RM
ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community Albania

Co-Creation Session 1: Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations

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Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations

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1. Introduction

This is an important moment for the research management (RM) community in Europe. The European Commission (EC) and countries across Europe want to better understand the current research management landscape to further strengthen the European Research Area (ERA).

Research management includes a broad range of professionals supporting researchers to achieve excellence in research. For the purpose of this co-creation exercise, Research Managers (RMs) are to be considered as broad as possible including: research policy advisers, research managers, financial support staff, data stewards, research infrastructure operators, knowledge transfer officers, business developers, knowledge brokers, innovation managers, ete. For simplicity, we use the term research management but this exercise coveres also other terms such as research support, research management and administration, professionals at the interface of science and other terms which are used as the norm in the national landscapes across Europe.

The RM Roadmap Knowledge and Community Platform (KCP) brings research managers together to shape the future of the profession and support the strengthening of an inclusive research management community in Europe. The KCP is a place where research managers share their views and introduce issues for discussion in a solution-focused endeavour. RM Roadmap Ambassadors lead the discussions for each country on the Knowledge and Community Platform, supported by national and regional RM networks.

This co-creation exercise is the biggest collaboration between RM networks ever to take place in Europe. With a focus on learning insights from RMs, the co-creation exercise seeks to establish a robust framework that can support professional growth and collaboration across the EU and associated countries.

By 2023, 40 country communities have been established within the RM Roadmap Ambassador Network. The RM Roadmap project will use the outcomes from this co-creation exercise to make a roadmap for the future of research management in Europe and to build and exchange solid knowledge on career framework opportunities, upskilling and networking for research managers. RM Roadmap will ultimately build a value proposition for policy makers and institutional leaders who want to strengthen and modernise their research support departments.

This **consensus document for Country Community Albania** contains the outcomes of the **First Co-Creation Session** - **Understanding the landscape: National Networks and Associations.**

A short summary of the main outcomes from the co-creation exercise is included in section 2. More information about the topic of RM National Networks and Associations is detailed in section 3. Recommendations about best practices, challenges and lessons learnt about (formal or informal) national networks, associations, communities are provided in section 4.

For more information about the RM Roadmap initiative, the reader can consult the following website: www.rmroadmap.eu

2. Summary of Co-Creation Session 1

Research managers and administrators play a critical role in supporting and facilitating research activities in Albania. Although the field of research management and administration in Albania may not have as much depth or documentation as in certain other countries, there are a few important points to consider:

Among the expanding number of research institutions in Albania, we can consider Universities (state and private), government research facilities, NGO and private research organizations, funding agencies such as AADF, GIZ,etc. which need administrators and research managers.

There is no formal or informal network of RMAs. However, in terms of capacity building, there is an immediate need for training programs and workshops for RMAs.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

1. If you have a national network (formal or informal), how did it help you? If you don't, please say how you have built your (internal) network and are using it.

There is no formal or informal network of RMAs in Albania.

Eriona came to know about Research Managers and Administrators (RMA) as a definition and scarcity of such professionals, in a workshop in the framework of the foRMAtion project organized at the University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy). This project provided training and educationial materials in the field of research management and administration. This was a starting point for me to contribute in the community of RMAs. With the support of Hydrowater Albania I have started building a network in Albania.

Sonila's initial interaction with the RMA community occurred during the final conference of the V4+WB RMA Network project, which was organized by the HETFA Research Institute. This project aimed to enhance the influence of RMAs in both Visegrad countries and the Western Balkans. Through this conference and their platform, I connected with RMAs in Albania. Furthermore, in the subsequent project, V4+WB RMA Network Plus, GO2 in Albania is also collaborating. This partnership will contribute to the development of a more robust network within the country.

2. What challenges do RM networks and associations encounter in contributing to national and European R&I systems? If there are no networks, please elaborate if there have been networking initiatives and if not, please state why you think that is the case.

Hydrowater Albania has an extensive experience with governmental projects and has taken the initiative and can provide information about challenges and needs of RMAs in this sector.

While, GO2 Albania is currently collaborating with multiple universities and research centers in the Western Balkans and Visegrad countries to enhance the influence of Research Managers and Administrators (RMAs). This initiative involves organizing national workshops, conferences, and training sessions. These events are designed to facilitate networking opportunities and provide valuable training for Research Support Professionals from V4+WB countries and beyond. The goal of the V4+WB RMA Network Plus project is to strengthen the role of RMAs in their respective countries and promote collaboration across the entire region.

Link to the project presentation and events: https://hetfa.eu/v4wbrmanetworkplus/

3. Please list all of the formal and informal networks and associations of research managers in your country and link to their websites or online groups. Skip if there are no networks your knowledge.

N/A

4. Please list and link to any policy documents and funding which mentions research management or the equivalent national name(s) for research management.

Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Institutions of Higher Education in the Republic of Albania: https://www.unitir.edu.al/images/dokumenta/Legjislacion/Ligj_80-2015_22.07.2015.pdf

Draft National Strategy for Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation (2023-2030): https://arsimi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Draft-Strategjia-Komb%C3%ABtare-p%C3%ABr-Shkenc%C3%ABn-Teknologjin%C3%AB-dhe-Inovacionin.pdf

Research Infrastructure Roadmap for Albania by Regional Cooperation Council & Western Balkans Research&Innovation Infrastructure Roadmap: https://www.rcc.int/pubs/149/western-balkans-research-and-innovation-infrastructure-roadmap

National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI): https://nasri.gov.al/

RASH the Academic Network of ALBANIA is the National Research and Education Network (NREN): https://www.rash.al/en/

4. Recommendations

Albania does not have any informal/formal network or association. To establish at least an informal one, we would like to have:

- a small fund to organize info and/or get together sessions around Albania,
- capacity building and trainings or assistance in writing winning project proposals
- trainings in managing EU projects

5. References

Eriona Shtembari and Sonila Hasaj (2023).

6. Acknowledgements

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