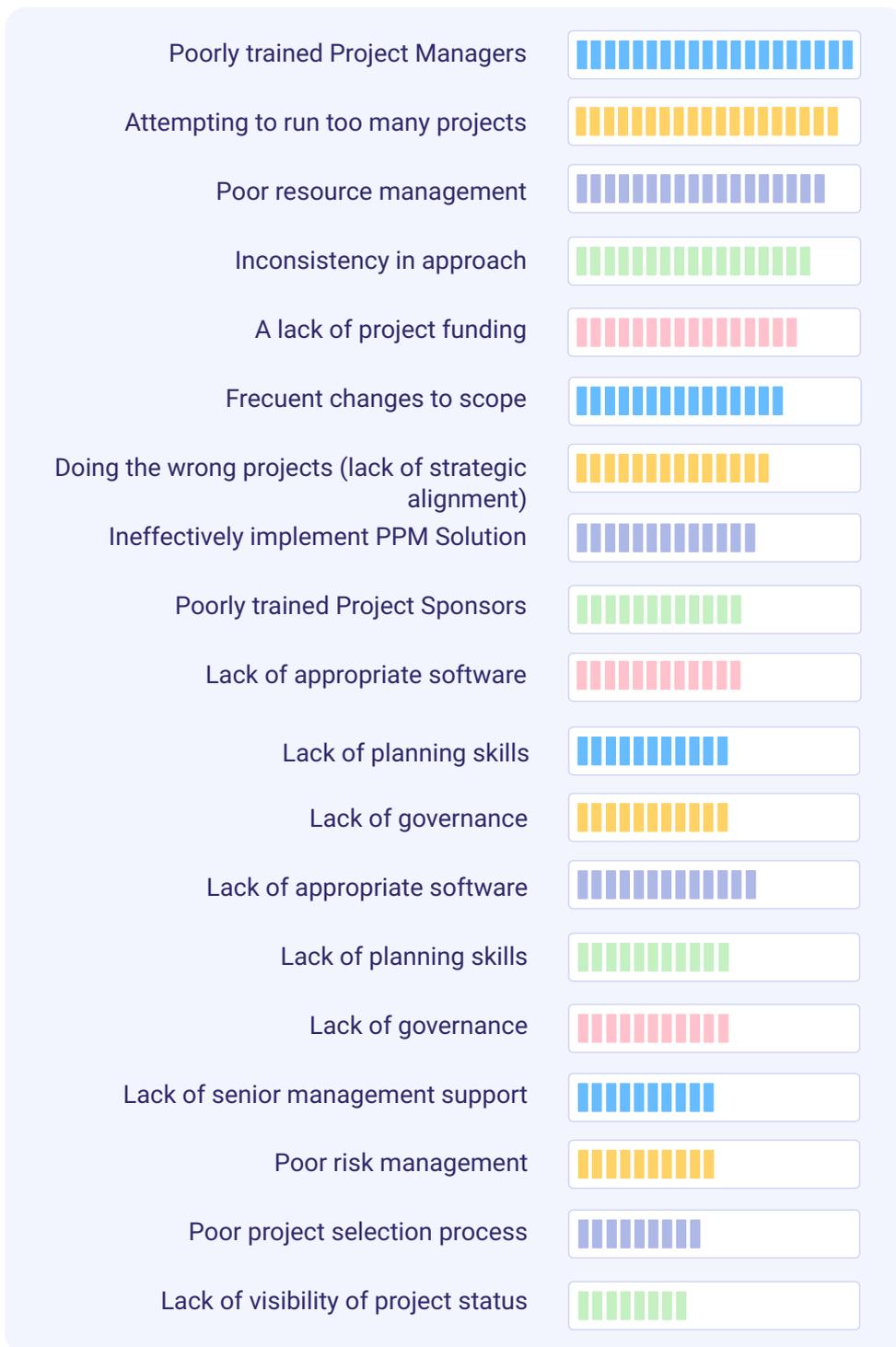




# Why Your Business Needs Multi-Project Resource Management Solution: Software Capabilities Guide

Despite the fact that today you can hardly find a company that runs multiple projects and doesn't use any resource management solutions, the question is what kind of software should be utilized to bring your business maximum profitability. We've created this guide to help you understand what benefits such a tool gives you and your teams, and what opportunities you're missing if you still aren't applying any.

