

## HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRANSFORMS THE WORK OF PROJECT MANAGERS IN THE U.S. MARKET

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**Abstract.** This article examines how artificial intelligence (AI) transforms the work of project managers in the contemporary U.S. market. The study analyzes the impact of AI on the core functions of project management, including planning, coordination, communication, reporting, risk management, decision-making, stakeholder interaction, and team collaboration. Special attention is given to the redistribution of responsibilities between human project managers and AI systems, as well as to the growing importance of digital literacy, analytical thinking, ethical judgment, and AI-assisted decision-making competencies.

The article argues that AI does not eliminate the need for project managers, but fundamentally changes the structure of their work. Routine, repetitive, and data-intensive tasks are increasingly automated, while the human role shifts toward leadership, strategic thinking, communication, insight interpretation, and supervision of AI-supported processes. The study also considers how AI changes the speed of communication, the transparency of project execution, and the quality of decision-making in complex project environments.

A separate focus is placed on the evolution of the project manager's competency model, including AI literacy, critical thinking, data interpretation, adaptability, and human-centered leadership. The research also highlights ethical and governance-related issues associated with AI adoption, such as accountability, algorithmic bias, transparency, privacy, and the risks of over-reliance on automation. In addition, the paper examines barriers to AI adoption in project environments, including skill gaps, resistance to change, fragmented systems, and unrealistic expectations regarding automation.

The practical significance of the study lies in its applicability for organizations, PMOs, educators, and project professionals seeking to understand how the profession of project manager evolves under the influence of AI and which competencies will remain essential in the coming years.

**Keywords:** artificial intelligence, project management, project manager, digital transformation, AI literacy, automation, decision-making, competencies, U.S. market, PM profession..

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## **Introduction**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the nature of project management and fundamentally redefining the professional responsibilities of project managers in the United States. In an environment characterized by constantly growing volumes of data, accelerated communication, and increasing project complexity, AI has become a crucial factor influencing management efficiency. The integration of AI into project workflows affects decision-making speed, risk prediction, information processing, communication transparency, and team coordination. In turn, the increasing use of AI tools in daily project work creates an urgent need for acquiring new skills and adapting to change [1, 2, 3].

The necessity of this research stems from the fact that AI already influences the daily work of project managers: from automated reporting and meeting summarization to advanced data analytics, resource planning, stakeholder communication support, and decision-making assistance. Project managers face new expectations, as the profession undergoes a significant transformation under the pressure of digitalization and automation trends [4, 5].

The article also addresses the shortage of academic research on how AI changes the role of project managers specifically in the U.S. market. While there is a wealth of analytical publications and expert opinions from PMI, Gartner, McKinsey, and Deloitte, a systemic scientific analysis of the practical transformation of project-management functions under the influence of AI remains limited. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by providing structured, evidence-based insights and forecasts regarding the automation of functions and new competency requirements [1, 2].

## **Problem statement**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the nature of project management and significantly redefining the professional role of project managers in the United States. In an environment characterized by increasing project complexity, growing data volumes, accelerated communication, and distributed teams, AI has become an important factor influencing management efficiency, risk prediction, information processing, reporting, and coordination [1, 2, 6].

The relevance of this topic stems from the fact that AI already affects project managers' daily work through automated reporting, meeting summarization, documentation support, risk identification, resource planning, and decision-making assistance. As a result, the profession is undergoing a structural transformation: routine and repetitive tasks are increasingly delegated to intelligent systems, while human effort shifts toward analytical, strategic, and leadership-oriented activities [4, 7, 9].

At the same time, the rapid spread of AI in corporate ecosystems creates new challenges. Project managers are expected not only to use AI tools effectively but also to understand their limitations, critically evaluate AI-generated outputs, and ensure responsible use of automated recommendations. Therefore, the issue of how AI transforms project management and which new competencies become essential is of both scientific and practical importance [12, p. 1, 13, p. 1].

## **Analysis of recent research and publications**

The transformation of project management by artificial intelligence has attracted growing attention in both academic and professional literature. Reports and analytical publications by PMI, Gartner, Deloitte, McKinsey, and the World Economic Forum increasingly emphasize that AI affects planning, reporting, communication, forecasting, and decision-making processes in project environments. In particular, PMI publications highlight the growing role of AI in project delivery and the need for project professionals to develop AI-related competencies [1, 2, 3, 4].

