

5 Key Ways to Face (and Overcome) PMO Issues

On a daily basis, PMO teams face similar problems: “Are we working on the right things?” “Is my team aligned?” “Are we making the most of our resources?” In today’s constantly changing business landscape, PMOs typically struggle to deliver results, because they cannot:

- Leverage a single source-of-truth for project status
- Consolidate multiple legacy tools
- Achieve 360-degree portfolio-wide visibility
- Allocate and utilize resources efficiently

As result of these and other obstacles, many PMOs are facing major budget cutbacks, or in some cases, being shut down altogether.

However, efficient PMOs can and should play a critical role in driving project success, and improving overall productivity, performance and profitability. To make that happen, below are 5 key ways to optimize your PMO and empower your organization to thrive:

1. Focus on Business Value and ROI

It’s not enough to merely generate reports. Rather, your optimized PMO must deliver business value and drive ROI by tracking all relevant KPIs in real time—related to project outcomes, efficiencies, financials, quality, innovation and time-to-market.

2. Optimize Resource Management

Your efficient PMO needs to enhance resource management by: accurately forecasting resource requirements; establishing processes that streamline resource selection and onboarding; assessing portfolio-wide resource utilization in real-time; and helping project managers to react and respond when priorities shift.

3. Establish Standards

Mature PMO teams are expected to establish standardized project and portfolio management practices, tools, training and governance, all of which combine to reduce risk, enforce compliance, increase efficiency and improve resource utilization. At the same time, establishing and enforcing consistent standards enhances employee productivity, performance and job satisfaction.

4. Align Activities with Strategy

Your PMO team should look to leverage a dynamic mix of talent, technology and tools, so that it can become the organization's trusted source of truth for project and portfolio-related information. Once this is established, your PMO will be relied on to deliver actionable intelligence that empower leaders and executives to make faster decision, align activities with strategy and improve business outcomes.

5. Put Global Collaboration in Context

Finally, your PMO should go beyond supporting tactical project management execution and fire-fighting by putting global collaboration in context. This ensures that team members pull together, work collaboratively and advance towards defined project goals and objectives with accurate, timely data—rather than get lost in a disconnected maze of emails, IMs and status meetings.

The Bottom Line

An efficient PMO can meaningfully support your colleagues and measurably improve your organization. Ultimately, instead of budget cuts or other repercussions for falling short, your PMO will earn a higher profile for going above and beyond expectation.

Moving Forward

Knowing the 5 key ways to optimize your organization's PMO is a big part of the picture but it's not the whole thing. You also need the right work execution and project management system to consolidate your legacy tools and bring everything and everyone together on a unified solution that drives high performance teams and delivers results to the business.

We'll focus on this critical aspect in a follow-up report, *How Modern Project Management Can Save Your PMO*.