



Professional Research Management in Multicultural Exchange

Research Management as a Profession

December 14, 2021 - 9:15 – 12:30 (CET)

Online workshop, hosted by Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz



Currently, to strengthening the European Research Area, the European Commission asks for manifold transformative processes at the European universities. In many cases, neither the institutions nor their staff members are fully prepared for these changes in their working environments. In addition, it is becoming increasingly difficult for researchers to simultaneously pursuing excellent research and taking care for the complex administration of related processes. They therefore need strong partners in their support units, who have an overview of the variety of on-going developments,

challenges, and trends at institutional, national, European and international level. Those partners must have the capacity to comprehensively supporting the research community. Still, there are many challenges related to exactly defining their role and describing their mandatory educational background, for example such as

- no clearly defined job profiles in research management;
- a lack of training programs that provide staff members with relevant skills;
- staff at upper career levels not wanting to comply with recent developments;
- low salaries for newcomers, mainly temporary positions, and ambiguous career perspectives.

Content

The European Association of Research Managers and Administrators ([EARMA](#)) represents the largest community of professionals in the respective field in Europe. EARMA strongly supports the professionalization of European research management. In the framework of the EARMA Academy, it offers a wide range of training programs for newcomers up to senior level research managers and university leading administrators. You learn about their programs and get an insight about what it means being part of the EARMA community. Two more interventions by Silvana Di Bono (UNIPA) and Nicole Birkle (JGU) will report from personal experiences and trainings that they have taken advantage of. Starting from these three interventions, we want to discuss what professionalization in research management really means. We want to find out, to what extent the continued training of staff members in this area is beneficial to their professional careers on the one hand, and to the further development of staff units at universities on the other hand.



Target group

Researcher managers and administrators, researchers, technical support staff, students, externals

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Agenda

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- 09:15 – 9:25** **Welcome Note**
Nikolaus Bourdos
Head of Unit Research and Technology Transfer at JGU, Member of the General Assembly in *FIT FORTHEM*
- 09:25 – 9:30** **Short Introduction to *FORTHEM* and *FIT FORTHEM***
Nina Straub
Research Manager EU Funding *FIT FORTHEM* at JGU
- 09:30 – 10:30** **Presentation of the *EARMA* training programs and Q & A**
Astrid Vigtil
Chair of the *EARMA* Professional Development and Recognition Committee, senior research advisor, NTNU – Trondheim
- 10:30 – 10:45** health break
- 10:45 – 11:05** **Advanced and field training in Management of Research, Innovation and Technology**
Silvana Di Bono
Specialist for research initiatives on competitive calls financed by structural funds, European and international programs at UNIPA
- 11:05 – 11:25** **Certificate for EU Liaison Officers of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and other training programs in Germany**
Nicole Birkle
EU Liaison Officer and *FIT FORTHEM* Managing Coordinator at JGU
- 11:25 – 12:15** **Open discussion of the following key questions:**
1. *Job profiles of research managers in different countries?*
 2. *Availability of training programs for research managers or training on the job?*
 3. *Acknowledgement of participation in continued training programs and effects on career perspectives?*
 4. *Promotion of personal or institutional membership in professional associations related to research management such as in *EARMA* or other associations on the national level (if available)?*
 5. *Relevance of an increased professionalization in research management?*
 6. *Urgent needs related to an increased professionalization in research management in Europe, especially in the *FORTHEM* partner countries and institutions? How can *FIT FORTHEM* contribute to overcome shortcomings?*
- 12:15 – 12:30** **Wrap – up and Evaluation**