI landscape, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning to stay updated with technological changes. Niklas also highlighted the role of cross-functional teams in ensuring successful project outcomes, as well as the need to develop robust governance frameworks to maintain ethical compliance and accountability in AI projects.

His session provided practical insights on how to approach AI integration in projects responsibly, balancing innovation with regulation to achieve sustainable progress.

5. Victor Brück (Nordea): The Value and Necessity of Diversity and Inclusion

Victor, Diversity and Inclusion Expert at Nordea, brought his wealth of experience in HR, marketing, and employer branding to the conference. In his current role, Victor is passionate about making Nordea a more inclusive and diverse organization for both employees and customers. His commitment to driving meaningful change has also led him to study the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals in the banking industry, aiming to create impactful transformations within the industry and society at large.



Victor's session provided valuable strategies for fostering inclusive environments in project management. He emphasized the importance of embracing diverse perspectives, promoting continuous learning, and challenging entrenched habits to enhance communication and shared responsibility within teams. His presentation highlighted the pivotal role leaders play in

driving team performance, ensuring psychological safety, and improving decision-making through inclusive practices.

Victor's insights reinforced the idea that true progress in project management stems from valuing diversity and cultivating a culture where everyone's voice contributes to collective success.

6. Edward Lundholm (Data Center Company): Sustainable Data Centres



Edward, an international construction director with extensive experience across various asset classes and a data centre specialist, brought his unique insights to the stage. With a career that has spanned over 20 countries, Edward has become a leading advocate for sustainable practices and renewable energy use in the data centre industry.

In his presentation on sustainable data centres, Edward discussed the significant power consumption of data centres and outlined key strategies to reduce their environmental impact, particularly in the Nordics. He provided an overview of what data centres (DCs) are and explored why AI-driven operations consume vast amounts of power. Edward examined the origins of this power, delved into efficiency metrics like Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE), and explained the importance of green building practices, including the pros and cons of pursuing LEED Certification.

Subtopics in Edward's session included discussions on enhancing efficiency through advanced cooling methods, such as liquid cooling, and the integration of renewable energy sources to offset carbon footprints. He also highlighted emerging technologies,

such as Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) and power cogeneration, as potential solutions for future sustainability.



Edward concluded his session by emphasizing that Nordic data centres are at the forefront of pioneering sustainable technologies. He underscored the need for continuous innovation and the adoption of cutting-edge solutions to manage growing IT energy demands without sacrificing environmental responsibility.

7. Taru Weckroth (Midagon Finland): Global ERP Implementation - Success and Struggles at Vaisala

Taru, a seasoned business and technology transformation leader with over 20 years of experience. Specializing in M&A integration and complex change initiatives, Taru has deep expertise in ERP technologies, data management, and analytics. Her approach to project management is results-focused, emphasizing respect, clear communication, and strategic prioritization.



In her session, Taru recounted the two-year journey of implementing a new ERP solution across all of Vaisala's global business entities. The project, which went live in early 2024, was marked by significant challenges as the team navigated complex business requirements and high-quality expectations. Despite these obstacles, the project team achieved success through strong team spirit, coordination, and

transparent communication among all stakeholders.

Taru highlighted the importance of setting realistic priorities and effectively balancing time, resources, and quality to optimize productivity. She stressed the need for flexibility in project schedules to safeguard quality and maintain the well-being of the team. Early prioritization of critical functionalities and adapting plans based on feedback and evolving project requirements were central to her approach.

Her session provided valuable lessons, from fostering clear communication across teams to leveraging cross-functional collaboration for better decision-making and higher project success rates.

Recognizing Excellence: The 2024 Awards Ceremony

A key highlight of the Annual Conference 2024 was the awards ceremony, where exceptional contributions to the project management community were celebrated. The

awards were presented by Donna Bernabe, acknowledging the dedication and impactful work of organizations that have significantly contributed to advancing the field.



The **Appreciation Award** was given to **Wärtsilä**, with **Mari-Ella** and **Maria** accepting the honor on behalf of their team. This award recognized Wärtsilä's efforts in fostering innovation and leadership within the project management sphere.



The **Outstanding Partnership Award** was presented to **III**, represented by **Ilona Kajava** and **Inna Halminen**. This award highlighted III's exemplary collaboration and ongoing commitment to supporting the project management community.



