

MIKAEL GRÖNING
Ph.D.

Research Liaison Office

2005-10-24

UNICA

Proposal for a UNICA Network for EU Research Administrators

Background

For many European universities funding provided from external sources constitute a significant part of their total financial resources available for research. The European Union funds many research projects at European universities, mainly through its Frameworks Programmes (FP). The same set of rules applies to all European universities that participate in FP-funded research. The rules are quite complex and participants are expected to uphold a high standard of administrative practice. In addition, contractual provisions regulating financial and legal implications of projects carried out within the Framework Programme are, particularly with respect to publicity rights and intellectual property rights, rather complex. Consequently this requires special attention by qualified staff at the universities who manage the projects. At present we are facing a transition from the sixth (FP6) to the seventh framework programme (FP7) and significant changes with respect to financial and legal issues are expected.

The proposed network

We hereby propose that a network among UNICA university staff that deal with the legal, financial and administrative aspects of EU-funded research projects is established. The focus of the network should be on matters concerning FP-projects, although other sources of EU-funding such as ESF, COST, etc., could be considered if such a need should be identified. The network should also be open to financial officers and auditors having an interest in matters regarding EU-funded research. We believe that the opportunity to meet and share experiences within such a network would be highly beneficial to UNICA members. Furthermore, the network could function as a single voice for members towards the European Commission when dealing with various matters concerning EU-funded research.

Postal address:
Stockholm University
Research Liaison Office
SE-106 91 Stockholm,
Sweden

Street address:
Stockholms universitet
Universitetsvägen 10
Södra huset, B 269

Telephone: +46 (0)8 16 49 40
Fax: +46 (0)8 16 45 95
E-mail: mikael.groning@forskningservice.su.se
www.su.se/forskningservice

The network should have annual seminars hosted by members of the network. It is proposed that the first seminar be held in late 2006, i.e. close to the launch of FP7. Commission staff should be invited to attend the seminar and to present current work within the Framework Programme. It is proposed that the seminars be held in Brussels in order to attract Commission staff to the seminars. The network should be organised through an e-mailing list which should be compiled and moderated by one of the network members. Stockholm University, with Dr. Mikael Gröning as coordinator, offers to arrange the first seminar meeting and moderate the e-mailing list. The costs for the annual seminars should be covered by a participant fee. A similar seminar regarding EU Research Contracts was organised by UNICA in 2000. This seminar attracted 26 participants.

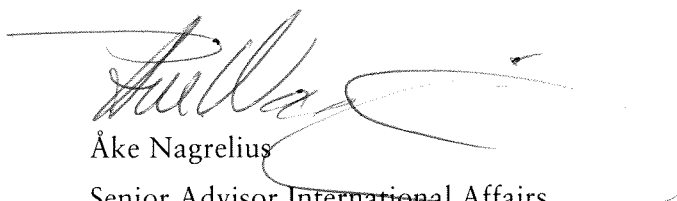


Pia Bjerén Fürstenbach

Director

Research Liaison Office

Stockholm University



Åke Nagrelius

Senior Advisor International Affairs

Stockholm University UNICA Contact Person

Research Liaison Office



Mikael Gröning

Research Liaison Officer

Research Liaison Office