

RM ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community Hungary

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

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RM ROADMAP

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

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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 Hungary** 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

The Hungarian Research Management Community Steering Group started its operation in 2023 with the facilitation of the National Research, Development, and Innovation Office (NRDIO). The main task of this team is to discuss current issues, share best practices, and initiate activities for the benefit of the Hungarian Research Management Community. The first Co-Creation session was conducted through the Steering Group, and in order to involve RM colleagues more actively, we used our regular way of communication: mailing list and in-person or online meetings. To initiate the conversation, RM ROADMAP Ambassadors prepared a draft document, which was then shared within the Hungarian Research Management Community Steering Group for further ideas and comments. Through this direct communication, we were able to collect more ideas and discuss all occurring questions, ensuring the unanimous approval of the final document.

On our last meeting, we have informed our colleagues, that further work on the consensus document is to be carried out through the Knowledge and Community Platform. We are doing our best to involve more research managers from Hungary to join, and to encourage them to express their diverse opinions for the benefit of shaping the future of research management in Europe.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

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

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.

Officially, in Hungary, no formal national networks and associations for research management have been established so far.

However, there have been some promising and successful initiatives in Autumn 2023:

- National Research Development and Innovation Office (NRDIO) initiated a *Research Management meetup series*, which is a remarkable and important initiative for the collaboration of research platforms, universities, and other research organisations. The first event was held on September 8th, with the participation of research managers, representatives of universities, research institutes and National Contact Points that stressed the importance of the role of research management in EU funding programmes.
- To evaluate the diverse input of the first Professional day, and to enhance the organization of programs based on actual needs, NRDIO established the *Hungarian Research Management Community Steering Group*, involving 25 research management professionals with various backgrounds.
- The first national-level conference about research management was organized on November 28th by NRDIO, joining to the event series of "Hungarian Science and Research Day". The program included presentations about current trends of research management in Europe, as well as a roundtable discussion, with speakers from Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Hungarian Young Academy, and the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN). This year this day also became a celebration of Hungarian research support and research management.

In addition, the implementation of several previous EU projects has required the development of support staff to manage and lead the projects and support the management of research projects. There are now some ongoing initiatives to bring together these people, who are typically research advisors, research administrators, EU project advisors or managers, research managers, project managers, open science experts, research data stewards, etc. with extensive experience in managing and implementing project in research grant offices, higher education institutions or companies interested in research and innovation, either involved in the preparation

of research projects, in submission of proposals, or during the implementation, management, financial accounting and reporting of the projects.

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.

- the lack of capacity and human resource hinder the establishment of a vivid community driven RM network in a bottom-up manner – it is expected that this challenge will be mitigated by the initiation of the NRDIO
- organization of the recently established RM network and steering group needs further development, including the strengthening of community sense in members
- non-visibility: not all the people who could be involved in such a RM network are clearly visible, although it would be very important to reach out to all interested parties and give all stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the development and operation of the RM network
- difference between research performing organizations regarding their development level in research management
- communication and cooperation within the triangle of institutional leaders, researchers, and research managers needs to be intensified

As of our experience, most challenges that institutional leaders or researchers face will strengthen the role of research managers.

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.

- Hungarian Research Management Community, including its Steering Group, organized by NRDIO (website/online group not available)
- University Technology Transfer Forum, organized by Semmelweis University <https://semmelweis.hu/innovacio/technologiatranszfer/ettf/>



- Territorial Innovation Platforms, coordinated by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, organized and operated on local level by recognized Hungarian universities: <https://nkfih.gov.hu/for-the-applicants/territorial-innovation-platforms>
- 4. Please list and link to any policy documents and funding which mentions research management or the equivalent national name(s) for research management.**

No such policy documents.

4. Recommendations

1. If associations or networks do exist in your country, what recommendations would you share to support colleagues in setting one up in countries without associations or networks?
2. If your country does not have any informal/formal network or association, what kind of support would you need?

Hungary is a country that plays a prominent role in scientific research. To enhance successful scientific project participation, and enable the strengthening of the role of research managers, we have the following recommendations:

- the national funding agency can play a key role in catalyzing the research management community and in promoting the recognition of the profession it should be carefully assessed and discussed what type of association each country needs: in case of Hungary the non-formalized community that has been established seems to be promising which could be the basis of a formalized solution later.
- forming national associations does not substitute being members in international RM associations on the contrary: it boosts the potential of national RMAs in having strong representations in these groups
- it is all about the people – active and dedicated colleagues have to be found who will take leading roles in building the network. This activity has to be recognized as a CV-value professional experience
- preparation of a joint event calendar where the stakeholders of the research community can share their upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, etc. The calendar must be available for everyone for free.
- creation and issue of a regular on-line newsletter containing the most important news and events in the field of research-, innovation- and grant management. NRDIO has already started to publish these kind of information for subscribed persons.
- dedicated and registered training for RMs providing valuable knowledge for participating students. In Hungary, several universities offer this kind of training for Research and/or Innovation Managers on different levels.
- support institutional awareness-raising activities among researchers and leaders

5. References

6. Acknowledgements



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