

Paving the Way Towards Professional Recognition in the EU-13 and the Western Balkans

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HETFA is an independent think tank in Budapest, Hungary established in 2009, which aims to provide useful and evidence-based analyses on national as well as local policy issues for the decision-makers and the policy expert community.

Our **Division for International Cooperation** deals with the preparation, management and implementation of EU funded projects (e.g. H2020, Erasmus+, EFC etc), ensuring high quality research management, communication, dissemination & exploitation.

Professional coordination of projects related to the professionalization of **Research Management and Administration** (foRMAtion, V4+WB RMA Network).

Professional support and quality assurance of proposals for submission and projects under implementation (COST action, Horizon Europe, Erasmus +, Norway Grant, etc.)

Expert in the **Horizon Results Booster** service of the EC

Management Committee Member of **COST action CCA How to address the increasing challenge of science communication** in a diverse European (media) landscape? (2019-2021)

Co-leader of **Working Group 1 COST action TN1302 BESTPRAC** „the voice of research administrators building a network of administrative excellence” (2017-2019)

EU Project Management Seminar at Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities (2014-)



Ms Virág ZSÁR

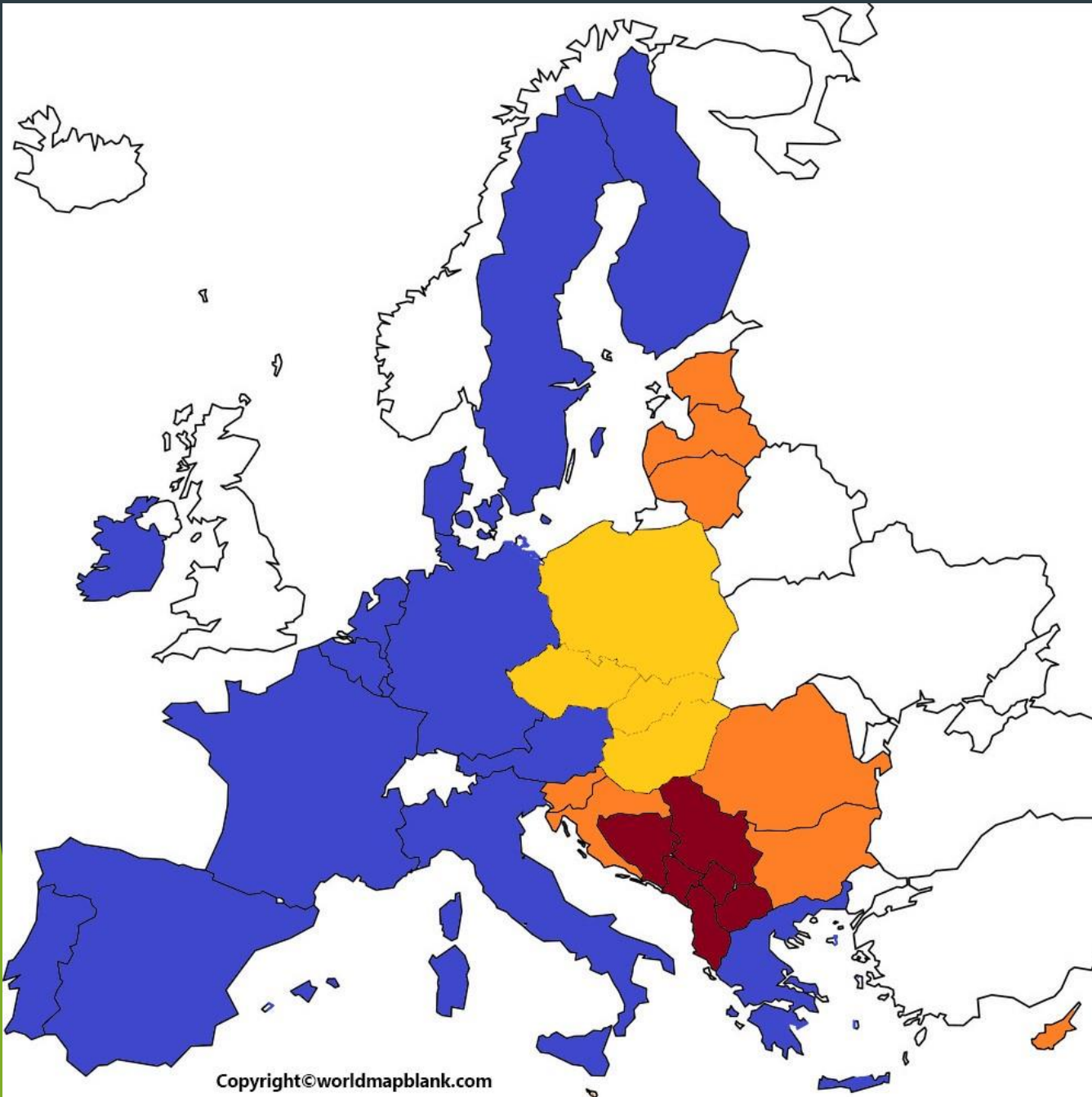
Senior Grant Advisor

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Which country are you from?

