

RM ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community Poland

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.



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“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 Poland** 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 has been realized between 2 October 2023 – 13 October 2023. There were 31 Poland Group members registered. The session was visited by 19 members, however due to the specificity of the session content concerning networks there were lacking individual opinions in the session. The Consensus document was prepared based on involvement of Ambassadors in various networks and off-line discussions with individual members.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

This consensus document for Country Community Poland 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.

In Poland there are few formal networks dedicated to different research management tasks, e.g. managing EU projects, transfer of knowledge, technical RSO offices, etc. They help in professional development, networking and performing tasks in various ways:

- networking opportunities enhancing creation of RM community,
- increasing recognition of RM profession,
- exchange of experience and good practices related to the management of EU research projects,
- establishing cooperation with research managers at international level,
- supporting participation in the EU Framework Programmes,
- expressing opinions on legal changes concerning participation of Polish scientists in EU research projects,
- organizing meetings and symposia on key topics related to the implementation of EU projects in Poland,
- information exchange on pre- and post-award procedures and practices,
- cooperation with EARMA, NCURA and sister associations in EU countries.

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 challenges targeting Polish RMA community are as follow:

- lack of wide recognition of the profession of research managers and administrators. RMAs are assigned to the administration staff and as such calculated in the statistics,
- lack of awareness of the need to involve professional research managers in research projects,
- lack of a widespread network of RMA organizational units operating within universities and research institutes (such network has been created lately in the Polish Academy of Sciences),
- lack of financial stability of RM networks (financing of activities based on members' projects). In regard to ERDF intervention on R&I projects, RMA personnel costs can be only included in the indirect costs, also activities such as capacity building are not eligible.

So far there was one systemic initiative targeting the training of future RMA in form of series of post-diploma studies on „Management of research projects and commercialisation of research results. Post-diploma studies to staff of research units and entities supporting research.” As a result 400 experts received a certificate on research management and commercialisation representing 150 Polish research organisations. The studies were implemented in the 7 Polish universities within the years 2004 -2006 and financed from the cohesion funds. The thematic was further developed under two Norway Funds Projects. It has been so far the only systemic approach on the professionalization of the RMA activities. Support of such nature is significantly missing.

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.*

In Poland there are a few networks which are gathering experts dealing with support of the research projects and their administration in many aspects:

- KRAB - National Council of EU Research Project Coordinators (<https://fens.org.pl/krab/>)
- PACTT - The Polish Association of Centers for Technology Transfer (pactt.pl)

- IZTECH Working Group on the EU Framework Programme Horizon Europe (within IZTECH – Polish Chamber of Commerce for High Technology) (<https://www.iztech.pl/grupa-robocza-ds-he/>)
- Horizon Europe Navigators - network of research support offices of the institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences coordinated by the Polish Science Contact Agency "PolSCA" of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Brussels (<https://polsca.pan.pl/en/>)
- PSC - The Polish Association of University Knowledge Transfer Companies (psc.edu.pl)
- SOOIPP - Polish Business and Innovation Centers Association in Poland (www.sooipp.org.pl)
- TUPMO Technical Universities' Project Management Offices Forum (<https://tu.kielce.pl/spotkanie-tupmo-forum/>)
- Polonium Network (poloniumnetwork.org)

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

In Poland there are no policy documents and funding which mention research management.

4. Recommendations

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?

As important steps in setting up new association/network we would recommend:

- establishment of core group of enthusiastic and dedicated individuals,
- secure financing for meetings/networking activities/events (e.g. within running projects, explore external funding opportunities),
- use low-cost networking opportunities, e.g. online meetings,
- establishment of collaboration with foreign/international research management associations.

5. References

n/a

6. Acknowledgements

n/a



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