



**Project Management Institute**  
Global Headquarters  
14 Campus Blvd  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
+1 610 356 4600

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PMI GERMANY CHAPTER

INTERVIEW WITH LUCILA DOTTO, PMI CHAPTER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

- **Who is Lucila Dotto, PMI Europe Chapter Engagement Manager?**

Lucila comes from a background of Psychology. She gained a master's in Marketing and Communications; and she has a Diploma in Coaching from Cambridge University, among other qualifications.

Prior to joining PMI, she worked for one of the *Big Fours*- KPMG. Initially, she was part of the People Consulting team, and then she served as Global Culture Senior Manager/Associate Director, driving culture change for more than 230,000 employees across 145 countries, fostering the global community, maintaining consistency, as well as allowing local culture nuances.

Lucila has a multicultural background; she worked for eight years at Universidad de San Andres, in Argentina, where she served as Director of Admissions, Director of Professional Development and Community Engagement, and Director of Marketing and Communications.

She also co-founded a boutique consulting firm specialized in culture, leadership and behavior change, reason to be nominated by the US Department of State to participate in a special scholarship program for changemakers started by President Obama, called YLAI - Young Leaders of the Americas.

An interesting fact? she has written a book –(in Spanish) translation: *Have the courage to be 100% yourself*

- **Q&A with Lucila**

- **Icebreaker questions: Coffee or Tea?**

**Lucila:** I am more of a 'latte person' (I don't drink super strong coffee, I must confess). However, since I have been leaving in London for four years now, I have adopted the 'tea experience'.

- **If you have a superpower....what that will be?**

**Lucila:** I would love to have the power to travel in time, to move backwards and forwards. It is so important to understand history and take the learnings and insights from the past, and also to meet bright minds - Einstein, Beethoven, Bach!

- **Who is your favorite person/someone you admire?**

**Lucila:** Oh, wow, that is a difficult one, as it is hard to choose only one person. So, I will try to define skills first, and then identify who best role model those skills. I admire the *'we can do, we will do attitude'*. Doers: that goes beyond complains, and obstacles and makes ideas reality. I value passion – putting your heart and soul in what you do. Being generous with your time and effort because you love what you do. And I admire those who care about others and have a team/togetherness mindset. Well – this seems the definition of a volunteer, does it? Doers, passion, togetherness. Now that I've defined the criteria, it is easier for me to find an example. My example is my mother. She was/is a doer, she exhibits extra level of passion, and she taught my brother and myself the value of being/staying together. Because you can always go far, if you stay united, together.

- **Your favorite word?**

**Lucila:** My favourite word? Thank you. I think is so important to acknowledge other people efforts, commitment, good intentions. Well, in fact these are two words. But you can get the idea 😊  
But not only the words are important, but the action that back up those words.

- **I know you joined PMI 2.5 months ago as Chapter Engagement Manager for Europe, what has most surprised you about PMI?**

**Lucila:** I was positively impressed about PMI community. Before joining I knew that what makes PMI uniquely PMI is the power of the community. And obviously, I joined to support Chapters: to connect, enable and empower them, and to foster this sense of community. Even though I was clear, I was surprised. What PMI community is doing – what you are doing – goes beyond what I could expect. And there are some amazing examples that inspired me/touched me personally. For example, Chapters united for Ukraine; or how Chapters have handle COVID, and transform this crisis/challenge into an opportunity to continue delivering value to your Chapter members and volunteers. An example that personally energizes me: the amount of pledges you received in Germany for your Social Responsibility Program to support NGOss with project management skills. These situations showcase PMI Values in actions – together, being welcoming, aiming higher.

- **How does PMI see the role of Volunteers?**

**Lucila:** Let me take a step back to reply to your questions. As a psychologist by brackrgoud, I am interested in neuroscience: One of the design principles of our brain is the need of connections, we are wired to connect and protect. In other words, we want to belong, we need to be part of something bigger than ourselves. PMI offers this amazing opportunity to connect, learn and give back, and the role of Volunteers is cornerstone of PMI.

PMI was formed by volunteers. PMI was, is, and will be about volunteers. Volunteers are the secret sauce of PMI. They are what makes PMI uniquely PMI.

The sense of community that we were referring to earlier – is our strength.

Personally, I decided to joined PMI because volunteers are the heart of PMI. I was working in consulting, leading a project called Purpose, to identify the impact on people, clients, and society. That triggered in me the need to reflect on my own purpose, and the impact I want to create for others, so I decided to joined PMI because of people like you...People that are so passionate, that dedicate the most precious gift we have in life-our time – to a cause, to impact others.. Doers, that act with passion, and foster this sense of togetherness we were referring to earlier.

- **Is there anything you can share with us from Leadership Institute Meeting in Prague?**

**Lucila:** I encourage all to see the summary video (here the link: [Frame.io](#))

The event was about great networking, having fun together. It was so inspirational!

Some key moments: Our new President and CEO, Pierre Le Manh, was interviewed by the Czech Republic Chapter President; we had a Culture workshop facilitated by Region Mentors. We also had some amazing Chapter Leaders presentations – prepared ‘from Chapters to Chapters’;and an inspiring keynote speaker, Henry Rose Lee, who brought some ‘food for thoughts’ about ‘intergenerational diversity’

We received lot of positive feedback. The satisfaction rate was 97%.

In summary: great energy, an amazing opportunity to experience the power of PMI community.

- **Anything you can share from recent Global Summit in Las Vegas?**

**Lucila:** It was a big conference, not only for Chapters and Volunteers, but also opened to wider PM community. We received positive feedback about the quality of the event and the great content of the sessions. Among my favourite speakers? Wihout doubt: Andreas and Jorg.

During my time in Las Vegas I had an opportunity to participate in a panel. I represented Europe and highlighted the great work Chapters and Volunteers are duing.

For example, I celebrated Europe flexibility to adapt to COVID and keep adding value, transforming challenges into opportunities. I spoke about Europe solidarity and the support to Ukraine, and I encouraged the reflection about how we can best connect to and engage with the youngest generations.

- **We are about to start 2023, can you share ‘2023 - a glance’?**

**Lucila:** The Europe Chapter Engagement Team will continue working to connect, enable and empower our Chapters and Volunteers. As we are stronger together, we have a lot of opportunities ahead.

Thank you so much for inviting me to participate in this event and celebrate the role and commitment of our Volunteers. You are inspirational!