A significant part of the existing literature focuses on the automation potential of routine project-management functions, including documentation, reporting, meeting summarization,

and data analysis. Other studies examine the role of predictive analytics, intelligent assistants, and AI-enhanced collaboration tools in improving transparency and responsiveness in project execution [4, 7].

At the same time, recent discussions increasingly address the impact of AI on the project manager's competency profile. Authors and practitioners stress the importance of digital literacy, data interpretation, critical thinking, ethical judgment, adaptability, and the ability to work effectively with AI-generated recommendations [14].

However, despite the growing number of analytical reports and expert commentaries, a systematic scientific interpretation of how AI transforms the professional role of project managers, specifically in the U.S. market, remains limited. In particular, insufficient attention has been paid to the redistribution of responsibilities between human project managers and AI systems, the long-term evolution of the profession, and the balance between automation and human-centered leadership. This creates a need for a more structured analysis of the transformation underway in project management practice.

### **Purpose of the article**

The purpose of this article is to investigate how artificial intelligence transforms the work of project managers in the U.S. market and to determine which project-management functions are automated, which remain human-centered, and which competencies become critical in the AI-driven professional environment.

To achieve this purpose, the study focuses on the following objectives: to analyze how AI affects the daily workflow of project managers; to identify project-management tasks that can be fully or partially automated; to examine the impact of AI on communication, team coordination, and decision-making; to define the new competency profile of the project manager in the AI era; and to assess the ethical, organizational, and methodological implications of AI adoption in project work.

### **Main material of the research**

#### **1 AI as a driver of transformation in project management**

Artificial intelligence has become a major driver of transformation in project management, affecting planning, coordination, communication, monitoring, reporting, risk management, decision-making, documentation, and broader organizational practices. Unlike traditional digital tools, AI systems do not merely store, transmit, or visualize information. They increasingly generate insights, summarize communication, support forecasting, identify patterns, assist in operational decision-making, and reduce the manual effort previously required to maintain project control [1, 4].

In this sense, AI is not simply an additional technological tool layered onto existing project workflows. It fundamentally changes the structure of project work itself. Its influence extends across planning processes, resource management, communication and coordination, monitoring and reporting, risk identification, decision-making, documentation handling, organizational culture, and competency requirements. As AI becomes embedded into everyday project environments, it automates routine tasks while simultaneously providing analytical support that was previously unavailable or too time-consuming to produce manually [1, 4].

Several categories of AI technologies are increasingly used in U.S. organizations, each contributing to this transformation in a different way. One of the most visible categories includes large language models and natural language processing tools. Solutions such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, Jira AI Assist, and Azure OpenAI Services can generate text, summarize large volumes of information, classify documentation, answer complex questions based on knowledge repositories, and provide contextual explanations and recommendations. In project environments, these capabilities significantly reduce the effort required for reporting, meeting follow-up, document drafting, and communication support [7, 10].

Another important category is predictive analytics and machine-learning systems. These technologies are used to forecast deadlines, identify anomalies, detect patterns in project data, estimate workloads, and anticipate risks before they become visible through traditional monitoring approaches. Their value lies in the ability to process large volumes of historical and real-time information, thereby improving the speed and quality of managerial assessment [2, 4].

A further category includes autonomous or semi-autonomous AI agents. Such agents can independently perform selected operational tasks, including reporting support, schedule updates, backlog analysis, and documentation processing. Although their autonomy remains limited by organizational governance and data quality, they represent an important shift toward AI-supported execution rather than AI-assisted observation alone [12, p. 8].

Intelligent automation and workflow systems also play an increasingly significant role. Platforms such as Microsoft Power Automate, Zapier, and ServiceNow automation tools enable organizations to automate sequences of actions that previously required repetitive manual intervention. In project contexts, these systems support data synchronization, notification flows, approval routing, and updates across multiple digital environments, thereby reducing administrative overhead and increasing consistency [8].

