PLANTA

Whitepaper

Efficient Multi-Project Management

Strategies, Methods and Best Practices for Successfully Managing Parallel Projects

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LEARN MORE

Here you will find more for your projects:

Resource management

What are the time wasters in project management, and how can you achieve savings with efficient resource management? We show you this and more using concrete examples from our customers.

To the whitepaper

Hybrid project management

Hybrid systems are more flexible than purely agile or traditional methods and let you respond to any project situation. Read the whitepaper on hybrid project management to learn everything about this topic.

To the whitepaper

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01

CHAPTER

What Is Multi-Project Management?

While single-project management leads one project to success, multi-project management aligns many projects that share the same resources.

Definition

Multi-project management (MPM) refers to the **simultaneous planning, control and monitoring of several projects** within a company. Unlike single-project management, it enables cross-project coordination to avoid **resource bottlenecks, scheduling conflicts and inefficient processes**. The added value: optimal utilization of resources, project objectives aligned with the corporate strategy and a holistic overview of project progress.

Recognizing the Problem: Why Software Support Is Needed

Companies are increasingly working in projects. Resources are planned across teams and departments, and the number of parallel IT and organizational projects is growing with digitalization. Anyone who has so far planned individual projects in Excel quickly reaches their limits here. Typical symptoms:



Chaos in Excel spreadsheets

Information is scattered and constantly has to be searched for



Invisible dependencies

Links between projects are not visualized



Confusing staff planning

Utilization and bottlenecks are identified too late

Multi-project management software helps to set priorities, control parallel projects more easily, plan resources across teams and keep an eye on dates, tasks and budgets. Resource allocation and utilization are clearly displayed and bottlenecks are identified early.

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CHAPTER

Strategic and Operational MPM

Multi-project management combines strategic alignment with corporate objectives and the operational efficiency of day-to-day project coordination.

