



PMI FINLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

July 2026

In this issue • AGM 2026 • A Year of Growth



PMI Finland Annual Conference 2026

FUTURE-FIT
PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Practical perspectives on leadership,
delivery, and change

Thursday,
8 October 2026

8:30–16:45

Radisson Blu Seaside
Hotel, Helsinki

 Project
Management
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Finland

Save the date — Annual Conference 2026 • pmi-fi.org/2026-annual-conference ↓

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From the Board

A message from the Director of Communications

Dear PMI Finland Chapter members,

What a year it has been. As we move through the first half of 2026, this edition looks back on a 2025 of steady growth and forward to an ambitious year ahead — formally set in motion at our Annual General Meeting on 19 March 2026.

The headline is encouraging: we closed 2025 with **477 members**, **17 events**, **26.5 PDUs** delivered, and **23 active volunteers** powering the chapter. Behind those numbers is a community that keeps showing up for one another.

This issue also marks a leadership milestone. At the AGM, members ratified the **Board of Directors for 2026** and approved our 2025 financials, 2026 plan and budget. You will find the highlights inside, alongside a look at the **Single Membership Model** now reshaping how membership works across Finland.

Threaded through everything is one theme: **the changing role of project leadership in the age of AI**. Our feature this issue, contributed by Dr. Minnu Helen Joseph of LUT University, cuts past the hype — and our **AI in Project Management — Global Voices** initiative invites you to add your own practitioner voice to it.

Thank you for being part of this chapter. Read on to see what we built together, and where we are headed next.

Warm regards,
Nurkhat Ibadildin
Director of Communications
PMI Finland Chapter Board

Annual General Meeting 2026

Reports, decisions and a new Board

The PMI Finland Annual General Meeting 2026 was held as a live meeting on **19 March 2026**, chaired by Sergio Barrak, with Tam Abaku as secretary and Angelica Janson and Christian Gutsche as inspectors of minutes. The meeting reviewed the 2025 financials and annual report, approved the 2026 plan and budget, and elected chapter leadership for the year ahead [1].

2025 financials. Members reviewed and approved the 2025 financial statements and annual report. The year closed with a modest, planned operating deficit, reflecting deliberate reinvestment into member events and services. The 2025 books were audited on 21 February 2026 by Adrian Micu, Bernhard Mair and Alae Oubella, who found no indications of negligence; members confirmed the financial statement and released the board from liability.

The 2026 Board of Directors. Six board positions were open; seven valid applications were received and ratified by electronic vote (21–25 January 2026):

- **Sergio Barrak** — President
- **Tam Abaku** — Secretary & Governance
- **Cinthia Barrientos** — Director of Finance / Treasurer
- **Omar Uppal** — Director of Volunteers & Membership
- **Jari Anttila** — Director of Events & Sponsorship (**interim**)
- **Nurkhat Ibadildin** — Director of Communications
- **Elnaz Dehghani** — Director of Outreach (Academic)
- **Ceyda Üner** — Director of Outreach (Social Impact)
- **Joel Cardenas** — Director of Special Projects

The 2026 auditors are Christian Gutsche and Mari Ventus, with Angelica Jansson as deputy auditor.

Following the AGM, Helena Vilhelmsberg stepped down from the board, and **Jari Anttila** was appointed **interim Director of Events & Sponsorship** — see the introductions overleaf.

i 2026 Annual Plan — key objectives

Membership **growth and retention**, deeper **member engagement**, and more **networking**. Planned activities include two new in-person events, a student–industry **mentoring programme**, expanded **university partnerships**, AI-in-PM workshops, FRESK climate workshops, UN-SDG sustainability newsletters, a **PMP study group**, and first steps toward a chapter branch.

Meet the Team

New faces on the board and in our project community

We're pleased to introduce the two people leading our flagship event this year: together, **Jari Anttila** and **Svitlana Zanoza** are organising the **Annual Conference 2026**, with Jari at the helm as interim Director of Events & Sponsorship and Svitlana driving delivery as conference project manager.



