

RM ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community Romania

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

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RM ROADMAP

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landscape: National Networks and
Associations**

Co-Creation Session 1

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 endeavor. 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 Romania** 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 first Co-Creation Session lasted 2 weeks, between 2-13 October 2023, when 38 members joined as contributors the Romanian group on the RM Roadmap platform of EARMA.

The members of the Romanian group are the RM ambassadors, researchers and professors from several public research institutes and universities located in the main cities - Bucharest, Iasi, Cluj, Timisoara and Constanta, counselors/officers of the Ministry of Research, NCP-s, researchers from private research companies and Romanian diaspora researchers working outside Romania in research institutes.

There were 11 comments expressed to the 4 questions asked and 61 views of the Romanian group platform.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

This consensus document for Country Community Romania 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.

- The Research Management and Administration community in Romania, though estimated to consist of over 300 individuals, lacks organization and a cohesive structure.
- Except for the RM Ambassador initiative, in Romania, there is currently no active effort to establish a functional national Research Management network. In 2003, the Association of Research Managers and Administrators in Romania (RARMA) was established with the objective "to promote innovation in the management and administration of RDI research and technological development and thereby to contribute to increasing the quality and competitiveness of Romanian RDI" [1], but it does not seem to be active nowadays.
- Romanian researchers typically engage in research management without dedicated administrative support for their projects. This aspect has two major disadvantages: - researchers have to focus also on administrative aspects that are not in their expertise

area; - some administrative support is needed also from the institutional administrative departments. In both cases, this is overloading their activities.

- The absence of any references to the profession of research manager *per se* in Romanian legislation further complicates the situation.
- Some research institutions have Project Support and Transfer Offices in their organizational structures, that offer consultancy and support for project writing, project management and technology transfer, but their effectiveness is limited.
- Within the Structural Funds 2014-2023, 13 Project Support Centers have been created and provided consultancy services in identifying funding sources and drafting project proposals, project management consulting services and partner search services. These centers have organized training sessions in writing and managing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, but their funding is ending in 2023, with no provisions for future financial support.
- There are very few specialized private companies that offer consultancy in writing and project management and the existing ones are not very well known and their experience is limited.
- It is hoped that support for establishing the Romanian Research Management network will also come from:
 - the Horizon Europe Romanian National Contact Points, that provide “guidance on choosing relevant Horizon Europe topics and types of action, advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues, training and assistance on proposal writing, distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.), assistance in partner search” [2];
 - the Romanian Office for Science and Technology to the European Union – ROSTeu, located in Brussels, that offers the following categories of services to institutions and the scientific community: “- promoting the research, development and innovation in Romania; - search and facilitating links with European partners; - specific dissemination and promotion; - facilitating links with European institutions and similar bodies, institutions and national organizations; - recommendations regarding the European best-practices in the research-development-innovation field” [3];
 - the Romanian Contact Points of the European Enterprise Network that “provides help desk services, which include information on funding sources available at regional, national

or European level, eligibility criteria and eligible activities under a specific call for projects, clarifications for elaboration a funding application, support for identifying partners for innovation-research-development projects” [4].

- the Romanian EURAXESS Network – “a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses to interact with each other, that covers mobility issues for researchers and entrepreneurs, allows universities and businesses to find the right talent, and connects people, projects and funding” [5].

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 main challenges faced by Romanian RM networks and associations in contributing to national and European research and innovation systems are the following:
 - the lack of official regulation for research management activities;
 - the lack of recognition of the professions of research managers or support staff compared to other policy sectors;
 - the lack of support staff with specialized roles in the smaller institutions;
 - the lack of quality control of career development and training programs for RM in various specializations;
 - uneven distribution of RM community and expertise.
- Since 2003, RARMA has organized training sessions in writing projects and accessing the 7th Framework Program European funds. RARMA's objectives were as follows: - “development and promotion of good practices in the field of management and administration of research and technological development; - development of the interface between science and scientific management; - supporting professional development in the field of management and administration of research and technological development; - ensuring liaison between research managers and administrators and the public and private sector, in order to promote their interests; - establishing and maintaining an active national network of specialties in the field of management and administration of research projects; - collaboration with higher education institutions, with public and private institutions, for organizing specialization and improvement courses” [6].

- During 2012–2015, within a project coordinated and implemented by the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) and co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Operational Program "Administrative Capacity Development", RARMA contributed to "the creation of a compact core in terms of training civil servants from research to the e-administration system and participated in the creation of a body of competent and innovative research civil servants" [7].
- At the present time, RARMA does not seem to be active, but, in the future, it could be reengaged in RM activities, as some Romanian group contributors suggested in their comments on the platform.