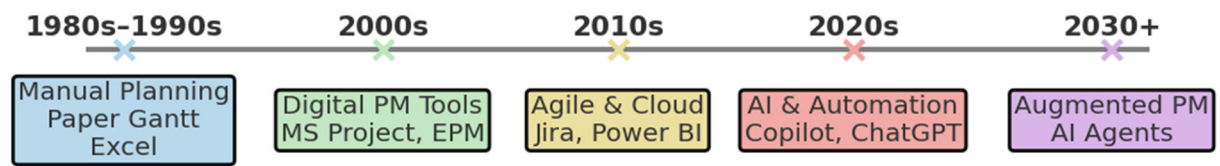
In parallel, AI-enhanced collaboration tools are becoming embedded into common workplace platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Slack, Zoom, Asana, and Notion. These tools can automatically generate summaries, extract action items, detect unanswered questions, highlight follow-up responsibilities, and in some cases analyze communication tone or discussion intensity. As a result, collaboration becomes more transparent, and project managers gain quicker access to structured information derived from ongoing interactions [9, 10].

Taken together, these categories of AI technologies create a new project environment in which the project manager works not only with people and data, but also with AI-supported systems that extend managerial capacity. However, AI should not be interpreted as a replacement for the project manager. Rather, it functions as an analytical assistant, a co-pilot for decision-making, a tool for reducing routine workload, a mechanism for increasing transparency, and a source of predictive insight [1, p. 7].

Thus, the role of the project manager is being redefined. Instead of acting primarily as a manual executor of administrative tasks, the project manager increasingly becomes a supervisor of AI-assisted processes, an interpreter of data and recommendations, a strategist, and a leader of team collaboration. This transformation does not diminish the importance of the profession; on the contrary, it elevates the value of human capabilities that cannot be fully automated, including contextual judgment, ethical responsibility, stakeholder engagement, and leadership [3, 14].

## **2 Historical context and the necessity of AI integration**

Before artificial intelligence became widely accessible in organizations, project managers' work was characterized by heavy administrative workloads, fragmented tools, slow information exchange, and limited forecasting capabilities. Project managers spent substantial time preparing reports, updating documentation, consolidating information from multiple systems, and manually tracking risks, schedules, and project progress. As a result, a significant share of their working time was devoted not to leadership or strategic coordination, but to operational maintenance of project information [4]; [7].



**Figure 1. Evolution of Project Manager's tools.**

*Source: Developed by the author.*

Historically, project managers were required to perform a wide range of repetitive administrative tasks. These included preparing weekly and monthly reports, updating executive status summaries, documenting meetings and follow-up actions, manually adjusting schedules and Gantt charts, composing explanatory communications regarding changes, and reconciling inconsistent information across multiple sources. According to professional observations reflected in PMI-related discussions, administrative and documentation-related work could occupy a substantial proportion of a project manager's working time, significantly reducing the ability to focus on higher-level managerial tasks [7].

Another major limitation of the pre-AI environment was the lack of accessible predictive capabilities. Project managers largely relied on personal experience, intuition, subjective judgment, analogies with previous projects, and simplified risk-evaluation methods. Predictive analytics was often unavailable, too expensive, or too complex to embed into daily project work. As a result, risk management and forecasting were frequently reactive rather than proactive, and many problems were identified only after they had already begun to affect project execution [4].

In addition, information exchange before cloud ecosystems and AI-driven communication tools was slower, less structured, and more fragmented. Communication often depended on email chains, spreadsheets, offline meetings, local document repositories, and phone calls. This created delays in decision-making, reduced transparency in project execution, increased the likelihood of losing important information, and made coordination across teams more difficult. The fragmentation of tools further intensified these problems, since project managers often had to work with several unconnected systems, manually transferring and reconciling data across them [6].

These conditions also increased the risk of human error. Manual operations such as data entry, calculations, document consolidation, copying information between systems, and interpreting inconsistent updates often led to arithmetic errors, outdated information, duplicate records, inconsistent reporting, and misunderstandings in decision-making. In this context, the quality of project control depended heavily on human accuracy and personal discipline [7].