First off, let's take a look at the most common project management challenges in 2021 based on the State of Project Management 2021 report by Wellington involving 214 organizations around the globe.



Some of them for sure can't be resolved with the help of resource management software, but there are some that can be easily addressed by applying some functionalities. But before we start considering RM solutions' capabilities and the ways they can help you reach your goals, let's examine the level of automation in 49 project management processes (based on PMBOK).

Phase Process Family	Artificial Intelligence Level		
	By Human	Basic Automation	Semi Automated
Initiating	2	—	—
Planning	10	12	2
Executing	4	6	—
Monitoring and Controlling	4	8	—
Closing	1	—	—

▶ The biggest number of the tasks performed by software solutions refer to the planning stage: scope, budget and schedule definition, while developing schedule and defining budget are considered to be semi-automated.

▶ 10 types of activities that refer to gathering project requirements, identifying stakeholders, determining scope and tasks, considering risks, and more are still executed by a human.

Having considered the statistics, let's overview in what areas resource management capabilities are most beneficial and in what way they can help you with your business goals.

## Resource Management Solution Helps Reduce Costs

According to Wellington, 66% of companies mostly or always fail to complete projects on budget.

Reasons why your projects are over the budget are different but the most common are



- ▶ poor estimates,
- ▶ scope changes,
- ▶ poor budget management,
- ▶ project delays,
- ▶ improper risk management,
- ▶ inadequate resource management.

Here's how a resource management solution can help.

### Accessing Project Data and Real-Time Changes

By having a resource management tool, you get an opportunity to monitor all changes in real time and react immediately to avoid budget overrun. Besides, most RM solutions have functionalities that let you control your budget and track the budget buffer.

### Delivering more with the same number of resources

If you have multiple projects running simultaneously and a shared pool of resources, RM software can suggest optimal resource allocation decisions based on task prioritization across all projects and analysis of employees' competence and capacity & availability data. So you can intake more orders without overloading your people.

### Uniting globally distributed resources

Resource management solutions can help you decrease the cost of projects by providing an opportunity to manage your geographically distributed employees, equipment, and facilities from a single place. So you can hire people regardless of their place of residence based only on their professional qualities, build your plants where the prices are lower, and buy materials where they are cheaper. By having an advanced RM software you always have all the necessary data at hand together with collaboration opportunities right in the system.

## Resource Management Software Solution Saves Time

*According to the above-mentioned Wellington's report, only 34% of the companies complete their projects on time and 50% of project managers spend 1 or more days manually collating project reports.*

*These figures prove that most companies have issues with planning and completing their job on time and that the project management domain needs to be automated to a greater extent.*



Let's see how RM tools can save you some time for more important activities.

### Providing you with automatic scheduling

Modern project and resource management software solutions make scheduling and baseline measurement much faster. Creating a project schedule becomes as easy as ABC: having added necessary tasks in the system and assigned resources to them, the solution automatically builds a project schedule.

### Suggesting optimal resource allocation decisions

Besides, allocating resources to tasks can be also simplified by applying an RM solution. You can add competence-related information about each project team member and attribute skills to tasks in the system. Then the software solution analyzes this data and provides the most optimal resource allocation suggestions taking into account priorities and users' capacity & availability.

## Updating availability data automatically

If you're using a resource management solution, you can make it even more efficient and save your time by integrating it with a human resource management system that is utilized by HR departments. The information about team members' days off, vacations, and sick leaves will be automatically updated in the system so that you won't have to spend time requesting or updating it.

## Using structure templates for similar projects

If the structure of most of your projects is similar, you can gain some time when planning and scheduling by utilizing project templates. So, when starting a new project you can just copy necessary elements (usually, summaries with a set of tasks) from similar projects that are stored in a system's "library".

## Making reports with a click

Instead of creating project reports manually, modern resource management systems provide an opportunity to make them with a few clicks. You can choose the dates (usually for the previous month or the current one, but as a rule many other options are available) and the data to be shown in the reports and get all the necessary information in a handy format (usually CSV files) by spending just a couple of minutes on that.