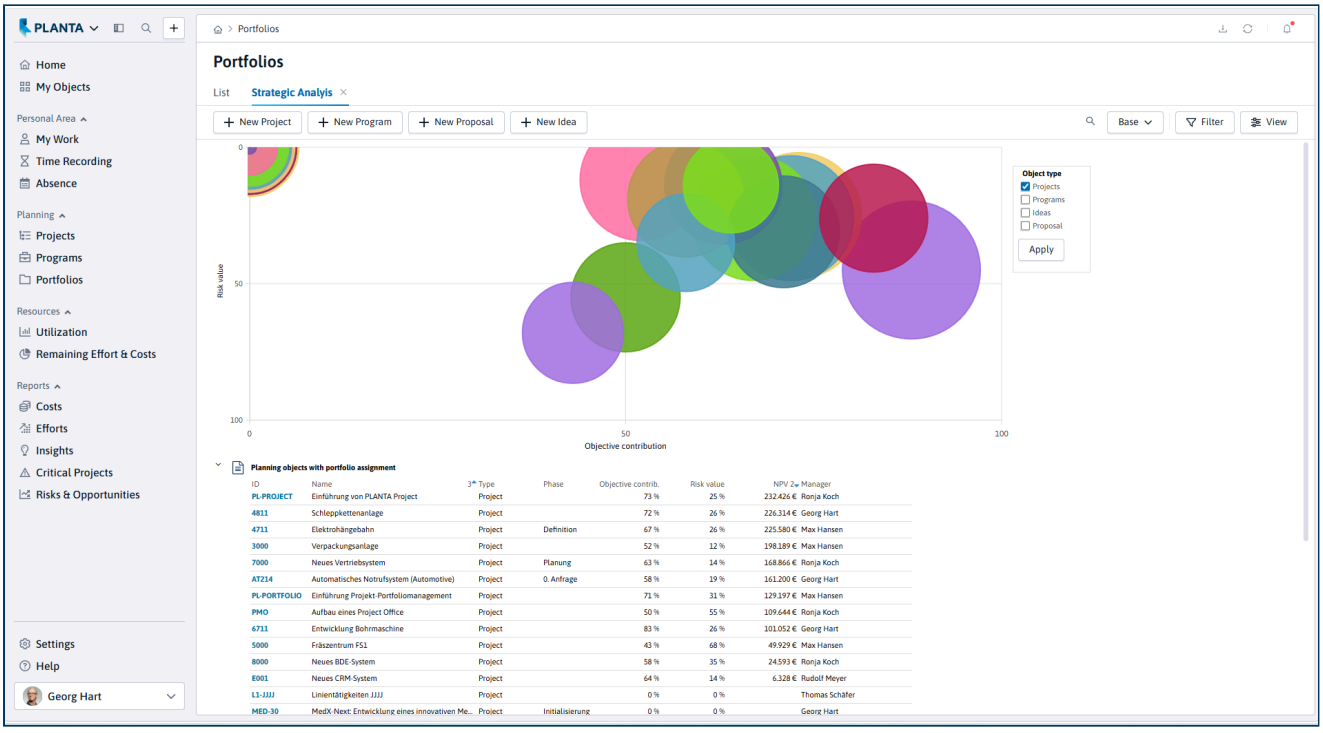
Two Levels of Multi-Project Management

Strategic MPM

Aligns projects with **corporate objectives**. It evaluates the potential of individual projects, identifies **synergies and dependencies** and sets priorities. This ensures optimal use of resources and makes the most of strategic opportunities.

Operational MPM

Focuses on the **implementation and control** of ongoing projects. Dates, resources and budgets are planned in detail across projects to avoid overlaps and bottlenecks – so that all projects are completed **on time, within budget and in the required quality**.



Strategic portfolio analysis in PLANTA Project

Project Portfolio Management and Multi-Project Management

PPM and MPM are closely related, and the distinction is often difficult. Put simply: **PPM decides which projects are carried out – MPM ensures that they are implemented well.**

	Project Portfolio Management (PPM)	Multi-Project Management (MPM)
Focus	Selection, prioritization and management of projects in line with the corporate strategy	Operational management of several parallel projects
Objective	Maximum benefit of the entire portfolio	Efficient execution without overlaps and conflicts
Typical questions	Which projects do we start, pause or stop?	Who works on what and when? Are we meeting dates and budgets?
Target group	Executive management, portfolio managers	Project and resource managers, PMO

When PPM Software, When MPM Software?

The choice depends on the requirements of the company as well as the number and complexity of the projects.

PPM software is suitable if

- many projects are closely linked to the corporate strategy
- strategic decisions on selection and prioritization are required
- the portfolio is regularly adapted to new market requirements or objectives
- risks are to be assessed at portfolio level and synergies leveraged

PPM software helps management identify risks and opportunities and select the projects that contribute most to the company's success.

MPM software is suitable if

- the focus is on the operational implementation of several projects
- resource allocation and utilization across projects are the priority
- projects primarily need to be controlled and monitored
- scheduling and budget planning of several projects are the main focus

MPM software offers tools for resource allocation and progress monitoring – ideal if no extensive planning at portfolio level is required.

PLANTA

One Software for Everything

PLANTA Project

Project Management Software

PM Methods

Plan your projects agile, traditional or hybrid – just as you need

PPM

Take no risks – with project portfolio management

Integrations

Adapt the software to your needs and extend it with our interfaces

Single and Multi-Project Management

Comprehensive project management software for every project.

Learn more

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CHAPTER 03

Challenges in MPM

Multi-project management involves challenges that go far beyond controlling individual projects.



Resources and priorities

Several projects draw on the same resources. Clear priorities ensure that important projects are staffed in time.



Communication and stakeholders

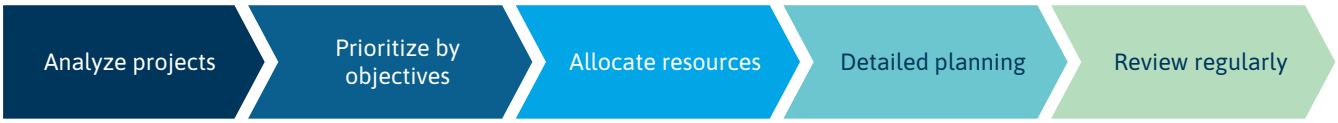
Many projects, many stakeholder groups: regular, transparent reports avoid misunderstandings and involve stakeholders early on.



Planning and control

Schedules, milestones and risks of all projects must be defined, coordinated and reviewed regularly.

Efficient Planning and Control in Five Steps



Efficient planning starts with an **analysis of ongoing projects** and their **prioritization based on corporate objectives**. This is followed by cross-project resource allocation and detailed planning. Schedules, milestones and risks are defined for each project and reviewed regularly. Gantt charts, network planning and resource management software help keep complexity under control.

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CHAPTER

Project Management Office (PMO)

With standardized project processes, a PMO creates consistency and prevents isolated solutions in individual project teams.

What Is a Project Management Office?