Jari Anttila

Interim Director of Events & Sponsorship

Strategy and AI-enabled execution consultant and founder of **Anttila Consulting** ("Go Beyond Vision"). With nearly 20 years across IT projects of every size, Jari is a confident communicator who engages stakeholders from CxOs to technical specialists, consistently spotting and clearing critical roadblocks to keep delivery on track. He holds an MBA, MSc and PMP, and is a DBA doctoral candidate at TBS Education. His expertise spans leading complex ICT projects; adaptive, hybrid and predictive delivery; public and private cloud (Azure, GCP, VMware); identity and access management; ERP; and Microsoft 365 — across insurance, hospitality and healthcare, and telecommunications. In his interim board role, Jari is leading the organisation of the chapter's **Annual Conference 2026**.

ICT Project Management

Agile PM

Cloud Infrastructure

Office 365

IT Consulting



Svitlana Zanoza

Conference Project Manager

A PMP-certified Project Manager with a PhD in Bioorganic Chemistry, Svitlana leads technical implementation, product rollout and data-migration projects at **Maya Consulting Oy** (Espoo). She runs multiple projects in parallel across Agile, Waterfall, fixed-price and T&M models, working closely with business stakeholders, technical teams and vendors. Her analytical background helps her structure complex delivery, clarify requirements, and keep projects moving from planning through go-live and post-go-live support. As **conference project manager**, she is driving the planning and delivery of the **Annual Conference 2026** alongside Jari Anttila.

Project Management

Agile

Waterfall

Data Migration

Stakeholder Management

✓ A warm welcome

We thank **Helena Vilhelmsberg** for her service on the board, and we look forward to the energy and experience Jari and Svitlana bring as they lead the **Annual Conference 2026** and our wider events programme.

The Year in Figures

2025 at a glance

17

Events

26.5

PDUs delivered

477

Members (Dec 2025)

23

Active volunteers

404

Certified members

5,462

pmi-fi.org engaged users

4,235

LinkedIn followers

+25%

LinkedIn growth in 2025

Digital reach doubled. Engaged users on pmi-fi.org rose from 2,623 in 2023 to **5,462 in 2025**, while our LinkedIn community grew by roughly 1,000 followers (about **25%**) over the year, reaching 4,235 by March 2026.

Certifications. By December 2025 the chapter counted **404 certified members** — a strong base of credentialed practitioners across Finland.

On the global stage. PMI Finland was represented by Joel Cárdenas at the **PMI Global Summit 2025** in Phoenix, Arizona, where PMI unveiled the **PMBOK® Guide, Eighth Edition**, a refreshed **PMP® exam** (July 2026) and an expansion of **PMI Infinity™** AI features — his first-hand report appears next in this issue [2]. The chapter also took part in the PMI Leadership Institute regional meeting in Barcelona (3–6 April 2025).

PMI Global Summit 2025

A first-hand report from Phoenix, Arizona

By Joel Cárdenas — Director of Special Projects · Phoenix, Arizona, 12–15 November 2025 [2]

In November, our Director of Special Projects represented PMI Finland at the **PMI Global Summit 2025** — PMI's flagship global gathering. His one-line verdict captures it well: **Learn — Connect — Explore**.

The scale was striking: **5,000+ attendees** (against roughly 900 at the European event), **120+ educational sessions** and three keynote speakers, with participants from North and Latin America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and APAC — and, as Joel put it, unmatched networking energy.

Day by day. The Summit opened with a global Welcome Reception and an exclusive screening of the *TIME Solutionaries* documentary. Day two brought PMI's major announcements, a keynote from Kim Scott and the PMI Awards celebration. Day three featured Damian Kulash on creativity, a buzzing exhibit hall, and the PMIEF Gala and Young Professionals meet-up. Day four closed with an inspiring finale keynote from Chef José Andrés.

Keynote takeaways.

- **Kim Scott — Radical Candor:** pair direct feedback with genuine care; better meetings lead to better decisions.
- **Damian Kulash — creativity & leadership:** constraints fuel innovation, and creativity is itself a project-leadership skill.
- **Chef José Andrés — human-centred impact:** lead with action, because growth begins at the edge of your comfort zone.

