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Managing Projects Across Continents

As more and more businesses find themselves working with a distributed workforce in multiple facilities worldwide, project management has become more challenging than ever before. Seamless cooperation and streamlined processing for projects that require a global collaboration is key. But how can you achieve it? The key is to realize early on that you're dealing with different people, different cultures, and different work ethics. The fact is, every country has a unique way of doing business so team members will likely have a different view of a project's goals and tasks, depending on where they're located. That means you must, before you even start a project, put in place a set of common standards for the project. This includes defining every aspect of the project from start to finish, including:



- What the goals and targets of the projects are
- How project members will communicate
- How and when issues should be escalated
- How meetings will be run
- How documentation should be formatted
- What software and systems should be used
- And more



AWARD:

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To create a standard that works, take some time to understand cultural nuances and develop a set of rules that will make sense across the board. Then, clearly define these rules and share them with the team, from top management to the project manager to the shop floor.

This will ensure consistency throughout your project, and more importantly will allow you to get everyone's buy-in before you even get started.

Sounds like a hassle? Don't underestimate it; taking these steps early on can ultimately make or break your project in the long run. Without a common standard, a global project can be plagued by miscommunication and missteps resulting in lost time, reduced efficiency, and a failure to achieve your desired targets. And of course, working with a partner experienced in global project management can go a long way. Here at Ingenics, we've worked with hundreds of businesses worldwide to manage projects and processes across worldwide locations, and can provide you with best practices and proven tools that can be adapted to your company's specific requirements. For a recent client with plants in Germany, England, Spain, and France, we travelled to each location to understand and troubleshoot individual standards and approaches then brought them all together in a European wide standard to which everyone could adhere. This one time process has made every project since smooth sailing.

For more on how Ingenics can help your international business establish a common language for global projects, contact us. contactICA@ingenics.com



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