RM
ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community France

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

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RM ROADMAP

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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 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 France** 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 Co-Creation Session 1 was held online from October 2 to October 13, 2023. In order to encourage participation, the questions were translated in French by the ambassadors, and participants were invited to contribute in French or in English.

The France group includes 83 members (41 comments were posted with 873 views).

- Question 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." (13 contributors, 15 comments, 60 views).
- Question 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." (5 contributors, 5 comments, 27 views).
- Question 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." (5 contributors, 5 comments, 45 views).
- Question 4: "Please list and link to any policy documents and funding which mentions research management or the equivalent national name(s) for research management." (5 contributors, 9 comments, 48 views).

The contributors discussed existing national and informal networks for "Research Managers and Administrators" in France, highlighting their value in knowledge exchange. Challenges included fragmentations due to the absence of a unified network and the lack of standardised terminology for "Research Managers and Administrators" roles. Several platforms were identified for networking. The contributors emphasised the need for a comprehensive national network, advocating for structured platforms and standardised terms, aiming to enhance collaboration and support for "Research Managers and Administrators" across diverse organisations in the country.

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.

(13 contributors, 15 comments, 60 views)
In the discussion, the contributors shared their experiences with national and informal networks for "Research Managers and Administrators" in France.
- One contributor described creating a network for project managers and coordinators of MSCA ITN/DN projects, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices among project managers. The network helped the newcomers in the day-to-day management.
- Others mentioned existing networks, including those for Pre-Award Grant Advisors, Research Transfer staff, and the national association CAP Recherche (association for pre and post award research managers involved in nationally funded research projects).

These networks are considered as valuable platforms for knowledge exchange and addressing specific challenges in research administration (best practices, incentive measures for researchers, European R&I funding landscape, training).

The contributors emphasised the need for a comprehensive national network that spans universities, research organisations, and government bodies, allowing "Research Managers and Administrators" to collaborate and address common issues collectively.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of regional and local networks, as well as training initiatives by organisations like Amue[1], in enhancing the skills of "Research Managers and Administrators".

Overall, the contributors stressed the necessity for a more structured national network to support "Research Managers and Administrators" across various institutions and organisations in France.

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.

(5 contributors, 5 comments, 27 views)
The contributors highlighted several challenges faced by research management networks and associations in contributing to national and European Research and Innovation systems. They emphasised the absence of a unified network for "Research Managers and Administrators" across universities and research organisations, leading to fragmentation in contributions.

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[1] Agence de mutualisation des universités et des établissements d'enseignement supérieur ou de recherche et de support à l'enseignement supérieur ou à la recherche: national agency for coordination and support for higher education and research organisations.

Existing networks focus on specific perspectives such as national funds, European funds, pre-award, research transfer, and valorisation, lacking a comprehensive approach. While there are local and regional RMA networks, they often centre around European programmes. The lack of a national network hampers coordinated efforts and advocacy for the profession, hindering effective collaboration.

Additionally, existing networks rely heavily on volunteers, posing challenges in sustaining active participation and knowledge exchange.

The contributors suggested the need for a national network in France, involving universities, research organisations, and non-profit institutions, with specialised sub-groups for thematic discussions. Harmonising practices among various stakeholders, including industrial and hospital sectors, was also emphasised. The contributors proposed the establishment of a national network focused on European project management to provide a structured platform for professionals in the field.

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.**

(5 contributors, 5 comments, 45 views)
● European projects jobs blog: https://projetseuropeens.com/
  This blog is intended to disseminate links to job offers in the field of European projects. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in finding a job in the field of European projects. This is a personal and voluntary project.

● Google group dedicated to disseminate job offers in the field of European projects.

● LinkedIn group « Affaires Européennes »: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3718159/ (6988 members)

● Informal network of alumni of the Master in European Studies (University of Provence)

● Association of Innovation Consulting https://www.asso-conseils-innovation.org/
  The Association of Innovation Consulting (ACI) is a professional organisation. It brings together 71 consulting companies representing 3,100 employees, present both throughout France and internationally. The Association encourages exchanges of knowledge, experience and foresight, between its members and with stakeholders in innovation ecosystems.

● Association Européenne des Conseils en Innovation https://www.eaic.eu/
  The European Association of Innovation Consultants (EAIC) gathers active Innovation Consultants in the field of European research and innovation projects. The association aims

to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices among its members, as well as to promote professional skills and expertise in European R&I Projects.

- Informal « Association Rouages » of University Cergy-Pontoise
  The Association Rouages is made up of all students of the Master European Project Manager. One of its objectives is to facilitate relations between the different promotions of the Master.

- "Europe Correspondents" of "France Universités" https://franceuniversites.fr/
  France Universités brings together the executive directors of universities and higher education and research establishments in order to bring the voice and values of universities into the public debate.

- Network C.U.R.I.E.: https://www.curie.asso.fr
  The C.U.R.I.E. Network. unites 210 valorisation professionals from public research institutions, universities, hospitals, engineer schools and valorisation subsidiaries to bridge research and private sectors. It offers training, IP protection tools, an annual conference and promotes startups from public research. The network advocates for its members and enhances collaboration, fostering economic growth and social progress.

