



Differences in providing support to researchers as NCP and RMA

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STU

SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN BRATISLAVA



CHARLES UNIVERSITY



Visegrad Fund



I am RMA

- I work in the small organization (around 20 employees)
- I am involved in both pre award and post award phase
- In the past 5 years my organization was involved in 6 H2020 projects, 1 as coordinator

More specifics:

- Serbia is not EU member
- Number of funds is limited
- RMA job is not recognized in many institutions (researchers have to cooperate with regular administration, which is not educated nor motivated)
- No organized education for RMA
- Legal system is not completely harmonized

Challenges

- To employ a foreign PhD student (MSCA action) you need confirmation from National Employment Service (this has been changed recently).
- Tax administration enforce its rules by neglecting the specifics of EU projects
- Administration does not know English
- Researchers do not have basic knowledge about methods of calculation and other rules and therefore they have unreal expectations

Problem 1



- First pre financing was sent to our bank account. We waited two weeks for bank authorities to approve the transaction.
- Transfer to other partners – you need an invoice from them (!?) or you can send it as donation (!?)
- My organization is an SME and SME is not allowed to receive a donation.

Epilogue: We had to open an other account for „humanitarian aid“ 😊

Problem 2



- We had a control by Tax Administration
- Inspector: „You have the huge income and you did not pay the tax. Now I will calculate the tax, you have to pay it. If you think that I am not right you can sue TA Office and after a few years when you get the process, TA may refund you this amount“
- Luckily, other inspector was reasonable and accepted to consult their other departments before sentencing.



What RMA thinks that NCP should do

NCP should communicate with the other authorities and provide systematic help to researchers and RMAs

Example:

How to declare scientific and research institutions in Serbia?

OPTION A for programmes with standard rules for supplementary payments OR
OPTION B for programmes with project-based supplementary payments.

According to national legislation (The Law on science and research, Republic of Serbia), public SRO are financed using a combined model (Institutional financing / Project financing).

Should each SRO decide which option to use (Option A or Option)?

****Is it enough to set up internal rules on the institution's level or look for a systematic solution?***

What other thinks that NCP should do



Institutions with no RMA are forced to use NCP as RMA, they need help even for basic tasks within the project administration

Example:

How to register LEAR? How to sign GA directly on Tender and the funding portal? What is mean FSIGN and LSIGN?

How to declare an organization (Profit or Non-profit, Research or not) on the Tender and funding portal?

How to calculate the daily rate? What are eligible costs, and how to justify them?

can we pay the researchers extra for working on the project?

How to set up a time recording system at my institution as NGO?

How to generate and submit a financial report on the Tender and funding portal?

How to calculate the exchange rate on HEU projects?

Main challenge:

Without RMA, different researchers from different institutions are looking for support from NCP and trying to understand this terminology and rules. But, game rules normally change during the life of one program like HEU is. **And then what?**



Thank you for your
attention!!!

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