

RM ROADMAP

Consensus Document for Country Community North Macedonia

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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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 North Macedonia** 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

There were 9 researchers / university professors invited to join the session. One professor from the largest state university (UKIM) positively answered and gave opinion on the raised topics. His answers along with ambassadors' viewpoints are reflected in this document.

3. Discussion Outcomes of Co-Creation Session 1

This consensus document for Country Community North Macedonia 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.

There is no systematic approach to research and Research Management (RM) in North Macedonia. There are no national grants for supporting basic research. There are sporadic efforts to upgrade the laboratory resources in public universities / research institutions and (almost) regular efforts to remunerate researchers for publishing in IF journals or travelling to conferences. There is no funding for research/PhD scholarships on public universities / research institutions. Researchers are generally relying on international donors for supporting their research efforts, membership in international organizations and financing PhD students.

As a result, there is no national RM network in N. Macedonia. Researchers rely on their internal contacts based on cooperation and collaboration with colleagues, from the academic and industry sector. These types of networks are primarily used for R&D cooperation and application to various research grants.

The country has efforts to support the innovation ecosystem through the state Fund for Innovations and Technology Development (FITD) that implements many innovation-related policies. Also, the country has a fully operational Digital Innovation Hub - DIH (the INNOFEIT DIH), recognized by EC, to support academia-industry collaborations.

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.

Up to the best of our knowledge, there were no prior initiatives to support a national RM network. The main reason is the lack of basic and tangible research support that will foster the need for cohesive networked initiative afterwards.

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.

N/A.



4. Recommendations

Prior to establishing networks for RM, the country needs fundamental address of the R&D expenditure in terms of:

- Support for PhD research projects/scholarships
- Support for PostDoc and researcher positions
- Funding of research projects
- Funding SoQ projects (already passing EU evaluation)
- Support for project implementation offices in universities and aboard for lobbying in Brussels



5. References

@Ambassadors, as an example, you can use the following style: <https://apastyle.apa.org>.

6. Acknowledgements

Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Please make sure that acknowledged colleagues have given written consent to be listed in this document. The consensus document will be public access.



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