

Initial situation

Resource management ranks among the vital disciplines in companies. A critical success factor is the interaction between project management and line management: particularly in a multi-project context, reliable agreements, realistic assignment plans, monitoring and early warning mechanisms are essential for a productive cooperation. Everything together is decisive for the success of a project.

In an increasing number of large organisations, a particular challenge is represented by cross-location project structures with central project management and project staff who often are spread across many sites in different countries.

It is here, that MS Project Server comes up against its limitations. Structured resource request and approval processes cannot be illustrated with the standard functionality of MS Project Server.

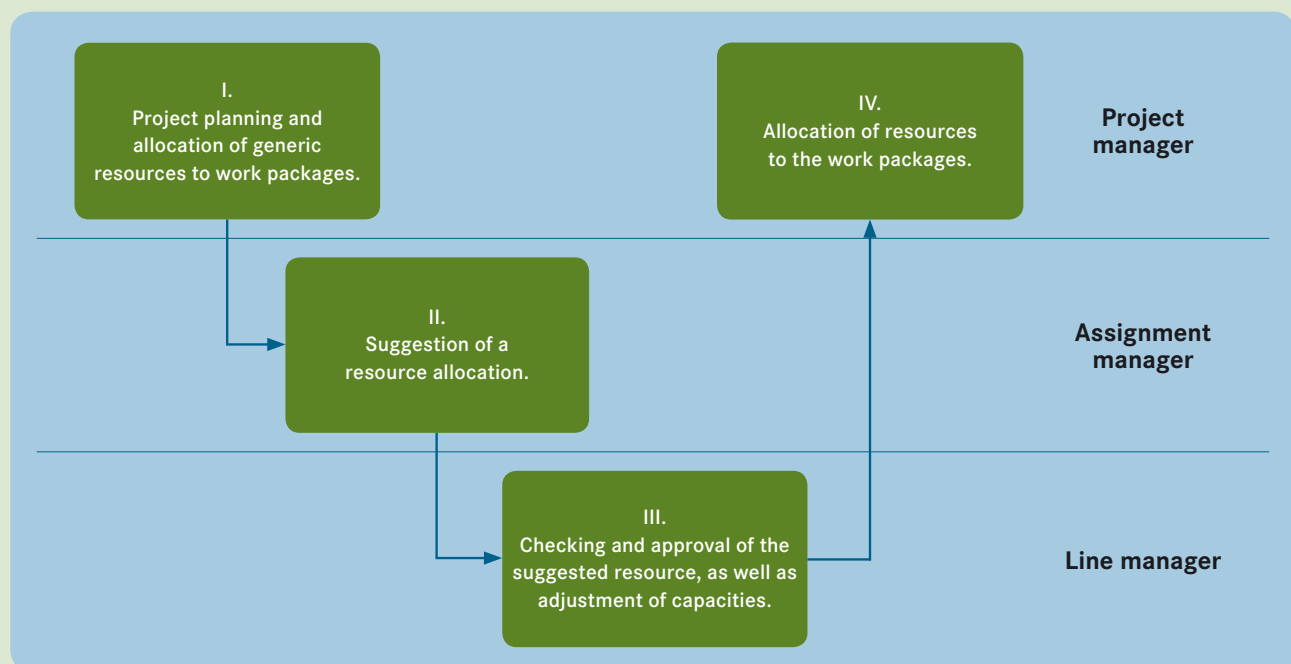
Solution

The standard product "CS Resource Management Extension" (CS RME) supports everyone involved in the tense field between line and project organisation. CS RME enables resource allocation plans to be agreed via request and approval workflows.

The starting point is the planning of the required staff resources: first, the project management gives the project tasks a resource profile. Then, the corresponding request is submitted to the assignment manager who sends a suggestion to the responsible line manager for the assignment. If there is no assignment manager, the request is sent directly to the line manager.

Summaries with the resource request per project, profile and task support the decision process of the line managers. On this basis, resources are assigned based on the requested profiles and capacities for defined time periods. Within the agreed capacity frame, project managers can then allocate resources to project tasks. As soon as limitations to these agreements are later surpassed, the system notifies everyone involved.

Resource Request and Approval Process





Technology

CS RME is an extension product for MS Project Server that supports the interface between project management and line management. Architecturally, it consists of a COM-Add-In extension of MS Project Professional for the project manager, as well as a web client for the assignment manager or the line manager. The solution is based on back-end web services and a database extension of MS Project Server.

Benefits

With CS RME employees can be ideally assigned to various projects in accordance with their skills and their availability while taking into account their other workload. Project assignments of employees are agreed with the line managers and are continuously monitored. Clear and binding agreements

between project and line managers prevent conflicts. The capacity utilisation is optimised, possible shortages are highlighted at an early stage.

Further benefits for companies who use CS RME:

- Standardised and automated request and approval processes for resource assignments
- Resource requests on the basis of generic resources
- Multi-layer approval processes for resource assignments
- Reduction of agreement effort and conflicts between project and line organisation
- Binding and documented staffing agreements

“Thanks to CS RME, the number of escalations of resource conflicts has decreased by two-thirds.”

Sector manager for R&D,
international automobile supplier company

Resource Approval Mask and Availability Views