The PMO is a **central unit** that standardizes and improves project management practices. It supports project managers strategically and operationally – from an advisory body to an operational center that intervenes directly in project execution. The PMO ensures that all project activities are aligned with **strategic objectives** and provides standardized processes, tools and best practices.

Main Tasks of the PMO

Define project standards

Set the framework: project management methods, software tools and reporting structures.

Resource management

Depending on the PMO structure, involvement in the (rough) planning of resources such as personnel and funds.

Quality assurance and governance

Ensure compliance with standards, carry out regular audits and quality checks.

Training and further education

Offer continuous development measures for project managers and other participants.

Knowledge management

Promote the exchange of information and best practices between projects in order to learn from experience.

The PMO is becoming increasingly important, especially in multi-project management: it keeps track of many parallel projects, identifies risks early on and aligns project work with strategic priorities.

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CHAPTER

Process Optimization

Projects rarely fail due to a lack of planning, but often due to inadequate resource management and ineffective communication between teams.

Improved Resource Management

Resources include not only funds, but also time, personnel, machines and rooms. In MPM, several projects often compete for the same resources. The objectives of effective resource management:

- **Optimal resource allocation**: Central management allocates resources effectively, avoids bottlenecks and overload and makes free capacities visible.
- **Flexibility and adaptability**: If conditions change, resources can be reallocated in real time.
- **Early problem detection**: Dashboards show project progress and utilization at a glance at any time.

Easier Team Coordination

Several teams work in parallel on projects that may depend on each other. Smooth communication is therefore essential:

- **Clear communication channels**: Information flows quickly and precisely, all participants know the current project status and have central access to all project information.
- **Efficient collaboration**: Tasks and responsibilities are transparent, team members' strengths are leveraged and documents are shared in real time.
- **Fast decision-making**: Decisions based on real-time data make bottlenecks visible and solvable more quickly.

Take a look

Webinars

Project management know-how for everyone

Go to the webinars

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CHAPTER

Monitoring and Controlling in MPM

Performance monitoring ensures that all projects run according to plan and contribute to corporate objectives.

Performance Monitoring

Continuous monitoring makes it possible to respond to deviations early, before serious problems arise.

- **Key performance indicators (KPIs)**: Degree of progress, adherence to dates and costs are collected, compared and aggregated for all projects – keeping the entire portfolio on track.
- **Visual tools**: Gantt charts show milestones and deadlines, while **Earned Value Management (EVM)** compares actual progress with planned costs and dates.
- **Status reports and audits**: Systematic reports keep all participants informed, and audits ensure the reliability of project data.

Performance Evaluation

The evaluation systematically analyzes success or failure and derives lessons for future projects.

Analyze deviations

Identify and prevent causes such as misjudgments, communication gaps or changed conditions.

Use EVM metrics

CPI (Cost Performance Index) for cost efficiency and **SPI** (Schedule Performance Index) for adherence to schedules.

Evaluate soft skills

In addition to time and costs, include teamwork and conflict resolution – they also determine success.

Lessons Learned

Systematically record findings and incorporate them into future projects to continuously improve the portfolio.

07

CHAPTER

Testimonials

The ideal solution for multi-project management is a system that provides management with comprehensive reporting including milestones and trend analyses – and gives teams agile task planning and fast time recording.

Thyssenkrupp AG

“The PLANTA software has replaced all MS Project schedules and Excel tools. Linking all projects in multi-project management enables better planning quality and significantly optimizes the effort required to manage the projects.”



Ketek GmbH

“Our greatest success is that we now have a well-organized multi-project management. All projects are stored centrally in PLANTA. Our colleagues now have a better overview of the projects and can plan dependencies between them.”



Losan Pharma GmbH

“The benefit of the new tool is not limited to the fact that it enables all employees to manage their tasks in boards, but it also improves communication and collaboration significantly.”



Read how our customers have improved their MPM: **planta.de/en/references**

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CHAPTER

FAQs and Conclusion

How do you deal with competing project objectives?

Prioritization based on strategic corporate objectives and the use of simulation tools help resolve conflicts between projects.

What role does corporate culture play?

Open communication and a learning culture are crucial for continuously optimizing projects and integrating lessons learned.

How do all projects stay aligned with the strategy?

Regular monitoring of projects as part of strategic portfolio management ensures that all projects support the corporate objectives.

What's next?

Now all you need is the right software support. Here is how to find it:

To the checklist

Conclusion

Multi-project management enables companies to **control their projects efficiently and strategically**, make optimal use of resources and secure competitive advantages. With suitable methods, the right **software** and clear communication, the challenges can be mastered and the success rate of projects increased significantly.

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