The **Exceptional Support Award** went to **Innovategy**, accepted by **Sina Ghazi**, in recognition of their unwavering support and significant contributions to the success of various PMI Finland initiatives.



The Heart of the Conference: Our Volunteers

Behind the success of the Annual Conference 2024 was a dedicated team of volunteers whose tireless efforts brought the event to life. These volunteers played a crucial role in every stage, from the initial planning and logistics to ensuring seamless operations on the event day.



PMI Finland Chapter Volunteers

- LUIS OBANA**
PROJECT MANAGER
- ANDRII BERZIN**
CONFERENCE PROJECT LEAD
- VIPUL AGRAWAL**
MARKETING PROJECT LEAD
- MONIKA BALODE**
SPEAKER ACQUISITION PROJECT LEAD
- MARINA BERZINA**
PHOTOGRAPHER
- JOUKO VASKIMO**
PHOTOGRAPHER

Project Management Institute, Finland

Special thanks go to **Luis Obana**, the Project Manager, whose leadership kept the entire event on track; **Andrii Berzin**, the Conference Project Lead, who oversaw the coordination and ensured every detail was attended to; **Vipul Agrawal**, the Marketing Project Lead, who drove awareness and excitement for the event; and **Monika Balode**, the Speaker Acquisition Project Lead, whose efforts brought an impressive lineup of speakers to the stage.

Capturing the highlights and memories of the day were our talented photographers, **Marina Berzina** and **Jouko Vaskimo**, whose keen eyes preserved the moments that made the event special.



The volunteers' attention to detail and proactive approach made all the difference in delivering a memorable experience for everyone involved. Whether it was managing registration, assisting with technical needs, or fostering a friendly environment for networking, their contributions were the backbone of the conference's success.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each volunteer who dedicated their time and energy to making this event a reality. Their teamwork, enthusiasm, and problem-solving spirit exemplify the very essence of project management and the strength of the PMI Finland community.

Closing Remarks

Reflecting on the Annual Conference 2024, the most rewarding part was seeing the smiles, hearing the feedback, and knowing that we made a positive impact. The experience was not just motivating but deeply inspiring. Thank you, all.

Looking ahead, we are excited to tell you that planning for next year's conference has already begun. Our team is developing new concepts, refining ideas, and identifying speakers to ensure an even more impactful event. We have taken note of the valuable feedback received and will use it to improve and elevate the conference experience for next year.

Until then, continue to embrace curiosity, enjoy the winter, stay warm, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Cheers,



Vipul Agrawal
MEng/MSc – Construction Management
Marketing Lead
PMI Finland

PMI Europe Presidents Meeting



November 2024 – Cyprus

During the weekend 08/11 to 10/11, more than 40 presidents gathered for a series of workshops, enriching discussions, and moments of relaxation. The event focused on common concerns, challenges, and shared experiences at the European level. This meeting demonstrated the common commitment to innovate, share, and strengthen the links between the PMI chapters in Europe to maximize the success of projects.



Nordic Chapter Presidents

From left to right:

- Brianna Breen Galatius – PMI Denmark Chapter
- Katarina Strömberg – PMI Sweden Chapter
- Alae Oubella – PMI Finland Chapter
- Merete Munch Lange – PMI Norway Chapter



The 2 days meeting included many presentations, workshops and panel discussions around different relevant topics for PMI and the European chapters. Some of the discussed subjects were Single Membership, Volunteer Engagement,

Here is a summary of the key themes:

1. PMI: Next - Europe Region 2025 Strategy priorities:



- **Expand the PMI brand awareness**
- **Activate the Flywheel:** By enabling collaboration across different components and having more representatives from different institutions including government officials and students.
- **Strengthen the Offerings:**
 - Integration of AI (PMixAI).
 - Single membership model.
 - Focus on the construction area with scalable product development.
 - PMO (Project Management Office).