## RM Solution Increases Your Teams' Efficiency



*As it was mentioned above, people are not the only resources in projects. But they're the most significant and valuable ones. Without people, none of your initiatives will be successful. That's why efficient and motivated people are one of the keys to a fruitful business.*

*Below, we've distinguished some benefits that can be gained with a resource management solution in terms of effective resource management.*

### Preventing overload and burnout

Overload happens as a result of improper resource management when a person has too many tasks simultaneously together with inadequately estimated task durations. Multi-tasking and overload are dangerous for project success as they significantly decrease resources' performance. Resource management software can help avoid them by prioritizing tasks across all projects with regard to their dependencies and suggesting tasks to the resources based on their competence levels so that the right person works on the assignments according to their skills and experience. Besides, efficient collaboration, which is supported by most modern resource management systems, will also help avoid overload and burnout by letting teams discuss project-related issues.

### Eliminating Student syndrome and Parkinson's law effects

By utilizing a resource management tool, you always know what your resources are working on at the moment and can track the team's progress in real-time as well as examine their previous performance. You can use this data to balance their capacity and workload in the future to make them maximum productive. Besides, an RM solution displays a project buffer, so you can check at any time if your team stays on track, and if not, take necessary measures to improve the state of things.

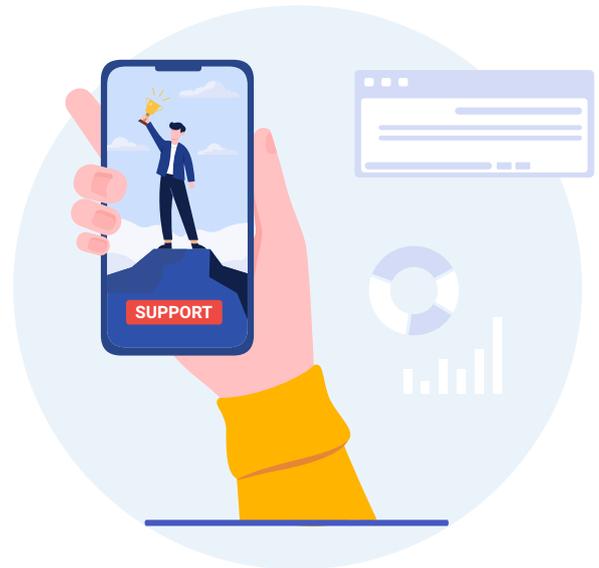
### Balancing capacity and load

Based on predictive analytics, AI-driven resource management solutions forecast whether the team members' load will correspond to their capacity in the future according to the active projects in the pipeline. This information is helpful for planning the employees' workload and makes it possible to predict bottlenecks.

## Resource Management Tool Helps Gain Stakeholders' Support

*Stakeholders in project management are the people who directly or indirectly influence and are affected by the initiation, execution, and implementation of the project.*

*They can contribute to its success or failure, which is why proper stakeholder management ensures risk-free project delivery.*



### Keeping stakeholders up-to-date

According to the Wellington's survey, 55% of the respondents say their organization doesn't have a track record of project success and 47% do not have access to real-time project KPIs. Decision-makers need access to accurate and up-to-date project KPIs they can rely on. One of the most significant benefits of deploying a resource management solution is the automation of reporting. Data is also available at any time, not just at the end of a monthly manual reporting cycle.

### Applying AI to predict the success of upcoming projects

Artificial intelligence is utilized in some modern resource management solutions to make predictions based on historical and current data. A realistic project plan with a high probability of success is a great means to get stakeholders' support if they're convinced that the project is going to be rewarding. Prediction of the most probable outcome is made even before the project starts. So, before initiating a new project, you can check its feasibility and intake the order if you're confident in success.

## RM Software Improves the Quality of the Service You Provide



*To grow your business and have satisfied clients, you should take care not only of time and budget constraints, but also the quality of what you give them.*

*This, in turn, depends on a lot of factors, among which there are some that can be administered with a resource management solution.*

### Making every resource work on the right tasks

The quality of your products or services heavily depends on the qualification of your employees. And if everyone works on the tasks according to their competence levels, the quality of their job is high. As it was mentioned above, modern solutions keep all user-related data in one place and provide the best matches of resources and tasks based on skills and experience. In such a way, a resource or project manager can make optimal resource allocation decisions and let everyone do what they're best at. Besides, a resource management solution makes everyone work on the right task at the right moment by creating a prioritized list of assignments.