The integration of AI became a practical necessity due to several structural changes in the project environment. Modern projects generate enormous volumes of structured and unstructured data, including messages, meeting notes, documents, logs, metrics, reports, and status updates, which humans cannot process manually with sufficient speed and consistency. At the same time, hybrid and distributed work have accelerated communication and heightened the need for instant synchronization, rapid decision-making, and greater transparency. Project complexity has also grown due to the involvement of cross-functional teams, multiple stakeholders, overlapping dependencies, regulatory pressures, and changing market conditions. Under these circumstances, organizations increasingly expect project managers to deliver faster, more accurately, with fewer resources, and with lower overhead

costs. AI, therefore, emerged not simply as a technological innovation but as an organizational response to the structural limitations of manual project coordination [2, 11]

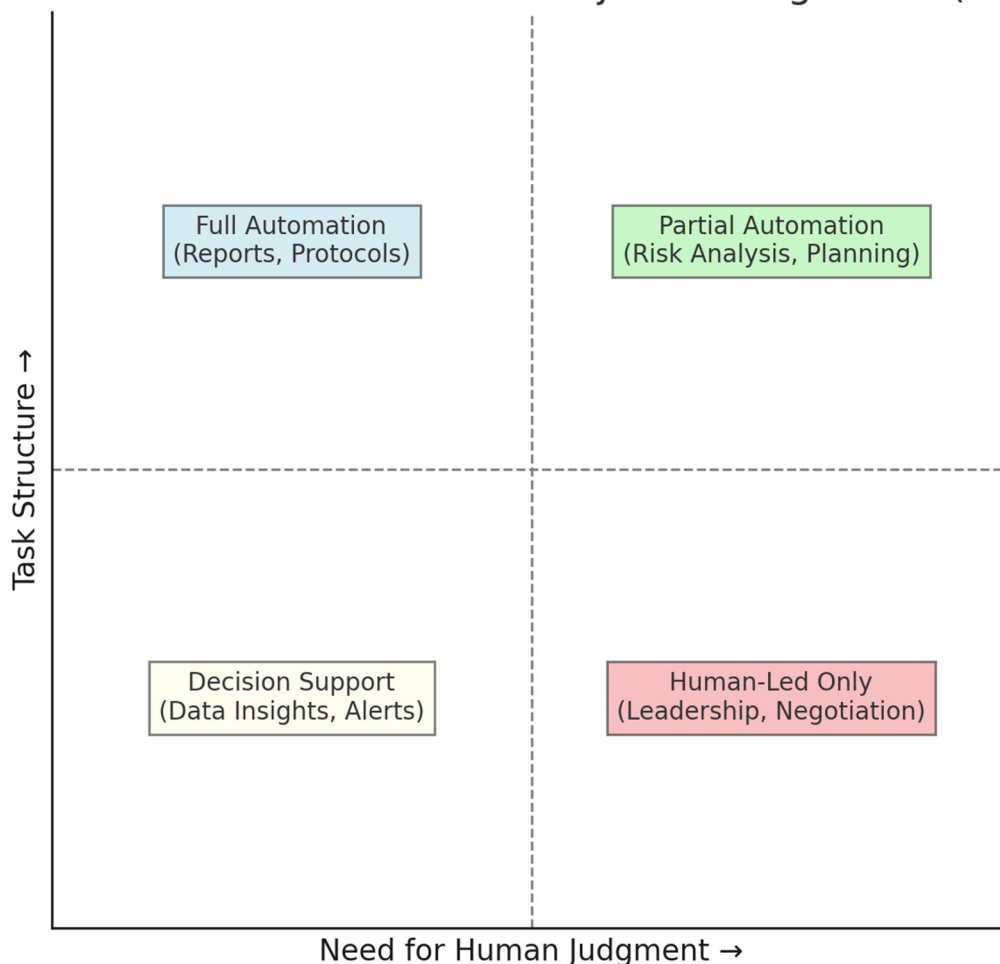
### 3 Redistribution of responsibilities between humans and AI

One of the most significant effects of AI adoption in project management is the redistribution of responsibilities between human project managers and intelligent systems. Routine, structured, and repetitive tasks are increasingly performed by AI, whereas functions requiring judgment, leadership, communication, ethical responsibility, and strategic thinking remain primarily human-centered [1, p. 7].

This shift reflects a broader transformation in contemporary project management, where the role of the project manager evolves from operational coordination to strategic and analytical leadership. AI does not eliminate managerial responsibilities; rather, it redistributes them across human and technological capabilities [1, 14].

Figure 2 illustrates a conceptual distribution of human and AI roles across project-management tasks. Simpler, more structured activities can be fully delegated to AI (automation), whereas complex tasks that require contextual awareness and human judgment benefit from AI as a supportive tool (augmentation) [1, p. 7].

