

An Explorative Study of the Application of Project Management in German Research Projects

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Abstract : Research activities are mostly conducted in form of projects. In fact, research projects take the highest share of all project forms combined. However, project management is very rarely applied purposefully by researchers and scientists. More specifically no project management frameworks, methods or tools are not being used to plan, execute or control research project to ensure research success or improve project quality. In this qualitative study, several interviews were conducted with scientists and research managers from German institutions to gain insights into project management activities, to determine challenges and barriers, and to evaluate premises for successful project management. The analyses show that conventional project management is not easily applicable in scientific environments and researchers' mindsets prevent a reasonable application.

Keywords : academics, project management methods, research and science projects, scientist's mindset

Conference Title : ICPMM 2018 : International Conference on Project Management and Monitoring

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : September 27-28, 2018