### Freeing PMs and RMs from monotonous work

By letting a resource management solution do repetitive tasks as given in the examples in the paragraphs above, a resource manager can focus on more important things that require emotional intelligence and other soft skills. For example, instead of burdening oneself with scheduling, manual allocation or making reports, a resource manager can get the desired results with a few clicks.

## Resource Management Tool Keeps Your Environment Prepared for Uncertainty and Murphy's Strike

*Any project is vulnerable to risks and uncertainty. Murphy's law can come into the spotlight at any stage of the project life cycle.*

*You can't have everything perfect and avoid unexpected things that can harm your projects, but a resource management tool can make you prepared for any kind of uncertainty.*



### Rescheduling the plan automatically

If something unexpected happens, a project manager doesn't have to replan anything. A resource management software solution automatically recalculates priorities and builds a new schedule, which is possible thanks to the real-time data analysis and predictive analytics mechanisms.



## RM Tool Helps Grow Your Global Business



*If your company is small or midsize, but you've set up a goal to grow your business, then a resource management software solution is a must for you.*

*Here are the reasons why.*

### Letting you intake more orders

With a resource management system at hand, you can test the feasibility of new projects before adding them to the real environment. Such a simulation is possible thanks to artificial intelligence, namely predictive analytics that gathers and analyzes data from all projects and resource groups and foresees the consequences of initiating a new one. In other words, it makes reliable assumptions whether your people can cope with one more project without being overwhelmed.

### Letting you have geographically distributed teams

You can grow your business and have offices around the globe while having all your resources united under one virtual roof. An RM system has all the necessary means to unite resources into groups based on common characteristics and easily manage them from a single place: assign tasks, allocate them to different projects, keep track of their skills, and monitor their performance.

### Keeping track of all types of resources

People are not the only type of resources employed in projects. Raw materials, equipment, and other facilities are also used, being distributed across different countries. Monitoring the consumption of these resources as well as managing equipment are extremely important and difficult for resource managers without the opportunities that modern technology can provide. With an RM system at hand, resource-related information is collected and structured for further analysis and tracking. Such solutions suggest the best options for improved resource management.



## How to Choose a Resource Management Solution?



Here's a short list of what you should consider when looking for a resource management solution:

- ▶ features (check if the solution supports AI-driven functionalities and if it's capable of working in a multi-project environment; examine the approach behind it);
- ▶ usability (if it has a mobile app, technical support, and if its interface is user-friendly);
- ▶ architecture (examine its integration opportunities and security);
- ▶ vendor reputation and feedback (analyze case studies, consider the types of companies and their results);
- ▶ cost and terms of use (they can be diverse, so make sure the vendor suggests the ones that meet your needs).

If you don't have any resource management solutions in sight or you're utilizing one but would like to find something more effective, draw your focus towards Epicflow. This AI-driven resource management solution has been designed by experts with great experience in project and resource management specifically for multi-project environments. It's enriched with the features that support all the above-described functionalities and can address all of the mentioned challenges. Here's a very short overview of Epicflow's capabilities:

- ▶ Pipeline for the real-time control of all projects sorted according to the priority.
- ▶ Task List for real-time insight into tasks sorted by priority with a Meeting View feature that lets you create a customized list of users to examine and discuss their tasks during remote team meetings.
- ▶ Historical Load Graph lets you analyze previous flow and output to learn lessons and improve planning.
- ▶ Future Load Graph shows your teams' workflow long in the future, while What-if Analysis lets you see the effect of any changes to the project flow in the future in a simulated environment.
- ▶ Burnup chart lets you control the project's progress, see how much has been done and how much is left.
- ▶ Dashboard (Bubble Graph) shows the structure of your projects as well as time and budget constraints.
- ▶ Competence management for perfect resource allocation decisions based on the analysis of skills, capacity, and availability.
- ▶ Groups and multigroups for even more efficient resource management.
- ▶ Module Library lets you save your time by storing typical project elements in the system and using them for different projects.
- ▶ Reporting capabilities make it possible to create customized reports with a few clicks.
- ▶ Integration opportunities imply ready-made integrations with Jira, MS Project, and Oracle Primavera as well as any other custom integration with any solution of your choice.

**To find out more about our methodology  
and our product, book a call with our experts.**

**Book a Call**