#### Matrix of Task Automation in Project Management (AI Era)



**Figure 2: Example of How Human and AI Roles Are Distributed Across Different Project-Management Tasks**

**Source: Developed by the author.**

For a more detailed interpretation of this transformation, Table 1 presents the expected levels of automation across key project management functions.

**Table 1. Function Automation Levels**

Project-Management Function	Expected Level of Automation	Notes
Monitoring and reporting	High, up to full automation	AI automatically generates reports, dashboards, summaries.
Documentation and meeting minutes	Full automation	Generative AI tools already perform this better and faster than humans.
Scheduling and resource allocation	Partial to high automation	AI provides recommendations; human approval remains necessary.
Risk management	Partial automation	AI predicts risks; human interprets context and final impact.
Decision-making and change management	Low automation	AI assists, but human responsibility is required.
Communication and stakeholder engagement	Very low automation	Emotional intelligence and negotiation cannot be automated.
Quality control and compliance	Medium automation	AI detects inconsistencies; human evaluates complex cases.

**Source: Developed by the author.**

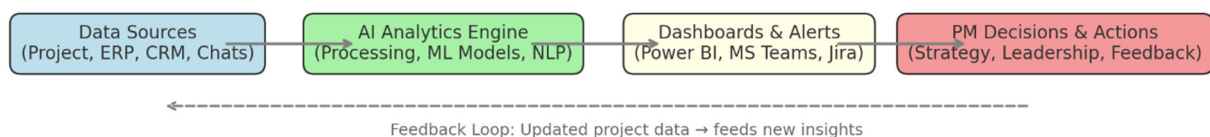
The analysis indicates that monitoring, reporting, and documentation demonstrate the highest automation potential. AI systems can extract data from multiple sources, update dashboards, identify deviations, and generate structured reports with minimal human involvement. Similarly, meeting documentation and follow-up tracking are increasingly automated through generative AI tools [7, 9].

Scheduling, resource allocation, risk management, and quality control are more likely to be partially automated. In these areas, AI provides analytical recommendations, forecasts, and pattern recognition, while human managers remain responsible for interpreting context, validating assumptions, and making final decisions [1, p. 7, 7].

By contrast, communication, stakeholder engagement, negotiation, conflict resolution, and change management remain predominantly human-driven. These functions rely on emotional intelligence, trust, ethical reasoning, and contextual understanding, which AI systems cannot fully replicate [3, 14].

Figure 3 illustrates how AI integrates into project environments as part of a continuous data flow connecting planning, execution, monitoring, and decision-making processes [1, p. 7].

AI-Driven Data Flow in Project Management



**Figure 3: AI-Driven Data Flow in Project Management**

**Source: Developed by the author.**

Thus, AI should be viewed not as a replacement for the project manager, but as an operational and analytical extension of managerial capabilities. The future project manager increasingly works in collaboration with AI systems, leveraging them as digital assistants

while maintaining responsibility for strategic direction, human interaction, and final decision-making [1, p. 7].

#### **4 Transformation of the project manager's daily work and communication**

Artificial intelligence transforms not only individual project management tasks but also the overall structure of the project manager's working day. Prior to the adoption of AI, a significant portion of the project manager's time was spent on manual, repetitive activities, including preparing reports, updating documentation, composing explanatory communications, recording meeting outcomes, reconciling project statuses across systems, tracking risks and issues, and consolidating fragmented information from multiple sources. Decision-making in such environments was often based on incomplete or outdated data, which limited both speed and accuracy [4, 7].

With the introduction of AI, the structure of the project manager's workday changes substantially. Many operational activities are automated or significantly accelerated. AI systems can generate reports and summaries, update documentation, process communication threads, identify risks in advance using analytical models, dynamically update schedules, and highlight inconsistencies in real time. As a result, project managers spend less time on administrative maintenance and more time on high-value activities [4, 7, 8, 9].

This shift enables project managers to focus on strategic planning, deep analysis, scenario evaluation, stakeholder engagement, leadership, mentoring, and the resolution of complex issues that require contextual understanding. Rather than manually processing large volumes of information, they increasingly interpret insights generated by AI systems and use them to support decision-making [14].

AI also significantly improves the speed and quality of communication within project environments. It enables automatic summarization of discussions, extraction of action items, identification of missing or inconsistent information, and structuring of unorganized communication flows. In addition, AI tools can analyze communication patterns and highlight potential issues, allowing project managers to react more quickly and maintain alignment across teams [9, 10].