Looking ahead. PMI announced that **Global Summit 2026 heads to Detroit**, complemented by Series events in **Seoul, Cape Town** and a European edition — opening fresh opportunities for global engagement. (The European event, first announced for Dubai, was later relocated to **Lisbon**; see the next page.)

Opportunities for our chapter

Joel's report flags several openings: approaching **sponsors** for collaboration, enhancing the **PMI Infinity™** tool within our AI-in-PM initiative, building **LATAM university** partnerships, scouting **speakers and collaborations**, and **representing Finland in Detroit 2026**.

PMI Finland on the Global Stage

Lisbon — representing Finland at the Europe LIM 2026

PMI Europe Leadership Institute Meeting. PMI Finland was represented at the **PMI Europe Leadership Institute Meeting** in Lisbon (30 April – 3 May 2026) by board members **Omar Uppal**, **Elnaz Dehghani** and **Tam Abaku** [3]. The meeting ran alongside **PMI Global Summit Series Lisbon 2026** (29–30 April) and — first announced for Dubai before relocating to Portugal — brought Europe's chapter leaders together around PMI's **M.O.R.E.** leadership framework.

Following our participation in the Barcelona LIM the year before, the Lisbon meeting further deepened PMI Finland's ties across the European chapter community. Our delegates returned with fresh ideas for events, a mentoring programme and cross-chapter collaboration — input that feeds directly into the 2026 plan.

Why it matters

The contacts, insights and emerging-practice themes our delegates brought back from Lisbon feed directly into our events programme, our **AI in Project Management** initiative and our university partnerships.

Beyond the Hype: Redefining Project Leadership in the Age of AI

By Dr. Minnu Helen Joseph — Post-Doctoral Researcher, Industrial Engineering and Management, LUT University [4]

Every project leader knows the sinking feeling of a deadline slipping or a hidden risk surfacing late. AI is starting to change that picture — surfacing issues before they happen, automating reporting, forecasting overruns and supporting resource decisions. At Bechtel, AI-driven logistics reportedly cut delays by around **15%**, and in Finland the AI Championship programme gave smaller companies a way to test where AI genuinely helps.

But the promise is not the same as the payoff. Studies cited in the article suggest roughly **80%** of AI initiatives fall short of expectations, and some reports put the share of generative-AI pilots failing to show measurable ROI as high as **90%**. The obstacles are rarely only technical: unclear goals, fragmented data, weak integration into existing processes, and unresolved questions of bias and transparency all play a part.

For project leaders, the role itself is shifting. Where the job once centred on tracking tasks, managing risk and reporting progress, AI frees leaders to focus on direction, strategy alignment and foresight. Success is increasingly judged not by efficiency alone but by **resilience, adaptability and stakeholder trust**.

That raises hard questions. Who is accountable when an AI mis-predicts a risk or skews resource allocation? The real skill, the article argues, is **trust calibration** — knowing when to rely on AI, when to challenge it, and when to step in.

The conclusion is reassuring and demanding at once: this is **redefinition, not replacement**. AI handles the routine; humans set vision, build trust and navigate complexity. The leaders who thrive will treat AI not as a gadget but as a partner in foresight and decision-making.

AI in Project Management

Global Voices — from research to practice (Phase 3)

The chapter's AI in Project Management Research Initiative — led by **Joel Cárdenas**, our Director of Special Projects — has entered a new phase. After a global survey and two analytical articles, **Phase 3 — Global Voices** shifts from research to practice: collecting and synthesising real, practitioner-driven AI use cases to understand what works, what doesn't, and why [5].

The guiding question is deliberately local and global at once — *what does AI in project management look like in Helsinki? In Beirut? In Milan? In Zurich? In Sofia? In São Paulo?*

How it works. Contributors share one or two short use cases through a lightweight template (about 10–15 minutes each). PMI Finland and Norway are already participating, with Bulgaria, Sweden and Denmark engaged alongside individual expert contributors. The outcome — practical insights and key lessons — is targeted for a **PMI insight report in H1 2026**.

Have you used AI on a real project?

Members with hands-on AI experience are warmly invited to contribute a use case. It takes minutes, and your example helps build a practitioner-grounded picture of what actually works. Reach out via pmi-fi.org.