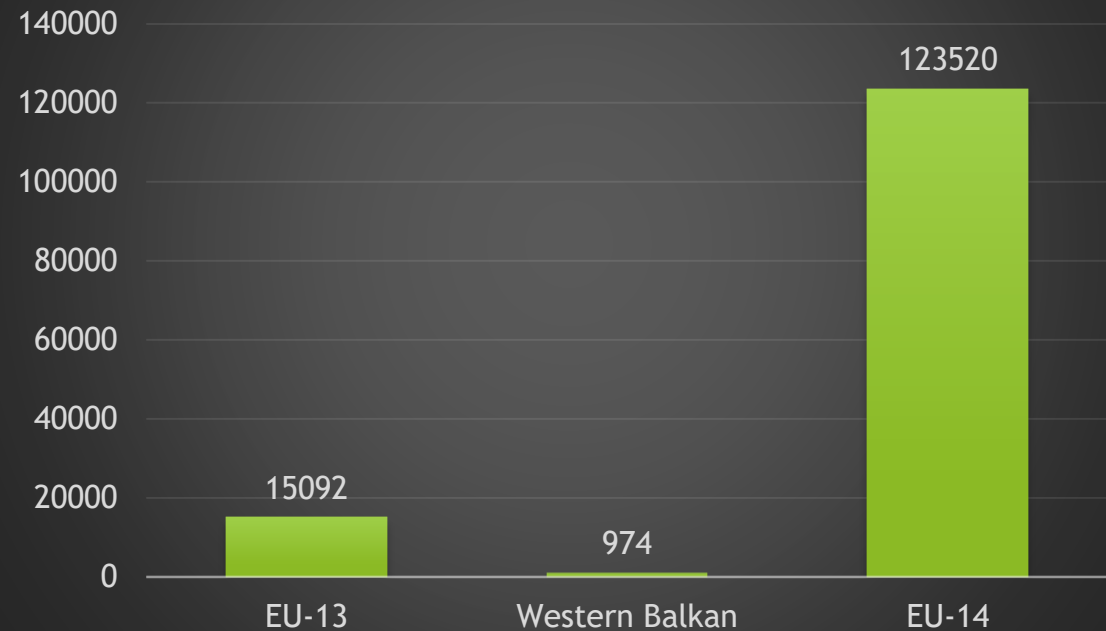
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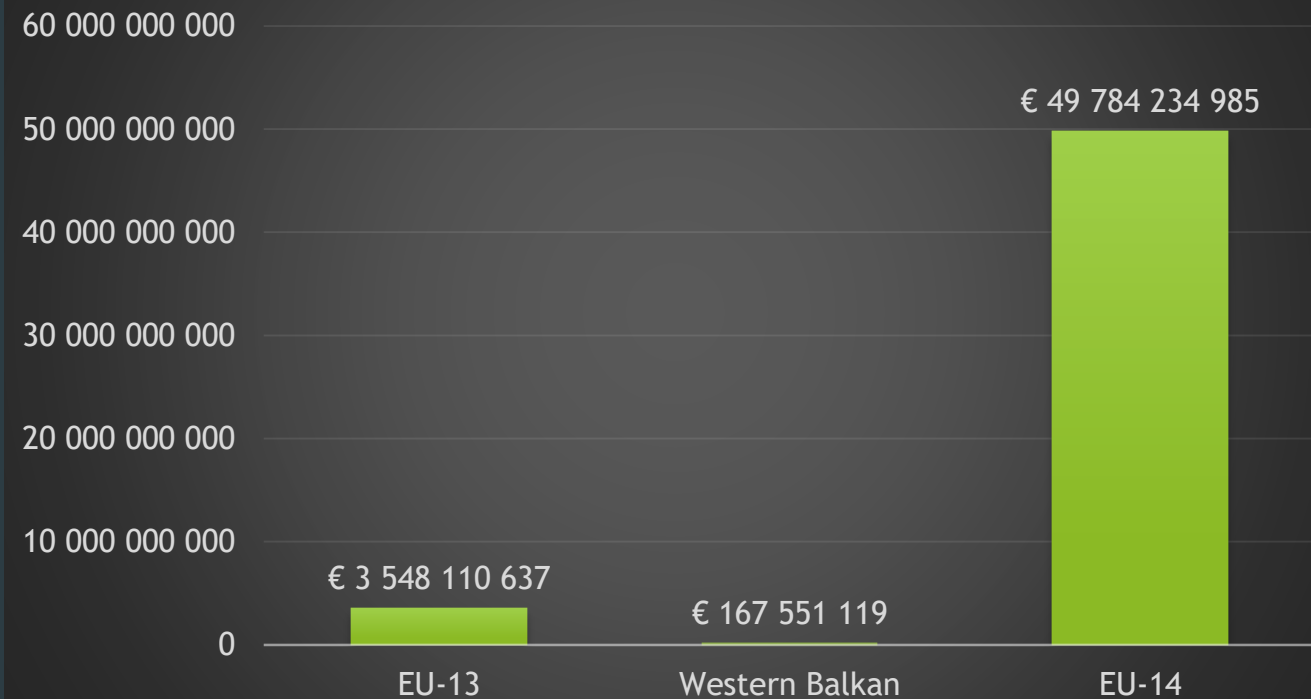
- ▶ **EU-13: orange & yellow**
 - ▶ Visegrad 4: yellow
- ▶ **Western Balkans: red**
- ▶ **EU-14: blue**

Why V4, EU 13, and Western Balkan needs special attention?

