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*In Cooperation with the Global Business and Technology Association*



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<p><i>Abstract: Information technology (IT) projects have been known for the high failure rates caused due to multitude of factors ranging from project dynamics, project environment to flexibility and fluid building blocks of these projects (Keith &amp; Demirkon, 2009; Pretorius &amp; Steyn, 2005; Shwalbe, 2010). The work in this paper following a qualitative methodology, based on six IT projects implemented in the last five years in the USA, identified inhibiting factors that influence them negatively. The results indicate that the knowledge transfer initiatives could help the IT projects to improve the overall performance. The research also helps in synthesizing convergence solutions to IT projects in creating innovative methods to minimize project risks.</i></p>		
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<p>Ritab Al-Khoury M. Umaima Abdul Khalik</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DOES POLITICAL RISK AFFECT THE FLOW OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INTO THE MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICAN REGION?</b></p>	<p>..... 47</p>
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*Abstract: Given the political risk in the Middle East North African (MENA) region, this research aimed to unveil the importance of the different components of political risk on the change in foreign direct investment (FDI), controlling for other types of risks and macroeconomic factors. Furthermore, we look at whether there are differences in the factors that affect FDI between rich and poor countries in the region. Fixed effect and random effect dynamic models are applied on a sample of 16 MENA countries over the period 1984 - 2011. Taking all countries together, we find, as hypothesized, that agglomeration, market size, and political risk are significant and positively related to FDI. Additionally, among the 12 political risk components, the level of corruption and the level of external conflict have close association with FDI flows. FDI motives, however, vary greatly between rich countries and the non-rich countries in the MENA region.*

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