Events & Webinars

Catch up on the 2025 programme

2025 was the chapter's busiest year yet — **17 events**, blending in-person gatherings exclusive to members with webinars open to all. The thread running through them was unmistakable: the rise of AI, alongside sustainability, cybersecurity and human-centric leadership.

The year's centrepiece was the **Annual Conference 2025 — “Human-Centric Innovation”** on 9 October at Sokos Hotel, Tripla Mall, Helsinki, marking the chapter's **20th anniversary** with C-level speakers and a panel on the future of project management in the age of AI.

Date	Topic	Speaker(s)
05 Feb	Leading Healthcare AI through Collaborative Leadership	Hrishikesh Deshpande
13 Feb	Breakfast Event at Tietoevry	T. Rosqvist, O. Luukkonen
07 Mar	International Women's Day (with UK chapter)	K. Strömberg, K. Apostolopoulos
12 Mar	IBM Breakfast — Data-Driven Sustainability	H. Niittymaa, T. Salmi, A. Salovaara
14 Mar	IIL — Product Ops: Future of Agility	Roy Schilling
24 Mar	Managing Chaos: PM in Web3 & Emerging Tech	Kevin McGowan
14 Apr	What Finnish Education Teaches Us About PM	Henrik Öhberg
14 May	Project Management in the Modern Era	S. Ghazi, P. Santhanam, R. Gaikwad, K. Kivisto
27 May	PMI Infinity™ 2.0 — Your AI Project Coach	Sina Ghazi
17 Jun	Finland's Data Centre Industry (PMI-CP lens)	Adrian Micu
12 Aug	Beyond the Tool — EI in an AI-Augmented World	Aina Alive
26 Aug	The Year Cybersecurity Becomes Non-Negotiable	Kiril Grigorov
09 Sep	AI-Augmented Management: Typst & Overleaf	Ernar Makishev
23 Sep	My AI Journey with Practical PM Applications	Farnaz Abroon
09 Oct	Annual Conference 2025 — Human-Centric Innovation	Multiple speakers
28 Oct	Ownership Engagement — a Prerequisite for Success	Niklas Reuter
18 Nov	Beyond Deliverables: Change Management at the Heart of PM	Yuliya Zhevno
09 Dec	Turn Your Communication Traffic Jam into a Symphony	Robert Snyder

Membership in 2026

The Single Membership Model & fee update

From 2026, PMI Finland Chapter moves to PMI's **Single Membership Model**. Your chapter membership is now linked automatically to your PMI membership based on your registered home country: if Finland is your home country, you are automatically a member of PMI Finland Chapter, with PMI and chapter dues combined into a single payment.

Action for members: to remain part of PMI Finland, make sure your **home country is set to Finland** in your PMI.org profile (Dashboard → Edit Account → Addresses).

Fee update. The membership fee changed from **US\$20/year to US\$30/year** at the start of February 2026, of which **USD 27** is remitted to the chapter. The chapter expects meaningful membership growth in 2026 as Finland-based PMI members are enrolled automatically — projected at around +230 members.

