



# CHAPTER LINKS

News People Projects Transitions



PMI Northern Italy Chapter

## Chapter Brings Project Management to Primary Schools

Three experts from the PMI Northern Italy Chapter launched an effort to transfer basic project management knowledge to primary school teachers, and start down the road of bringing project management education to children who will be the future leaders of society.

The experts, Walter Ginevri, Isabella Nizza and Francesco Regazzo, provided two half-days of theoretical and practical project management training to teachers, and helped the teachers define the projects in which the pupils would be involved.

The single projects were developed through a series of steps, starting with identifying the stakeholders and building a deliverable-oriented work breakdown structure, and continuing on up to the construction of a project schedule, including all the activities to be performed.

The three projects were:

- 1 2ND GRADE: Building a puppet theatre to perform fairy tales invented by the children;
- 2 5TH GRADE: Organizing an exhibition about art through time, open to external visitors (adults and children); and
- 3 5TH GRADE: Organizing a year-end party with games, music and goodies.

The didactical experiment was performed entirely by the teachers with each class, with the external support of the chapter experts only to verify intermediate results. At one of the schools the chapter experts were also able to give a small lesson on project management directly to the students themselves.

On 20 June 2006 in Milan, the chapter held an event titled "Projects from the Future: Primary School." It was the first event of a series which will last a number of years, with which the chapter wishes to make its competencies and experience available to the education environment. It was decided that primary schools should be the first step toward a more ambitious program which will be extended to higher school grades including junior high schools, high schools and universities.

The heart of the event was a series of presentations made by the teachers of two Milan schools (Elementare Mugello-Mezzofanti and Bilingual European School). The teachers described their experiences applying project management techniques to teaching by involving students either as team members or as project managers.

The event was attended by nearly a hundred people, most of whom came from the world of education (heads of staff and teachers), with some attendees from the business world including project managers and educational book publishing experts.

The spirit which animated the event was very special and it gave us proof that the project management discipline can really help schools pursue the objective that all the teachers at the event defined as their primary challenge: to "teach how to learn."

All presentations from the event can be downloaded from the chapter's website at [www.pmi-nic.org](http://www.pmi-nic.org).

—Walter Ginevri, PMP  
Vice President, PMI Northern Italy Chapter



Walter Ginevri, PMP, project manager of the 20 June event, poses with teachers from the Mugello-Mezzofanti primary school of Milan.