As a consequence, decision-making processes become faster and more informed. AI provides real-time insights, suggests possible next steps based on historical patterns, forecasts potential outcomes of decisions, and identifies hidden risks and dependencies. This reduces the time required for information processing, allowing project managers to focus on evaluating alternatives rather than gathering data [2, 4].

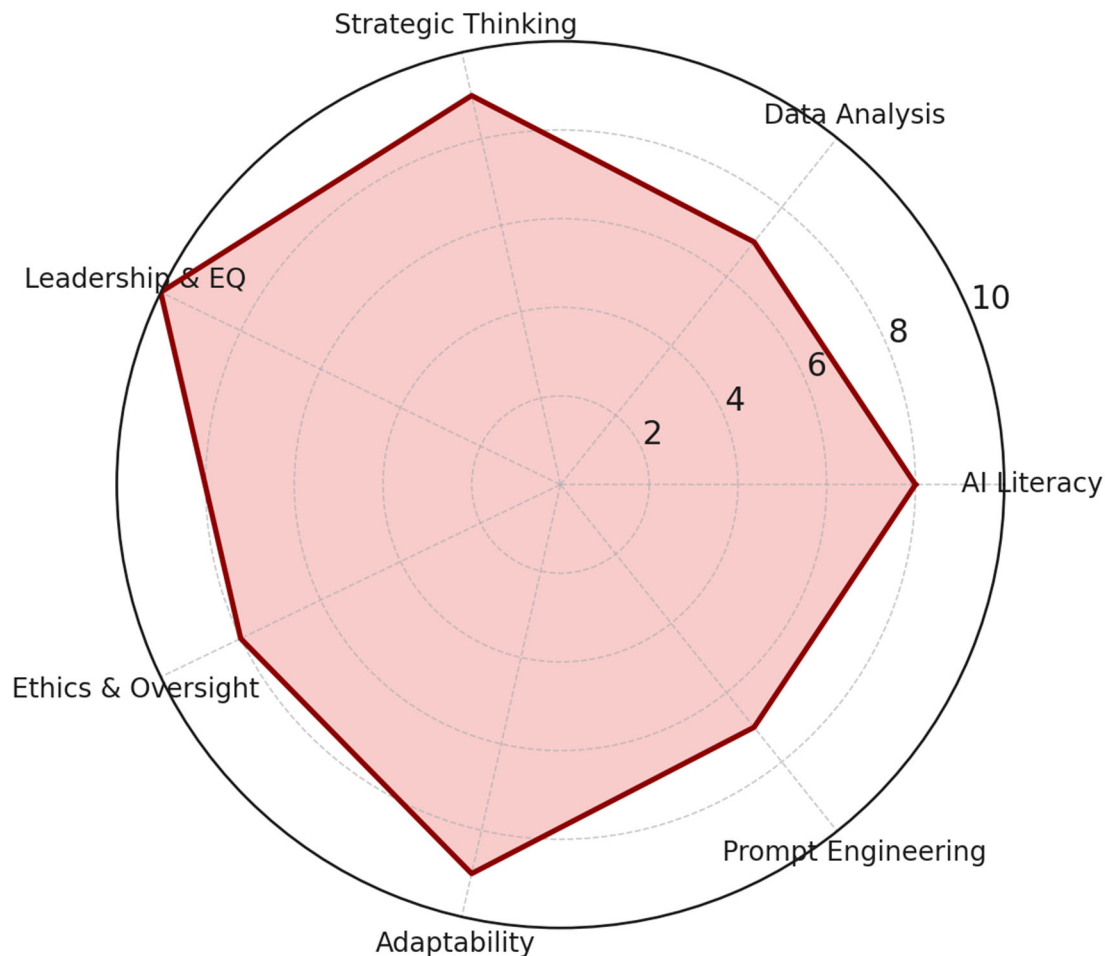
The transformation also affects team dynamics. AI increases team members' autonomy by reducing their dependence on the project manager for routine clarifications and information retrieval. Communication becomes more transparent as progress, risks, and issues are automatically highlighted. Teams can respond more quickly to blockers, and cross-functional collaboration improves through shared access to structured, AI-generated insights [6, 9, 10].