- CAP Recherche https://www.cap-recherche.fr/le-reseau/
  CAP Recherche is the network of professionals bringing together individuals responsible for supporting scientists in the submission and administrative, financial, and legal implementation of their research projects with national or regional public funding organisations.

- R3Sup https://www.helloasso.com/associations/r3sup
  The R3Sup network brings together Research Managers from higher education and research institutions for the purpose of exchanging knowledge and professional development.

- CNCR https://cncr.fr/
  The CNCR (National Committee for Research Coordination) plays a central role in supporting hospital research, addressing its challenges and organisational aspects.

- Network RICH https://www.reseau-rich.fr/
  The association RICH aims to promote and support health research and innovation. It serves as a network for exchange and collaboration among healthcare research and innovation professionals working within hospital centers.

- Club Europe of the Scientific and Technical Network of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/reseau-scientifique-et-technique
  The ministry oversees organisations, public institutions, or state technical services engaged in research or scientific and technical expertise.

- Club « Europe, Innovation and Competitiveness » of the ANRT (National Association for Research and Technology) https://www.anrt.asso.fr/fr/le-club-europe-innovation-et-competitivite-7812
  This club brings together stakeholders involved in European research policy and aims to enhance their performance within the European research programme.

- Club Europe of Cap Digital https://www.capdigital.com/
  Cap Digital is one of the biggest digital innovation clusters in Europe. Cap Digital focuses on digital content and services, bringing together companies, research labs, universities, and other stakeholders to foster collaboration and innovation in the digital sector.

- Réseau Noé Bretagne https://www.linkedin.com/company/r%C3%A9seau-no%C3%A9-bretagne/
  The Noé network brings together around thirty Breton structures operating in the field of research and innovation. Its objective is to encourage and facilitate access for research units and businesses to European R&I funding, and in particular to the framework program, Horizon Europe

- Informal regional network of European Units (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
  Meeting 1 to 2 times a year to discuss issues encountered when submitting proposals and during project management, and to exchange best practices.

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

(5 contributors, 9 comments, 48 views)
The contributors discussed the challenges of defining and naming roles related to research management and support in France. They pointed out the complexity in terminology and the diverse responsibilities within the field. Various titles are used, making it challenging to establish a standardised term. The contributors highlighted the broad scope of tasks undertaken by "Research Managers and Administrators", including identifying funding opportunities, proposal writing, budgeting, collaboration agreements, and more. They also emphasised the importance of soft skills and transversal competencies in research and innovation. The discussion highlighted the lack of official documents providing generic distinctions for these roles. Some contributors mentioned specific funding calls, like the ASDESR (Acceleration of the Development Strategies of Higher Education and Research Institutions) national call for proposals, as examples of documents related to research management. The conversation also referred to challenges in understanding research funding rules at regional, national, and European levels, and the evolving nature of these regulations. Additionally, a book titled "Management de la Recherche: enjeux et perspective" was mentioned as a resource, although it is considered somewhat dated but still relevant for understanding research management in the French context.

- "Universities by 2030: more freedoms, more responsibilities" by the "Cour des Comptes" ("Court of Accounts"), 2021
  https://www.ccomptes.fr/en/documents/57929
- "Research management in universities" by the "Cour des Comptes" ("Court of Accounts"), 2005
  https://www.ccomptes.fr/sites/default/files/EzPublish/SyntheseRechercheUniv.pdf
- "Evaluation report of the National Research Agency (ANR)" by the AERES (French academic research evaluation agency), 2019
  https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/2019/Evaluation_ANR_par_AERES.pdf
- Research and Innovation Programming Law (LPPR)
  https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/loi-de-programmation-de-la-recherche-pour-les-annees-2021-2030-49733
- The national action plan to improve French participation in European research and innovation funding mechanisms (PAPFE)
  https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/content_migration/document/Plan_action_A5_09_1292035.pdf

4. Recommendations

- Encourage collaborative initiatives among Research Managers and Administrators to share knowledge and best practices.
- Promote inclusive online platforms (websites, forums, social media groups) for every Research Managers and Administrators to connect, exchange ideas, and share best practices and resources.
- Organise networking events, conferences, and seminars where professionals can meet, collaborate, and learn from each other.
- Create thematic sub-groups focusing on specific issues such as European project management, grant advising, research transfer, and valorisation.
- Advocate for the recognition of Research Managers and Administrators' roles at national and international levels.
- Advocate for standardised job titles and role descriptions within research management to create clarity in the field.
- Promote Research Managers and Administrators as a profession, emphasising its crucial role in fostering successful research and innovation projects.
- Harmonise practices among Research Managers and Administrators across sectors (academic, industrial, hospital).
- Facilitate training initiatives encompassing technical and soft skills, with tailored courses and workshops.
- Facilitate mentorship programmes where experienced research managers guide newcomers and share their experiences.
- Seek support from government bodies and funding agencies to establish and sustain research management networks and associations, ensuring long-term stability and growth.

5. References

6. Acknowledgements

The contributors are gratefully acknowledged.

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