Participation numbers in H2020



Horizon 2020 contribution



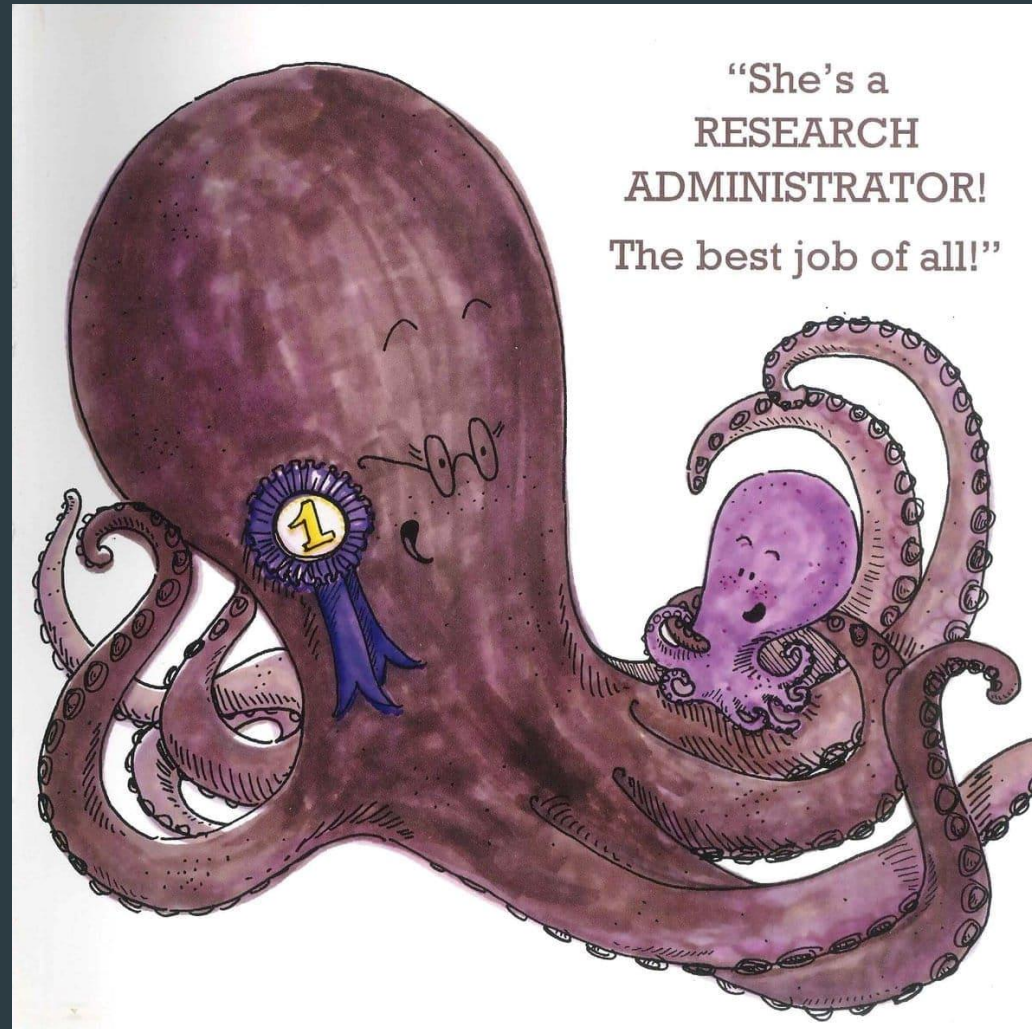
BESTPRAC COST Action (2014-2019)

www.bestprac.eu



- ▶ Network of experts
 - ▶ working in administrative, financial and legal services of RPOs
 - ▶ supporting researchers
 - ▶ involved in the lifecycle of transnational, externally funded, competition based projects
- ▶ Main aims:
 - ▶ To exchange experiences
 - ▶ To share and develop best practices
 - ▶ To encourage knowledge sharing, knowledge transfer
 - To increase efficiency





Source:

<https://www.ncura.edu/Publications/ProductInfo.aspx?productcd=ChildrensBook>

„Everybody makes the same mistakes”
Why not to minimize the wasted resources?



“I think we’re in good enough shape to start making the same mistakes again.”

Investigation

Virág, E., Zsár, V., Balázs, Zs. (2020): *Research Management and Administration: the relevance of specific education and training*
HETFA Working Paper Series, March 2020. Budapest, ISSN 2062-3710.13140/RG.2.2.29780.83847

Online survey

- ▶ Disseminated through BESTPRAC mailing list, websites, social media
- ▶ Available between 21 Feb 2019 and 13 March 2019

Stakeholder workshop

- ▶ Held in Budapest, on 30 May 2019

Interviews

- ▶ 9 online, semi-structured interviews
- ▶ Interviewees selected from respondents of the survey covering 15 European countries



The profession of RMAs

- based on available literature & our findings

- ▶ RMAs are passionate about their job
- ▶ - supporting research is
 - ▶ Impactful,
 - ▶ Meaningful
 - ▶ Rewarding
 - ▶ Interesting,
 - ▶ Challenging, etc.
- ▶ BUT RMAs struggle with the
 - ▶ Lack of recognition and visibility
 - ▶ Lack of career path
 - ▶ Ill-defined roles & responsibilities
 - ▶ Lack of specific educational or training programmes

Professional associations



**Are you member of any association of
RMAs or similar organization?**

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In which association do you have membership?