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.

- Formal associations: - Association of Research Managers and Administrators in Romania - RARMA, <http://www.rarma.ro/>;
- Informal networks:
 - RP HEU NCP network (33 counselors/contributors of the Ministry of Research, the Innovation and Digitization located in the main cities of Romania, including also a Romanian Office for Science and Technology to the European Union – ROSTeu, located in Brussels, and officers of the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding under the Ministry of Education):
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp;sortQuery=country;countries=20000994;functions=All%20Functions,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19;>
<https://www.ncp.uefiscdi.ro/>;
<https://www.old.research.gov.ro/ro/articol/3916/instrumente-suport-romanian-office-for-science-and-technology-to-the-european-union-rosteu>
 - RO EEN network: <https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points/ro/>; <https://een-romania.ro/en/>
 - the Romanian EURAXESS Network: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>; <https://www.euraxess.gov.ro/>
 - Support and Technology Offices in research institutes and universities, such as:

- Directorate for Management of Scientific Research Activity (DMACS) of the National Science and Technology Polytechnic University from Bucharest: <https://upb.ro/cercetare/suport-pentru-proiecte/>
- Center for Scientific Research Management of "Babes-Bolyai" University from Cluj-Napoca: <https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/about-cmcs/mission/>
- Service for Management of Scientific Research Activities (SMACS) of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University from Iasi: <https://www.uaic.ro/cercetare/contact-si-staff/>
- Office of Research and Doctoral Programs of the Romanian Academy from Bucharest: <https://acad.ro/institutia/aparat.html>
- Project Management and Marketing Office of the National Institute of Research and Development on Marine Geology and Geo-ecology – GeoEcoMar from Bucharest and Constanta <https://geoecomar.ro/departamente/administrativ/>
- Technology Transfer Center of the National Institute of Research and Development for Biological Sciences: <https://www.incdsb.ro/departments/centrul-de-transfer-tehnologic/>
- 13 Project Support Centers, financed by Competitiveness Operational Program, Axis 1 Research, technological development and innovation (RDI) in support of economic competitiveness and business development, Action 1.1.3: Creating synergies with RDI actions of the European Union's Horizon 2020 framework program and other international RDI programs, Project type: Support Centers [8]:
 - *BioNanoTech-Support, Support Center for Horizon 2020 projects* – "Petru Poni" Macromolecular Chemistry Institute from Iasi (under Romanian Academy): <https://www.bionanotech.ro/>
 - *Development of the Support Center for initiating and implementing European and International Research and Development Projects within NIRD GeoEcoMar – CESP* - National Institute of Research and Development on Marine Geology and Geo-ecology – GeoEcoMar from Bucharest and Constanta: <https://www.cesp.ro/>
 - *Horizon 2020 Support Centre for European Project Management and European Promotion – PREPARE* - National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics from Magurele - Bucharest: <https://www.inoe.ro/ro/noutati-si-evenimente/item/29-proiect-prepare-centrul-suport-orizontal-2000-pentru-managementul-proiectelor-europene-si-promovare-europena.html>
 - *Support Center for European Cooperation in Micro- and Nanotechnologies - CESMIN* - National Institute for Research and Development for Microtechnology - IMT Bucharest: <https://www.imt.ro/CESMIN/>
 - *Support Center for participation in international projects – SupportTM* – West University from Timisoara: <https://supporttm.projects.uvt.ro/>

- *Support center for preparing proposals of research and innovation projects* - Institute for World Economy from Bucharest (under Romanian Academy): <https://projectscenter.iem.ro/despre-proiect/>
- *Horizon Support Center 2020-UBB (CeSo2020-UBB)* – “Babes-Bolyai” University from Cluj-Napoca: <https://ceso2020.granturi.ubbcluj.ro/>
- *Support Center for the development and implementation of research and development projects with international funding in the field of new and emerging technologies* – Access 2020 – “Gh. Asachi” Technical University from Iasi: <https://suport-proiecte.tuiasi.ro/>
- *HUB-UCv - International CD Project Support Center for Oltenia region* –University from Craiova: <https://cdioltenia.incesa.ro/>
- *Support Center POLITEHNICA Orizont activities and expenses Export XLSX Component 12020 – UPB4H* – National Science and Technology Polytechnic University from Bucharest: <https://upb.ro/cercetare/>
- *CeS-UTCN – Scientific Excellence and Smart Specialization by creating a Support Center dedicated to facilitating the access of public and private entities to RDI projects/competitions* - Technical University of Cluj – Napoca: <https://research.utcluj.ro/index.php/orizont-eu.html>
- *Support Center for international RDI projects in the field of Mechatronics and Cyber-MixMechatronics* - National Institute of Research and Development in Mechatronics and Measurement Technique from Bucharest (INCDMTM): <https://incdmtm.ro/CMSCyM/dc.htm>
- *Creation of the Management Center "IBA SUPOORT"* - National Institute for Research and Development for Bioresources from Bucharest: <https://bioresurse.ro/>