Overall, artificial intelligence enhances not only the efficiency of the project manager but also the effectiveness of the entire project team. The role of the project manager evolves from operational coordination toward leadership, facilitation, and strategic decision-making supported by continuous analytical input [14].

#### **5 Competencies of the project manager in the AI era**

The widespread adoption of artificial intelligence does not diminish the importance of the project management profession; rather, it transforms the competency model required for success. As AI becomes embedded in project environments, project managers must combine technological awareness with advanced analytical and human-centered capabilities [1, 14].

## PM 2.0 Competency Radar: Human + AI Skills



**Figure 4: PM 2.0 Competency Radar**

**Source: Developed by the author.**

Digital literacy and AI awareness become foundational competencies. Project managers are expected to understand how AI systems operate, what their capabilities and limitations are, and how to use them effectively in daily work. This includes the ability to interpret AI-generated outputs, recognize potential biases, evaluate reliability, and determine where AI can or cannot be applied. Instead of passively accepting automated recommendations, project managers must critically assess their validity and relevance [3, 14].

Analytical thinking and data literacy also become increasingly important. Project managers must be able to interpret dashboards, identify patterns and trends, work with both quantitative and qualitative data, and derive conclusions even in conditions of incomplete or uncertain information. While they are not required to become data scientists, they must understand how analytical models function and how to validate their results [3, 14].

Critical thinking and decision-making remain central competencies in the AI-supported environment. Although AI can generate multiple options, forecasts, and recommendations, the project manager remains responsible for evaluating alternatives, assessing risks and consequences, ensuring alignment with organizational goals, and making final decisions. This responsibility becomes even more significant as decision-making increasingly relies on complex analytical inputs [1, p. 7, 14].

At the same time, human-centered competencies become even more important. Leadership, emotional intelligence, empathy, negotiation, stakeholder engagement, and conflict resolution cannot be fully automated. As AI takes over operational and analytical

tasks, the project manager's role shifts toward facilitating collaboration, maintaining trust, and guiding teams through uncertainty and change [3, 14].

Adaptability and continuous learning are also critical. AI technologies evolve rapidly, requiring project managers to continuously update their skills, integrate new tools into their workflows, and support their teams in navigating technological change. Those who resist such transformation risk losing relevance in an increasingly AI-driven professional environment [3, 5].

In this context, the interaction between the project manager and artificial intelligence can be described as a collaborative model in which AI functions as an operational and analytical assistant, while the human remains responsible for oversight and decision-making. AI systems support data extraction, summarization, forecasting, anomaly detection, and routine execution, whereas the project manager interprets results, validates recommendations, ensures ethical compliance, manages stakeholders, and provides strategic direction [1, p. 7, 12, p. 8].

Thus, the future project manager can be understood as a professional who works in continuous collaboration with AI systems, leveraging them as digital assistants while retaining responsibility for leadership, judgment, and accountability [1, 13, p. 1].

### **6 Organizational, ethical, and future implications of AI in project management**

The integration of artificial intelligence into project environments significantly reshapes the project manager's organizational role. Traditionally, project managers acted primarily as administrators, coordinators, schedulers, and controllers of project information. With the adoption of AI, this role evolves toward strategic leadership, facilitation of collaboration, interpretation of analytical insights, and management of organizational change. The project manager increasingly becomes a strategic integrator rather than a task controller [1, 6, 14].

