

HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-03: Support for the professionalisation of research management



I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Project



I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

Topics

1. Standardized training pathway and curricula for R&I Managers, supporting career development and skills enhancement
2. Multi-disciplinarity and holistic approach to research and societal challenges
3. Implementation of an institutional platform for resource management
4. Digital tools to support platform activities
5. Engagement of companies, SMEs, and startups to create an R&I ecosystem
6. Recommendations to European institutions to inform policies
7. Collaboration with stakeholders for the development of guidelines and best practices
8. Promotion of professionalization of the R&I Manager role, including legal and regulatory framework
9. Strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange among R&I Managers at the European level

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Field of expertise related to the topic:

R&I area

Potential contribution to the project: Coordination role; Management; Dissemination; Stakeholders' engagement; Best practice as R&I Office and Internationalization activities

At IRST, we have an excellent research office that aligns with the latest European and international trends. Our project management professionals have extensive experience in coordinating complex research initiatives, ensuring effective collaboration, and timely delivery of project objectives. We have a dedicated office with multidisciplinary expertise spanning scientific competencies, economics, social sciences, project management, European politics, and technology transfer. As a result, IRST is well integrated and active in European and international projects and collaborations.

Role in the project:



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Development	

Project idea:

In today's rapidly evolving research landscape, the role of the R&I manager has undergone a profound transformation. What was once confined to the realms of traditional grant offices has now evolved into a multifaceted job, reflective of the complex and interconnected nature of modern research endeavors. This evolution is not merely a response to changing trends; it is a recognition of the diverse array of skills, expertise, and collaborative efforts required to address the pressing challenges facing our societal progress. Considering this framework, initiatives like the one proposed here take on paramount significance.

This project is not just about forging partnerships, it is about embodying a shared commitment to shaping a more fair and sustainable future through research and innovation. In the following proposal, we will address the current needs and challenges, engage key stakeholders, and ultimately contribute to advancing the research landscape in Europe and beyond through the professionalization of the R&I Manager. Furthermore, a thorough needs analysis of the current state across Europe will serve as the foundation for the project's activities. This analysis will involve assessing existing gaps and opportunities, including the uneven distribution of expertise, the need for standardized training programs, and the lack of recognition for the profession.

R&I Managers play a crucial role in driving progress and fostering collaboration within the ERA. These professionals serve as catalysts for excellence, facilitating the effective management of projects and initiatives that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and technology. Their responsibilities encompass a wide range of tasks, from strategic planning and project coordination to policy advising and interdisciplinary collaboration. Given the multidimensional nature of research management, R&I Managers require diverse set of competencies, spanning various disciplines and sectors, with the importance of soft skills alongside technical proficiency. These figures serve as bridges between academia, industry, and government, ensuring that research endeavors align with the latest European and international trends. As such, fostering the professional development and recognition of R&I Managers is essential for enhancing the overall research ecosystem in Europe.

Despite their crucial role, the figure of the R&I Manager remains unfortunately fragmented across Europe, missing a clear and standardized career path. This fragmentation often leads to uncertainties and precariousness within the field. The absence of universally recognized career development standards or specific training courses exacerbates these challenges as well as risk of discrimination among countries and R&I performing level. As a result, R&I Managers may find themselves navigating a disjointed landscape, lacking the support and resources necessary for their professional growth and recognition. This lack of cohesion not only hampers individual career progression but also undermines the effectiveness of research management efforts on a broader scale. Addressing this fragmentation and establishing a more cohesive framework for the professional development and recognition of R&I Managers is essential for fostering a robust and sustainable research ecosystem in Europe and is the ultimate goal of this project.

Project description:

Considering this context, our project will achieve the **following results**:

1. Establishment of a recognized platform:

- Establish an institutionalized platform to facilitate flexible career paths for research managers, exchange best practices, share experiences, knowledge, resources and tools; and create solid connections beyond the project's duration.
- Organization of the platform into thematic clusters, following the priorities suggested by the European Commission (i.e. Missions HE, Cluster HE, thematic working groups such as health, climate action, social economy, digital transition, civil rights, international cooperation)
- Focus on promoting equal access to such networks and exchanges in regions and institutions with lower R&I intensity.
- Complement and coordinate existing national initiatives through cross-border European operational networks (Engagement of National Contact Points to ensure effective representation and connection with national organizations)

Important aspect: the ultimate outcome of the training component of this project will be to develop an appropriate pathway that can harmonize the currently fragmented landscape. This pathway will establish requirements for the creation of certifications, ensuring consistency and quality across training programs. Additionally, the project will undertake an analysis to define the criteria for the creation of a registry of these professionals. This registry will serve as a means of officially recognizing and legitimizing the profession. Based on the findings of this analysis, the project will develop specific guidelines and recommendations for European institutions. These recommendations will advocate for the formulation of legislative proposals aimed at establishing regulatory frameworks for the creation and maintenance of this registry.

2. Engagement and training (Development of joint programs and curricula):

- Engage a broad spectrum of public research performing and funding organizations, along with their research management staff, in comprehensive training and networking programs for professional and career development opportunities.
- Design and implementation of innovative training models, including online courses, webinars, workshops, and mentorship programs tailored to each thematic cluster.
- Definition of key competencies and skills specific to each cluster, ensuring that research managers receive targeted training aligned with their professional needs.
- Enhance accessibility to training programs for regions with lower R&I intensity.
- Contribute to the professionalization of research management through the certification of training programs, in collaboration with the other initiatives already started.