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

- Order no. 1.832/856/2011 of the Minister of Labor regarding the Classification of occupations in Romania stipulates classification codes for several occupations related to research management, such as “head of research and design, project manager, head of project/program, scientific director of research and development, R&D department director, manager” [9], but does not provide a classification code expressly for “research manager”.
- Law nr. 319/2003 on the status of research and development personnel enumerates in art. 20 management positions - general manager or director, scientific, technical director, scientific secretary, head of research and development department and scientific coordination positions - director of the research and development program, research and development project manager, head of research and development program, head of research and development project. Art. 21 states that the specific management positions in the

research and development institutions or units shall be occupied by personnel who meet as minimum condition - a certificate for management in research and development, for the general manager or director positions. Art. 28 mentions that “the personnel with management positions is obliged to improve in the field of management for research and development; in order to occupy management positions and maintain in these positions, which also involve administrative responsibility, training and improvement stages are organized in the field of management for research and development” [10].

- Government Decision no. 1188/29.09.2022 regarding the approving the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2022-2027 (NPRDI IV) stipulates, in Annex no. 2 – Ceilings within which direct wage costs for financing contracts from budgetary funds allocated to NPRDI IV are calculated, the following positions: “scientific researcher – simple, rank I, II, III, research assistant, technological development engineer – simple, rank I, II, III, university professor, associate professor, university lecturer, university assistant, project/ program director/ manager/ responsible, legal/ technical/ acquisitions/ financial responsible, specialized staff, PhD student, master student” [11].

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?**

Since in Romania currently there are no active RM associations, only informal networks, such as the NCP, EEN and Euraxess networks or the support offices/centers, no recommendations can be shared. Romania could learn from the experience of other more developed European countries.

2. **If your country does not have any informal/formal network or association, what kind of support would you need?**

Romania needs support for setting up or reviving a formal RM association, that involves logistic and financial support and also support from the research financing authorities/bodies.

It is not very difficult to found an association from a technical point of view, but it is not easy to maintain it, since it needs people that wish to dedicate time and it needs financial resources for funding its activities.

Also, in Romania the “research manager” notion is not well defined, so it needs regulation and classification of different types of RM in the RO legislation.

An official regulation for the research management activity is needed in Romania, that would stipulate common quality standards, in order to have a uniform legislation in all European Union member states.

Also, there is a need for raising awareness on the importance of recognition of the research managers.

Then it is necessary to regulate a quality control of career development and training programs for RM.

In this process, the role of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization [12] is crucial, since it is the official body that governs research in Romania, and it also is important the role of the Ministry of European Investments and Projects [13] that insures the management and control for all European fund programs.

5. References

1. <http://www.rarma.ro/>
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp;sortQuery=country;countries=20000994;functions=2>
3. <https://www.old.research.gov.ro/ro/articol/3916/instrumente-suport-romanian-office-for-science-and-technology-to-the-european-union-rosteu>
4. <https://een-romania.ro/en/servicii/>
5. <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>; <https://www.euraxess.gov.ro/>
6. <http://www.rarma.ro/>
7. <http://www.e-administratie.forhe.ro/parteneri>
8. <https://www.old.research.gov.ro/uploads/comunicare/comunicate/analiza-centre-suport2.pdf>
9. Order of the Minister of Labor, Family and Social Protection and of the President of the National Institute of Statistics no. 1.832/856/2011 regarding the Classification of occupations in Romania, published in the Official Monitor nr. 561/8.08.2021;
10. Law nr. 319/2003 on the status of research and development personnel, published in the



Official Monitor no. 530/23.07.2003;

11. Government Decision no. 1188/29.09.2022 regarding the approving the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2022-2027 (NPRDI IV), published in the Official Monitor no. 969/5.10.2022;

12. www.research.gov.ro

13. <https://mfe.gov.ro/>

6. Acknowledgements

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