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Consensus Document for Country Community Latvia

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

Ambassador(s): ELINA PRIEDE, SANDRA VASILEVSKA

Authors: ELINA PRIEDE

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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, 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 Latvia** 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

During the Co-Creation Session 1, four participants from Latvia contributed to the discussion. Since there are no formal national RM networks in Latvia, the participants shared their experience in establishing their personal networks among other RMs and provided some of the possible reasons for the lack of formal networks/associations.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

This consensus document for Country Community Latvia 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 Latvia, there are no formal national RM networks. However, all participants of the discussion stated that they have established their own informal RM networks, which are very helpful to exchange experience and support each other in RM profession.

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.**

   In Latvia, there has not been any formal RM networking initiative, as indicated by the contributors of the discussion. The main reasons could be:

   - the relatively small size of the national RM community;
   - lack of time and/or motivation of RMs due to other responsibilities.

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.**

   Specific policy documents or funding aimed at research management have not been identified in Latvia. Usually, the capacity building of RMs comes as supplementary or indirect objective of other initiatives.

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4. Recommendations

More formal RM network in Latvia would help to contribute to R&I initiatives at national and European level as well as to promote knowledge exchange and professionalization within the local RM community. To promote networking among RMs in Latvia, support for the recognition of this profession within their institutions and among other research performing institutions is needed. Considering that one of the possible obstacles for networking among RMs in Latvia could be lack of time due to other responsibilities, it could be useful to implement the following activities:

- organizing events (workshops, trainings, lectures, local conferences, etc.) aimed at capacity building of RMs and serving as a platform for networking;
- incorporation of research management dimension into events organized within national of Horizon Europe projects (soft skills trainings, workshops dedicated to technology transfer, etc.) in order to not only bring together researchers and RMs thereby facilitating their cooperation but also to promote networking of RMs.

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5. Acknowledgements

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