

# EVM EUROPE CONFERENCE INITIATIVE ACHIEVES STABILITY

By Kym Henderson, Vice President of Global Outreach

## INTRODUCTION

In searching through back issues of The Measurable News recently, I was reminded of Past CPM President Eleanor Haupt' "New Vision" for Performance Management articulated in the Fall 2004 edition of The Measurable News which included the following statement:

### **Globalize performance management.**

Performance management can and should be tailored for the country, business environment, culture and level of risk. We must lose the attitude that the U.S. defense approach is a one size fits all approach. We must pursue flexible and adaptable standards and provide for mutual recognition and acceptance. We must learn from each other's experiences and synthesize them into a more effective and adaptive approach.

### **EVM EUROPE 5 CONFERENCE**

The EVM Europe conferences conform to this vision with the EVM Europe 5 conference including celebrations of the major milestone of the 5th conference in the series.

The Conference was held at Ghent University in Belgium on the rescheduled dates of 3-4 December 2013. These dates avoided the USA Thanksgiving clash and have resulted in an increasing North American presence at the conference. Conference attendance was in excess of 60 delegates which is the largest for any of the EVM Conferences so far. This is credited to the "critical mass" that has developed at Ghent University from the €1,200,000 Euro project controls and EVM research project which had completed the first year of its funded six years of execution.

Highlights of the Conference from a CPM perspective were the keynote speech by CPM President, Gary Troop which provided delegates the "international" perspective on the adoption of EVM around the world. Gary's presentation was received with considerable interest by the delegates as was his stated openness to collaboration, sharing experiences and taking on board lessons to be learned from the European experiences in adopting EVM.

Another highlight was Walt Lipke's keynote presentation on "Earned Schedule 10 Years On" where, similar to his keynote presentation at EVM World 2013 he summarized the capabilities, Earned Schedule implementation experience feedback and his personal journey with it - all following on from publication of the seminal paper "Schedule is Different" in the Measurable News in 2003.

Following Walt's keynote address (to his complete surprise) the President of the EVM Europe Association Prof. Dr. Mario Vanhoucke presented Walt with an award recognizing the 10th anniversary of the publication of "Schedule is Different". The award was preceded by a long tribute to Walt's work, accomplishments and recognition of the outcomes achieved from European interest in his work which has included:

- Establishing the EVM Europe Association;
- Generating research interest and projects to test Walt's theories; and
- Creating the collaboration within Europe and beyond which resulted in the award of the €1,200,000 Euro project controls/EVM research project in 2012.

For his part, Walt acknowledged the European and global interest in and adoption of Earned Schedule; all of which have made essential contributions to the continuing evolution and adoption of a successful methodology.

## EVM EUROPE 6 CONFERENCE

The EVM Europe 6 Conference will also be held at Ghent University in Belgium on 2-3 December 2014 which continues to avoid the USA Thanksgiving period. Details of the Conference will be posted on the EVM Europe website at [www.evm-europe.eu](http://www.evm-europe.eu).



## COMMERCIAL SECTOR EVM DATA REPOSITORY

Another very significant development, first reported at the Conference, is the establishment of a commercial sector EVM data repository at Ghent University. "The database will contain baseline scheduling data (network, resources, ...), risk analysis data (for Monte-Carlo simulations) and project control data (using EVM and ES metrics)."

At the time of preparing this article, the EVM data for approximately 70 completed commercial sector EVM projects had been loaded into the repository with additional projects identified for later inclusion once they are completed. An important source of the EVM project data obtained so far is from the students (predominantly Masters of Business Administration and Civil Engineering students) who undertake reviews of real projects being undertaken by Belgian companies as part of their studies at Ghent University.

It is expected that this repository will become a highly valued resource for the conduct of more broadly based EVM related research in future. Additional information on the repository is available from: <http://www.projectmanagement.ugent.be/?q=research/data/realdata>

## CPM – EVM EUROPE MOU

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CPM and the EVM Europe Association has been agreed to and signed by the respective President's of the two organizations in March 2014. In summary, the MOU "establishes the framework for CPM and EVM Europe to pursue opportunities that are mutually beneficial and to work together on enhancing existing efforts" related to our common mission of advancing EVM and other project performance management techniques.

## CONCLUSION

CPM has provided active support to the EVM Europe Association and the EVM Europe initiative since its inception as part of our global outreach mission.

EVM Europe is actively contributing to project controls and EVM research globally as well as teaching students at Ghent University the theoretical and practical application of EVM and associated project performance management techniques – all very useful to their professional lives after graduation.

While much has been achieved in support of Eleanor Haupt's "New Vision" for performance management referred to above, there remains much still to accomplish. We can move forward with the knowledge that the EVM Europe initiative has with much persistence and hard work "achieved stability" and is actively advancing the adoption of EVM and other performance management techniques in Europe and beyond.



Conference Plenary Session - In the historic Het Pand Conference Center Ghent University, Belgium



Belgian Beer - It seems mandatory that all events in Belgium include a discussion on Belgian beers!



European Acknowledgement of US Assistance  
Title slide of Stephan Vandevorde's opening keynote address



CPM President's Keynote - Gary Troop presenting the very well received keynote on the "international" perspective of EVM.



Walt Lipke Tribute - Prof. Dr. Mario Vanhoucke presenting the long EVM Europe Association Tribute to Walt Lipke's work



Walt Lipke Tribute - Prof. Dr. Mario Vanhoucke, President of the EVM Europe Association, Walt Lipke with his EVM Europe Award and Stephan Vandevorde, EVM Europe Board member



EVM Europe 6 Conference  
Will be held on December 2nd and 3rd 2014, at Ghent University in the beautiful medieval city of Ghent, Belgium

**Mark your calendars and plan to attend**



Walt Lipke's Award - The EVM Europe award recognizing the 10th anniversary of the publication of "Schedule is Different" in the Measurable News.