Important aspect: building upon the platform, the project will implement a digital tool to support its functionalities. This instrument will serve as a centralized hub for gathering tools, informational and

educational materials, as well as maintaining a database of registered users. In addition to this, specific project activities will focus on identifying and engaging with companies, SMEs, startups, authorities, investors, and other stakeholders to form an ecosystem around the project's platform. These stakeholders will each contribute unique resources to the network. For instance, they may provide process management tools, research management software, or other digital support tools to match the needs of R&I Managers with appropriate solutions. This collaborative ecosystem will enhance the effectiveness and usability of the platform, providing R&I Managers with access to a wide range of resources and support services tailored to their needs, as well as building strategic and structured partnerships for future projects.

3. Recognition of the profession:

- Increase awareness and recognition of the research management profession in Member States, emphasizing the pivotal role of research managers across Europe, through dedicated informative event and dissemination activities.
- Create economic guidelines to harmonize the treatment of Research Managers across Europe to standardize practices and ensure fairness and consistency in how Research Managers are remunerated and financially supported.
- Strengthen research management capacities through capacity-building activities, particularly in regions with lower R&I intensity.

4. Innovative Networking Initiatives:

- Organization of virtual and physical networking events within each thematic cluster, such as conferences, discussion forums, and roundtable discussions, to facilitate domain-specific collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Implementation of interactive digital and social tools on the platform to foster communication and collaboration among research managers within and across clusters.

Expected outcomes:

- Establishment of a stable and user-friendly online platform, providing a central hub for the community of research managers in Europe, and a strong link with a surrounding ecosystem.
- Enhanced recognition of the Research Manager profile, through definition and promotion of a standardized professional profile for research managers recognized at national and European levels (specifically including R&I low-performing countries).
- Improvement of skills and capabilities of research management staff through tailored training and development programs aligned with specific cluster needs.
- Creation of specific networks of research managers within each thematic cluster, facilitating targeted collaboration, knowledge exchange and strategic partnerships.
- Enhancement of research organizations' capacity to attract, develop, and retain qualified

talent in the field of research management.

- Specific guidelines and recommendations for European institutions and policy-makers.

Important aspect: specific activities of the project will involve providing feedback at the policy level, issuing guidelines, and making recommendations directed towards European institutions. This strategic approach aims to create a symbiotic relationship where both parties benefit. For instance, the European Commission stands to gain valuable insights from the feedback provided by the R&I Managers' platform on their research priorities and funding programmes. Moreover, since the platform comprises R&I Managers who are directly involved in managing projects funded by the European Commission, their feedback holds significant weight and relevance. Simultaneously, R&I Managers gain increased political leverage by collectively voicing their needs and requirements, thus facilitating the identification of tailored solutions to address their challenges and concerns. This collaborative approach fosters a mutually beneficial relationship between R&I Managers and European institutions, ultimately driving progress and innovation within ERA.

Already experience as a Coordinator: ☒ yes ☐ no

As a Partner: ☒ yes ☐ no

If "yes", which project:

[EU HE - MISSION CANCER | IMPACT-AML Master framework and pragmatic clinical trial for relapse or refractory acute myeloid leukemia](#)

[EU 4 HEALTH - JANE Network of expertise on Cancer](#)

[EU HE - FLUTE Federate Learning and mUlti-party computation Techniques prostate cancer](#)

[EU HE - ONCOVALUE Implementing value-based oncology care at European cancer hospitals: An AI-based framework for assessing real-life effectiveness of novel cancer therapies in real-time](#)

[EU HE EUROATOM - SECURE Strengthening the European chain of supply for next generation medical radionuclides](#)

[EU HE - TRUMPET TRUStworthy Multi-site Privacy Enhancing Technologies](#)

Other partners in consortium already identified (with countries):

1. TARGET COORDINATOR / PARTNER SOUGHT

Organisation details:

☒ Higher education / university

☒ Industry / SME

☒ Research institution

☒ Other

☒ NGO

Please specify: accreditation centre

☒ Education

We are looking for following Expertise / Competencies:

R&I management; Dissemination; R&I policies; Organizational structures; Job policies; Upskilling and capacity-building

1. CONTACT DETAILS

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Short profile of the Organisation:

IRST is a renowned research centre in the field of oncological research and treatment. With a solid commitment to advancing the frontiers of science and medicine, IRST has garnered international recognition for its groundbreaking work in combating cancer. At the heart of our mission lies a dedication to bridging the gap between research discoveries and clinical applications, ensuring that the latest advancements translate into tangible benefits for patients.

Within the expansive realm of our activities, IRST supports a holistic approach to healthcare, extending beyond traditional treatment paradigms. Our efforts encompass not only pioneering research initiatives but also proactive endeavors aimed at enhancing patient well-being, community health, and societal engagement. Through initiatives in scientific communication, training programs, and digitalization of administrative processes, we continually strive to optimize healthcare delivery and foster innovation-driven solutions that enhance quality and efficiency.

Date: 22/02/2024

The offer is valid until: 02/03/2024

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