

RM ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community Kosovo

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

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November 2023



RM-ROADMAP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under grant agreement number 101058475.



RM ROADMAP

“Creating Framework Conditions for Research Management to Strengthen the European Research Area”

Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme

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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, etc. For simplicity, we use the term research management but this exercise covers 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 Kosovo** 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

Since only one ambassador participated in the development of the document, the insights provided here are a result of observations and analyses from the author.

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.

In Kosovo, there is no formal national network of research managers. Only a handful of Higher Education Institutions have offices and hired officers to administer research and sponsored projects. The first HEI institution to establish the Office for Sponsored Research and Projects (ORSP-ZKPS) was the University of Prishtina. The model was emulated by other public HEIs through an EU-funded project named ResearchCult. Whereas, the private HEIs only lately have taken initiatives to establish such offices.

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.

- a. The research managers are considered public servants and their wage coefficient is low, making their compensation among the lowest in the sector. This has been highlighted as a problem by RMs. Moreover, no law or regulation provisions their role, it is not recognized as a profession.
- b. Under the auspices of a private HEI that coordinates the ResearchCult project, the coordinator of ZKPS was invited go present in front of representatives of HEIs and address the challenges, the opportunities, and provide insights on how the office should be run. This has enabled informal networking which is ongoing. But it has never been formalized.

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.

- a. There are no such networks in Kosovo.

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

The current law on higher education does not provide provisions on research management. The process of drafting the new law is in process.

The National Science Program (NSP, 2023) which is public discussion process does not foresee any provisions on research management.

The University of Prishtina, the biggest university in Kosovo has drafted the new Statute which has been sent to the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation of the Republic of Kosovo for assessment. In the following months it will be voted in the parliament. The draft document foresees research management as a component of the university administration. Furthermore, a new regulation for systematization of the administration is being developed, and it foresees the enlargement of the office (ZKPS) to include more research managers.



5. Recommendations

- Best practices of other countries, preferably from similar emerging economy contexts would be welcome to open the debate and advocate for the recognition of the role of research managers.



6. References

NSP. (2023). *National Science Program 2023-2028*. Prishtina: MASHT. Retrieved from <https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php?ConsultationID=41819>

7. Acknowledgements

- The document has been drafted by the author solely relying on observations, and experience working with universities and the Ministry of Education in different roles.



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