

FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE V4+WB RMA NETWORK PROJECT

Strengthening RMAs profession in higher education institutions

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Features of research at the higher education institutions (HEI)

- ▶ HEI - non-profit legal entities that conduct their public services in the domain of higher education, and the profit they make by performing higher education activities is used exclusively for the development and improvement of their own higher education activities
- ▶ Universities (including Faculties, Institutes, as organisational units)
- ▶ Colleges (limited number of study fields and academic study levels)
- ▶ HEI combine: 1) education and 2) scientific research activities, and conduct 3) projects of importance to the community, as three components of a unique process of higher education

Difficulties and possible solutions for the improvement of research in HEI

Difficulties

- ▶ Lack of information
- ▶ Lack of experience
- ▶ Lack of confidence
- ▶ Work (dis)balance between education, research and projects
- ▶ Insufficient and/or incompetent staff
- ▶ Low quantity and or quality of research

Possible solutions

- ▶ Info days at HEI, internal networking
- ▶ Networking (e.g. V4+WB RMA Network)
- ▶ Existing associations (e.g. European Law Faculties Association membership)
- ▶ Changes in legal framework
- ▶ Specific trainings or reallocations of staff
- ▶ Promotion and rewarding of excellent research

Improving founding opportunities

- ▶ Various funds available:
 - 1) EU funds (e.g. Horizon Europe, Erasmus+)
 - 2) CEI funds (CEI cooperation fund, CEI Know-how Exchange Programme)
 - 3) Visegrad Fund (Visegrad Grants, Visegrad+ Grants, Strategic Grants)
 - 4) National funds (Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP - the numbers in 2018 were: 0,2 % in Bosnia and Herzegovina; 0,4 % in Montenegro and North Macedonia; 0,8 % in Slovakia; 0,9 % in Serbia; 1,2 % in Poland; 1,5 % in Hungary; 1,9 % in Czech Republic)
 - 5) Other funds (Fulbright, Chevening, DAAD etc.)
- ▶ Suggestion: Regional initiatives and cooperation mechanisms (e.g. Visegrad Group, Open Balkan) could develop regionally specific funds

Creating RMA networks

- ▶ Internal networking - sharing experiences between RMAs of the specific HEI
- ▶ Bilateral and multilateral agreements between HEIs and other actors
- ▶ Strengthening of existing networks (e. g. the network of National Contact Points) and creation of new networks (e.g. project based, such as the V4+WB RMA Network), not only multidisciplinary, but also sectorial
- ▶ Starting point for networking - analysis of HEIs strategic documents, national, EU and other policy papers, search of the existing projects and partners in order to identify possibilities for networking

Strengthening RMAs associations

- ▶ Importance of RMAs associations:
 - ❖ RMAs associations at the level of HEI's organizational units (faculties, institutes etc.)
 - ❖ RMAs associations at the level of HEIs (university/college)
 - ❖ RMAs associations at the national level (state level, or the level of constituent units in federal states)
 - ❖ RMAs associations at the regional level (regional cooperation between RMAs from different states, e.g. EARMA, the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators)
 - ❖ RMAs associations at the international level (e.g. INORMS, the International Network of Research Management Societies)

Thank you for your attention!

Send your questions and comments at: bojan.vlaski@pf.unibl.org