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Professional Associations

During the investigation no associations mentioned from EU13 & WB

- ▶ 36% had membership in any associations
 - ▶ 8% belonging to BESTPRAC
 - ▶ 28% belonging to EARMA or some national association

Now associations recently set up in

- ▶ Czechia
- ▶ Cyprus

Associations are crucial

- ▶ Providing networking and peer learning opportunities for RMAs both at national and EU levels
- ▶ Supporting the self-awareness of colleagues
- ▶ Contributing to better recognition of the profession
- ▶ Enabling the regular information, training and knowledge exchange of professionals

V4+WB Network of Research Managers and Administrators (RMAs)

WHAT?

Strengthen the network of Researchers Managers and Administrators (RMAs) from Visegrad Four (V4) + Western Balkan (WB) countries **to contribute** to their more **successful participation** in Horizon Europe (HE).



Reinforced network
of RMAs from
V4+WB countries



Excellence and
networking gap
decreased



Know-how widely
disseminated



RMA skills and
capacities
improved



Launching policy
dialogue on the
RMA profession



Coordinator

HETFA Research Institute (Hungary)



Partners

Silesian University of Technology (Poland)



Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer,
Charles University (Czechia)



Slovak University of Technology (Slovakia)



Center for the Promotion of Science (Serbia)



University of Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



INTER-EDU – Association for Internationalization of
Education and Science (North Macedonia)



V4+WB Network of Research Managers and Administrators (RMAs)

► THROUGH WHAT INSTRUMENTS?



► How LONG? - 1 November 2020 - 30 April 2022

Online Expert Pool



[ABOUT US](#) [NEWS](#) [REFERENCES](#) [CONTACT](#) [in](#)  

V4+WB Network of
Research Managers and
Administrators (RMAs)

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• Visegrad Fund



Online Expert Pool

The Online Expert Pool is a **database to share profiles of RMAs, funding advisors, National Contact Points (NCPs)** of EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes (FPs) and **any relevant expert** working on the interface of science **to reinforce a sustainable network and knowledge sharing** of RMAs in V4+WB countries. Apart from gathering the profiles, the ultimate goal of the Online Expert Pool is to **make the RMA profession visible**, and facilitate making connections among the registered partners (direct and mutual support, potential future partner search for R&I projects). As soon as more and more experts will register in the pool, it will be possible for any interested person looking for some crucial information or practical knowledge for its work, to search for the relevant expertise in the online pool and contact him or her directly.

The **benefits** of joining the Online Expert Pool – beyond gaining new contacts – is to have **access to the Learning Material Platform** that will be the repository of all learning materials, webinar recordings and support tools produced by the project. For more information, [check it out here](#).

COUNTRY :	RMA ROLE :	FIELDS OF EXP. :	AREAS OF EXP. :	KEYWORD :
<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter keyword"/>

Masa Mitrovic



Project Manager
PRINCE 2 certified|
Grant Manager|
Project design,
implementation and
evaluation

| Community-based social

[Read more](#)

Borbala Schenk



Research funding
adviser specialized in
European research
funding framework
programmes. The
focus of her
consultancy work is to assist
institutions in the EU-13/Widening
countries in strengthening their
presence in the Horizon

[Read more](#)

John Judge



Leading a team of 8
research development
managers and
programme
managers providing
pre and post award research
administration services to over 300
academics and researchers in the
ADAPT Centre across 8 Irish academic

[Read more](#)