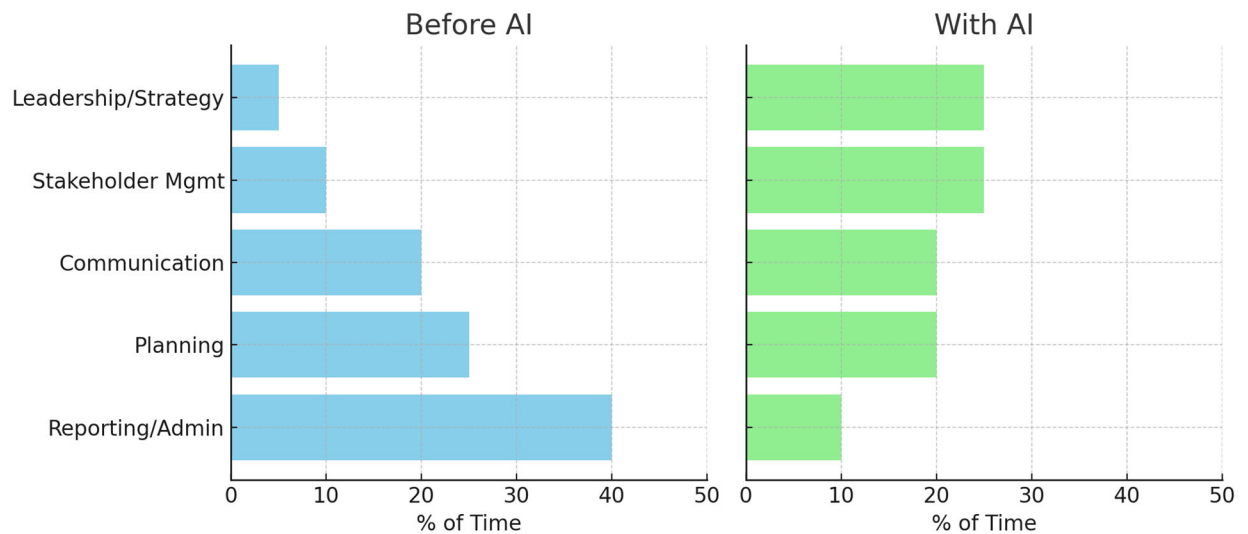
AI also influences project-management methodologies. In predictive approaches, such as Waterfall, AI enhances schedule forecasting, risk analysis, critical-path evaluation, change-impact assessment, and resource modeling. In Agile and hybrid environments, AI supports backlog prioritization, estimation, sprint planning, blocker identification, team sentiment analysis, and cross-team synchronization. Rather than replacing existing methodologies, AI enhances them by providing analytical depth, automation, and improved visibility [6, 15].

At the same time, the adoption of AI introduces important ethical and governance challenges. Project managers remain responsible for validating AI-generated outputs, ensuring alignment with organizational policies, and understanding the consequences of decisions supported by AI systems. Risks such as algorithmic bias, lack of transparency, and incorrect interpretation of results must be actively managed. AI systems should be explainable, auditable, and traceable, while data privacy and protection requirements must be strictly maintained. In this context, the project manager serves as an ethical supervisor of AI-supported processes [12, p. 2, 12, p. 8, 13, p. 1].

Organizations also face practical barriers to AI adoption. These include limited AI literacy among project managers, resistance to change from teams, fragmented systems, low-quality data, lack of integration between tools, and outdated infrastructure. In addition, many organizations have unrealistic expectations for AI, assuming full automation or autonomous decision-making, whereas in practice, AI primarily functions as an assistant rather than a replacement [1, p. 7].

The future development of the project-management profession is closely linked to the continued advancement of AI technologies. Project managers will increasingly rely on predictive and prescriptive analytics, real-time insights, and AI-powered assistants that support decision-making and operational tasks. At the same time, administrative workload will continue to decrease, allowing greater focus on stakeholder management, strategic planning, cross-team coordination, and scenario evaluation [2, 4, 7].

Project Manager's Workday: Before vs With AI



**Figure 5: PM Workday: before vs with AI**

**Source: Developed by the author.**

Human competencies will become even more important in this context. Leadership, communication, ethical judgment, contextual reasoning, and the ability to manage complexity will define the value of the project manager in AI-driven environments. The profession is therefore not being replaced, but transformed, with AI acting as a catalyst that shifts the focus from operational execution to strategic and human-centered responsibilities [3, 14].

### Conclusion

The study confirms that artificial intelligence fundamentally transforms the work of project managers in the U.S. market by redistributing responsibilities between humans and intelligent systems. Routine, repetitive, and data-intensive tasks are increasingly automated, while the human role becomes more strategic, analytical, ethical, and leadership-oriented.

The findings demonstrate that AI does not eliminate the need for project managers, but changes the structure of their work, accelerates communication and decision-making, improves transparency, and enhances team coordination. At the same time, the profession requires a new competency model that combines AI literacy, analytical thinking, critical judgment, adaptability, and human-centered leadership.

The study also shows that the effective use of AI in project environments depends not only on technological capabilities but also on ethical supervision, organizational readiness, data quality, and the ability of project managers to integrate AI into practice responsibly. Future research should further explore the long-term transformation of the profession, sector-specific differences, and the development of governance models for responsible AI use in project management.

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