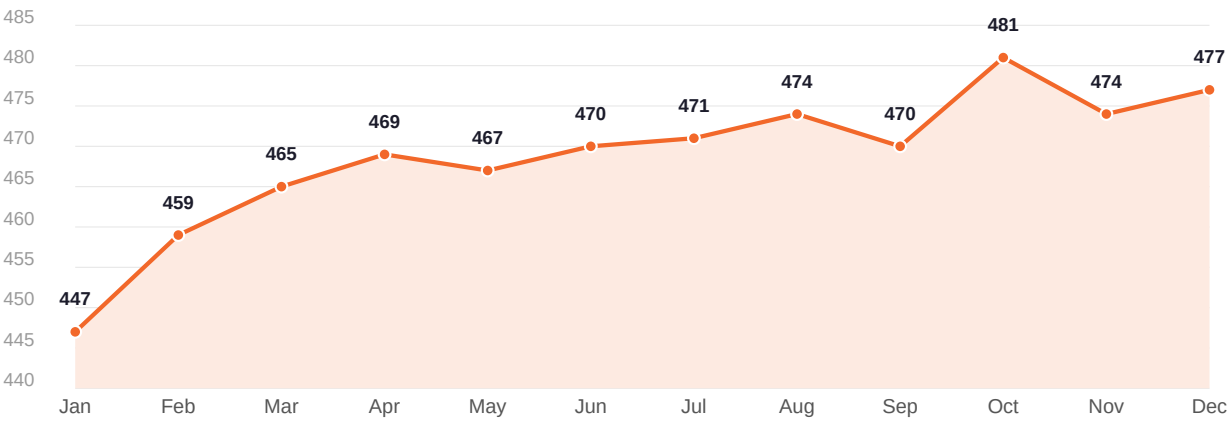
✓ What this means for you

One unified payment, automatic chapter membership for Finland-based PMI members, and a single profile to keep up to date. You can still join additional chapters with a separate purchase.

Chapter Statistics

Membership growth across 2025

The chapter grew from **447 members in January** to **477 in December 2025** — a year of consistent net gains, peaking at 481 in October.



Active members per month — 2025 (PMI Finland dashboard).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
447	459	465	469	467	470	471	474	470	481	474	477

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers and members for making this possible. Interested in helping the chapter? Bring your ideas — **we are here to serve you.**

Welcome New Members!

September – December 2025

We are delighted to welcome the members who joined us in the final months of 2025. Thank you for being part of the community!

Abdo Homaïd
Arnob Islam Khan
Arsalan Shafaat
Briseida Becerril Ramirez
Charalampos Charitidis
Davide Pernice
Eerikki Alahäivälä
Hanna Latva-Pukkila
Hanna-Kaisa Gomez
Jaakko Pöllänen
Jodok Kueng

Joni Hautala
Kalle Kouki
Mikko Honkaniemi
Mona Saxena
Onni Roivainen
Oscar Martelin
Patricia Fernández Martínez
Pekka Tauriainen
Petteri Kyrki
Raili Heikkinen
Rasmus Nybjörk

Robert Byggmästar
Robin Nordman
Rui Peixeiro
Satu Leikas
Seyi Oyinlola
Somir Roy
Soukayna Benichou
Ville Holopainen
Ville Kallonen
Viola Helynranta

Save the Date — Annual Conference 2026

Future-Fit Project Leadership

Mark your calendar: the chapter's flagship **Annual Conference 2026** returns with a full day of **practical perspectives on leadership, delivery, and change**. It is organised by interim Director of Events & Sponsorship **Jari Anttila**, with **Svitlana Zanoza** as conference project manager. Full details and programme: pmi-fi.org/2026-annual-conference.



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PROJECT LEADERSHIP

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Thursday, 8 October 2026

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Radisson Blu Seaside Hotel, Helsinki

REGISTER NOW →

WHEN

Thursday, 8 October 2026

TIME

8:30 – 16:45

WHERE

Radisson Blu Seaside
Hotel, Helsinki

Register now →

Seats are limited — register at pmi-fi.org/2026-annual-conference.



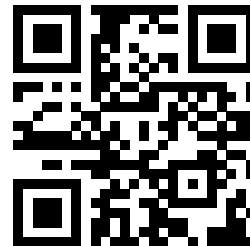
Contact Us!

Stay connected with your chapter

Have questions, or want to get involved? Reach out about events, volunteering, sponsorship and partnership, contributing an article, or anything else. Scan the code to be redirected to our form.

We can't deliver high-quality events without our community — your engagement is the cornerstone of everything we do.

Contact us via www.pmi-fi.org.



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References

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- [1] PMI Finland Chapter, "Annual General Meeting 2026: Reports, Financials and 2026 Plan." 2026.
- [2] Project Management Institute, "PMI Global Summit 2025: PMBOK Guide Eighth Edition and Certification Updates." 2025.
- [3] Project Management Institute, "PMI Europe Leadership Institute Meeting 2026 and Global Summit Series Lisbon." 2026.
- [4] M. H. Joseph, "Beyond the Hype: Redefining Project Leadership in the Age of AI." 2026.
- [5] PMI Finland Chapter, "AI in Project Management — Global Voices Pilot (Phase 3)." 2026.