

A Domain-Based and Integrated Conceptual Framework for Effective Project Leadership

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(Received 31 January 2015; Revised 18 March 2015; Accepted 12 May 2015)

Abstract: *This paper argues that the project environment is unique and therefore the understanding of project leadership should be approached from that point of view. It also argues that the project leadership theories that have been developed have not explained project leadership in an integrative manner. By analysing definitions, theories and studies conducted in leadership or project leadership coupled with a reflection of experiences of the author having been a project leader or a project team member, the paper proposes an integrated framework made of four project leadership domains. For an effective project leadership process to take place, the project leader requires self-leadership in order to exercise leadership of project stakeholders, leadership of project tasks and leadership of the project situation. The framework deviates from the normal premise of viewing project leadership as a process directed only influencing at project team or stakeholders. Moreover, certain capabilities are needed to 'master' each domain in order to achieve effective project leadership. The paper proposes testing the model as a recommendation for further research.*

Keywords: *Project leadership, leadership, project manager, project leader, project management*