

The role of the project manager in maintaining international collaboration for enhancing impact



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The role of the Project Manager in developing and maintaining international collaboration for enhancing impact

EARMA Annual Conference 2016, Luleå, Sweden, Tuesday, 21 June 2016

Intended learning outcomes:

Development of

- suggestions for successful international collaboration for enhancing impact,
- a list of action items that EARMA might undertake,
- ideas for career development for Research Managers and Administrators.

Speakers and facilitators:

John Donovan, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland

Bettina Uhrig, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA),
Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Norway



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Bettina Uhrig

**Working at NOVA as
Senior Adviser for Internationalisation, since April 2007**

NOVA is a social science research institute at the Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA) conducting research on different aspects of societies, focusing on the whole range of the life course: from the early years to the later life.

Five different sections, app. 90 employees.

Belongs to HiOA since January 2014, part of the Centre for Welfare and Labour Research (SVA).



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Bettina Uhrig, NOVA

Main tasks of the Senior Adviser for Internationalisation

Informing colleagues on relevant European networks, programmes, policy papers, calls, research findings and events

Initiating, coordinating, leading and evaluating proposal processes

Supporting and facilitating projects during the contract phase, project implementation and during the reporting phase

Participating in international conferences and networks, e.g. EARMA

Special focus on scientific and societal impact



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Why this topic?

**Our experiences and
questions for discussion**



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Experiences with developing international consortia and collaborating with colleagues from other countries

Example: DISCIT

FP7, Social Sciences and Humanities, collaborative research project, 01 February 2013 – 31 January 2016, € 2,957,131

Main objective: New knowledge on exercising and promoting Active Citizenship for persons with disabilities

10 Consortium Members from 10 different countries and several Committees: International Scientific Advisory Committee (six members), European level Stakeholder Committee (seven members), nine National Stakeholder Committees (three to six members each)

Coordinating organisation: NOVA,
Scientific Coordinator: Bjørn Hvinden, Project Manager: Bettina Uhrig



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Experiences with developing international consortia and collaborating with colleagues from other countries

Example: DISCIT, Outcomes (May 2016)

217 life course interviews and 85 expert interviews in nine different countries,

25 scientific working papers (Deliverables), 10 peer-reviewed articles, two edited volumes, one dissertation, four thesis (ongoing),

60 different dissemination activities (including a Final Conference in Brussels),

nine Policy Briefs (some in different languages), three briefing notes for policy development, four videos, participation in public consultations,

knowledge development, new proposals and projects, 10 new jobs.

<https://blogg.hioa.no/discit/> and <http://discit.eu/>



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Experiences with developing international consortia and collaborating with colleagues from other countries

Example: DISCIT

And where is the IMPACT?

The outcomes will create scientific and societal impact.

New as well as expanded and consolidated international partnerships are a cornerstone for achieving impact. BUT: these partnerships need commitment, facilitation and funding if they should be sustainable.

Open question: Who will facilitate and monitor the impact after the end of the project?



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Experiences with developing international consortia and collaborating with colleagues from other countries

Example: DISCIT

At the end: it went well, nobody complains and we have developed *sustainable* international collaborations!

Important: clear objectives and tasks as well as division of work (written agreements and contracts)

Main success criteria: be reliable, communicate not only via emails and skype, meet regularly, use time for discussions, listen, work dedicated

Biggest challenge: colleagues not reading emails, not listening and not responding



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Experiences with developing international consortia and collaborating with colleagues from other countries

Example: DISCIT

Compared with other FP7 SSH projects and Horizon 2020 indicators

DISCIT consisted of 10 Consortium Members. In FP7 SSH projects the average number of Consortium Members was around 11.

The Interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 (Q3/2016 – Q4/2017) will provide new information on the average number of Consortium Members.

By the end of 2016, beginning of 2017, DISCIT Consortium Members will have published 10 peer-reviewed scientific articles and two edited volumes. The Horizon 2020 list of indicators ‘demand’ on average 20 publications per €10 million (for all societal challenges).



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Experiences with developing international consortia and collaborating with colleagues from other countries

Example: DISCIT

Experiences against myths

Some of the most reliable and active partners came from Italy.

Some of the slowest partners, also not responding, were from Northern Europe.

The collaboration with the colleagues at the DG RTD was efficient, supportive and interesting.

FACIT: It's about people, we are the actors and can create IMPACT.



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Questions for discussion

For what and how do you collaborate with colleagues from other countries?

Did you have any trouble? If yes, what nature were these difficulties and how did you deal with them?

How have you contributed to enhancing scientific and societal impact?

Why is it important for Research Managers to be connected internationally?

What would you like to develop further or improve and how? Which support and/or support structures would you need?



Coaches will depart from 19.00 for the Conference Dinner at LTU from the Conference Hotels:

- Comfort Arctic
- Elite
- Quality
- Savoy

The dress code for a Swedish Mid Summer Celebration is white with flowers in the hair for ladies ! (Optional)

Return coach transfers to Lulea City Centre will be from 23.00



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