

THE RISE OF THE CITIZEN PROJECT MANAGER

Non-Project Management Professionals Taking
on Project Management Responsibilities



Jonathan Spiteri
jonspiteri.com



Who Are Citizen Project Managers?

Refers to professionals who, despite not having formal project management training, are entrusted with project management duties.

This trend spans across various sectors such as technology, healthcare, & education.
E.g. Software Engineers leading development projects.

Citizen Project Managers typically develop their project management skills through hands-on experience, learning on the job, and often benefiting from mentorship or informal guidance.



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Key Drivers Behind This Trend

Recognition of the need for project management skills, across various functional areas within organisations.

Need for faster decision-making and implementation, making it essential for professionals in operational roles to take on project management duties.

More cost-effective and resource-efficient than hiring dedicated project managers, especially in smaller organisations or startups.



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Challenges Faced by Citizen Project Managers

Balancing project management responsibilities with their primary job duties can lead to time management challenges and difficulty in prioritising tasks effectively.

Handling project risks, including mitigation strategies, can be particularly challenging for individuals without extensive experience in project management.

Ensuring effective communication, managing expectations, and maintaining alignment with project goals can be more challenging without formal training.



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Opportunities for Citizen Project Managers

Bring innovative ideas and fresh perspectives to project management, leveraging their unique backgrounds and domain-specific expertise.

Provides valuable on-the-job learning opportunities for skill development and growth in project management competencies.

Open doors for career advancement within organisations, offering paths to leadership roles or specialised project management positions.



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Best Practices for Success

Access to project management courses, workshops, and certifications can significantly enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of Citizen Project Managers.

Pairing Citizen Project Managers with experienced project management professionals as mentors.

Encouraging a culture of continuous learning & feedback loops ensures that Citizen Project Managers evolve their skills and approaches based on lessons learned.



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Future Outlook for Citizen Project Managers

Demand for professionals who possess both domain-specific expertise and project management skills will increase, leading to the rise of hybrid roles that blend technical and managerial capabilities.

Soft skills such as communication, leadership, and emotional intelligence will become increasingly important for Citizen Project Managers.

Advances in project management tools, software, and platforms will continue to enhance the capabilities and efficiency of Citizen Project Managers.



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jonspiteri.com



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