



COST Targeted Network

*“The voice of research administrators –
building a network of administrative
excellence”*

(BESTPRAC)



Aim of the network

- The aim is to allow networking and exchanging financial, legal and administrative experiences and to share and develop best practices encouraging knowledge sharing, knowledge transfer and increased efficiency in research project administration within research-performing institutions throughout Europe.

Key objective

- To establish a *network* for the administrative, finance and legal services in universities, research organizations and related entities supporting researchers involved in the lifecycle of transnational external competition based (in particular European funded) projects in order to exchange experiences and share and develop best practices, encourage knowledge sharing, knowledge transfer and increased efficiency.

Basis of the “problem”

- The administration of research projects plays an important role for the success of the project...

..however...

- Very little done for improving the necessary skills and competences of the group of staff members actually dealing with the daily management and administration of the projects...

Needs & Potentials

- There is an urgent need for establishing and harmonising skills, for simplification of procedures, and for lowering the administrative burdens of participating in EU projects. Building on existing knowhow and sharing of knowledge can make a significant contribution in this regard.
- With H2020 on the doorstep and the intention of widening the participation, it becomes urgent to include all groups of research support in this process, so the project is needed and timely.

Strengths and means of action

- Networking
- Peer learning
- Exchanging experiences
- Learning about common problems
- Seeking solutions together

Target group

- This role has many names, among them project manager, project officer, financial officer, etc, but in this project we have used the notion *Research Administrator*

-



Deliverables

- Transnational meetings of administrators to network, share experiences, identify common problems and national differences and begin identifying solutions
- Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) of administrators, finance and legal staff to develop networks and experience administration practices in other countries.
- Development of an EU project administration best practice guide
- Development of a common vocabulary of project administration
- Establishing of “knowledge hubs” – smaller networks in specific areas – legal, financial etc.
- Establishing of “Twinning Offices” where research support offices collaborate on targeted challenges
- Training Schools to disseminate the experiences to larger groups of administrators within the participating countries
- Presentation at European research administrator meetings and conferences
- Evaluation and documentation
- Policy recommendations to transnational competition based research funding agencies (and in particular COST and the European Commission) regarding simplifications and procedural changes.

What's in for you?

- When the project site is published all interested people will be able to be informed of the outcomes and have a chance to submit their views and experiences
- Opportunity to participate in wide events and conferences for receiving and giving feedback will be possible
- Access to the networking and to the product guidelines

Contact

Project site not yet published

EU approval listing at : http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/ta/Actions/TN1302

Project coordinator

Jan Andersen

Senior Executive Advisor

EARMA Chair

Research and Innovation Office

Bülowsvej 17

DK 1870 Frederiksberg C

jaan@life.ku.dk

Gregory Makrides, Member of the project Management Board

University of Cyprus , makrides.g@ucy.ac.cy