You can learn more about the PMI strategy in the following link: [PMINext - Overview PDF v2](#)

2. Collaboration Strategies for PMOGA Hubs and Chapters:

PMOGA is the PMI's Community of PMO professionals, it is a global hub, connecting PMOs and PMO professionals to foster an environment where meaningful experiences, innovative ideas, valuable knowledge, and effective solutions from every corner of the world resonate on a global scale. In 2024, it has become part of PMI and therefore some integration action have been initiated:





- **Co-Hosting Events:** Joint workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- **Sharing Knowledge and Expertise:** Best practices, industry insights, joint webinars, and shared resources.
- **Cross-Promotion:** Promoting each other's events and initiatives.
- **Mutual Support:** Administrative assistance, mentorship, and shared tools.
- **Advocacy and Representation:** Joint advocacy initiatives and participation in forums.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Organizing networking events and creating joint platforms.
- **More info:** [PMO Global Alliance](#)

Other Initiatives and Strategic Directions for PMI

1. Unified Website Platform:

- PMI is planning to launch a unified website platform, potentially by 2025, with full operational capabilities expected by 2026. This platform aims to streamline user experience and integrate various PMI services.

2. Integrating Hours for Impact:



- In support of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Hours for Impact program offers a way to volunteer project management activities towards projects that help to better people's lives and improve the world we live in, now and in the future. A new methodology will be introduced to

better integrate hours for impact, enhancing the social contributions of PMI members.

3. Social Impact Initiatives:

- PMI continues to emphasize social impact through various initiatives, including the work of PMWB (Project Management Without Borders that partners Project Managers with extraordinary not for profit organizations to affect change and empower communities worldwide). Additionally, a toolkit for NGOs will be developed to support their project management needs.
- [Making an Impact in Project Management | PMWB joins PMI](#)

4. Green Project Management Partnership:

PMI is partnering with Green Project Management to promote sustainable practices.

[Project Management®](#)



[Green](#)

This meeting was a unique opportunity to exchange varied points of view, enriched by the cultural specificities and approaches of each country from North to South and from West to East of Europe; and always with **PMI purpose** in mind to **Maximize Project Success to Elevate our World**.

PURPOSE:
Why We Exist

We maximize project success to elevate our world

Integrating Sustainability: Insights from Wärtsilä and ABB



Approaches to a Zero-Carbon Future

This year we organised an event at **Wärtsilä's Sustainable Technology Hub** to inspire professionals to think differently about sustainability in IT and project management. The day brought together passionate individuals to explore how these fields intersect, with actionable strategies and fresh ideas taking center stage.



The event kicked off with **Rosalind Buckenham (Wärtsilä)**, who set the tone with her insights on the critical role of technology in building a sustainable future. Her expertise on sustainability in IT sparked thought-provoking discussions and laid the foundation for the day. Next up, **Martta Mustonen** took us on an insightful journey through ESG pillars, showing how environmental, social, and governance factors are woven into Wärtsilä's strategic decisions.

The momentum continued with **Nina Voorsluis**, who shared Wärtsilä's innovative approach to ICT sustainability. She highlighted the practical steps Wärtsilä is taking to integrate sustainability into vendor selection, showing how these actions can deliver real, impactful results. **Sanna-Mari Kaakinen** from **ABB** followed with an inspiring talk about ABB's sustainability journey, from achieving ISO 50001 certification to reaching zero-waste-to-landfill status. Her deep dive into ABB's "Zero" mission and Smart Power Strategy encouraged everyone to rethink their approach to sustainable practices.

The day wrapped up with a factory tour that truly brought everything full circle. **Johan Strömfors** guided us behind the scenes at Wärtsilä's operations. From manufacturing to the smallest operational details, the tour demonstrated their commitment to sustainability in action.

Demystifying Agile: A Transformative Session with Keith Wilson



Scrum, Kanban, SAFe, and More

On a snowy November afternoon, as Helsinki experienced its first snowfall of the season, we gathered at WTC Helsinki for a truly enlightening session on Agile methodologies. Facilitated by the renowned **Keith Erik Wilson**, an international consultant, trainer, and coach with over 30 years of experience, the event brought clarity to often-confusing Agile concepts like **Scrum, Kanban, SAFe, and PMI Disciplined Agile**.

Keith's dynamic presentation gave participants an in-depth understanding of Agile methods and practices, equipping them with tools and techniques to enhance their working methods (WoW). From explaining the benefits of Agile in project management to detailing the different Agile certifications available, Keith's session left no stone unturned. His ability to demystify complex topics and present practical insights made the event highly engaging and valuable for all attendees.



Thank you, **International Institute for Learning (IIL)**, for collaborating with us to make this event possible.