<https://hetfa.eu/international-projects/v4wb-rmas/online-expert-pool/>

supported by

• Visegrad Fund

Learning Material Platform



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Topics

- Funding Programmes
 - H2020 vs Horizon Europe
 - Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area
 - Beyond Horizon Europe: other funding opportunities
- Proposal Writing
 - Excellence
- Project Management
 - Financial Matters
 - Legal Aspects
- Ethics and Open Science
- Science Communication
- Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property

Synergies, Related Projects, Materials

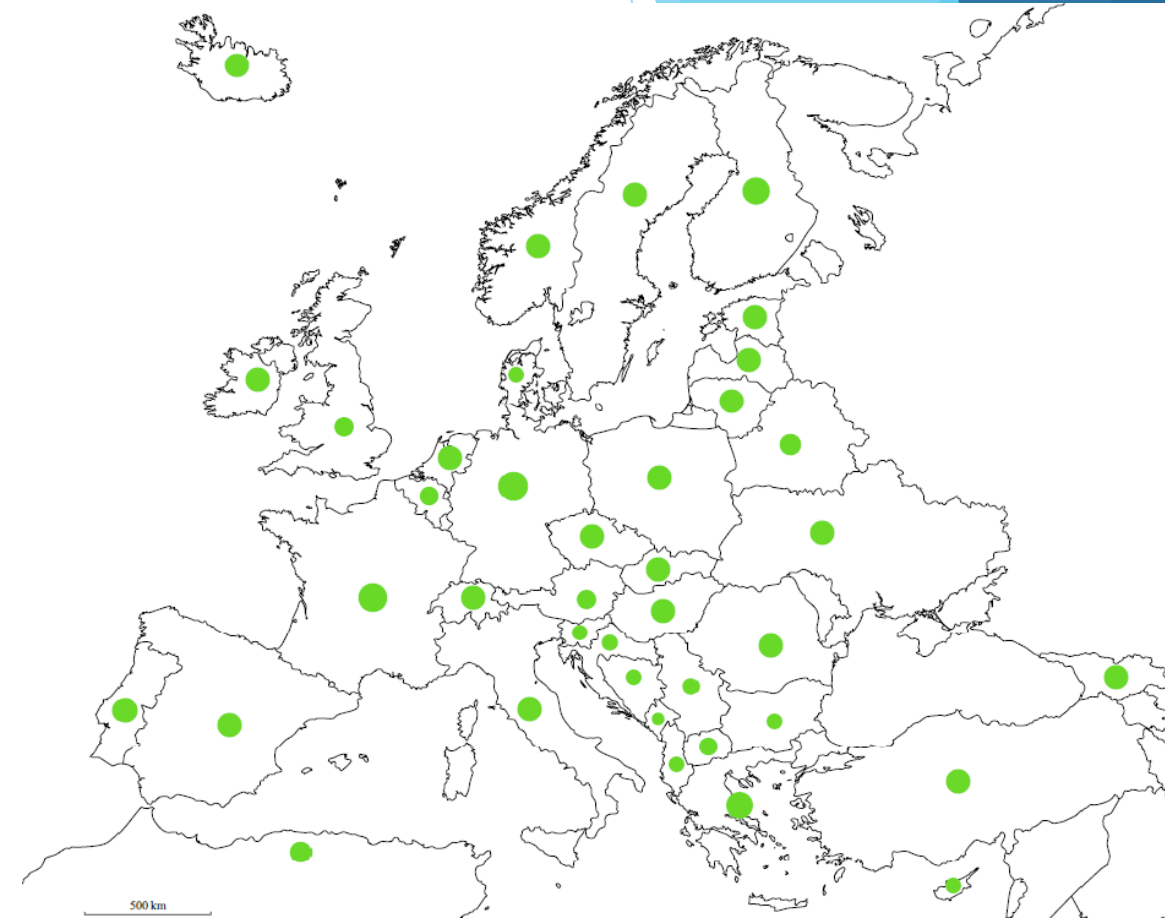
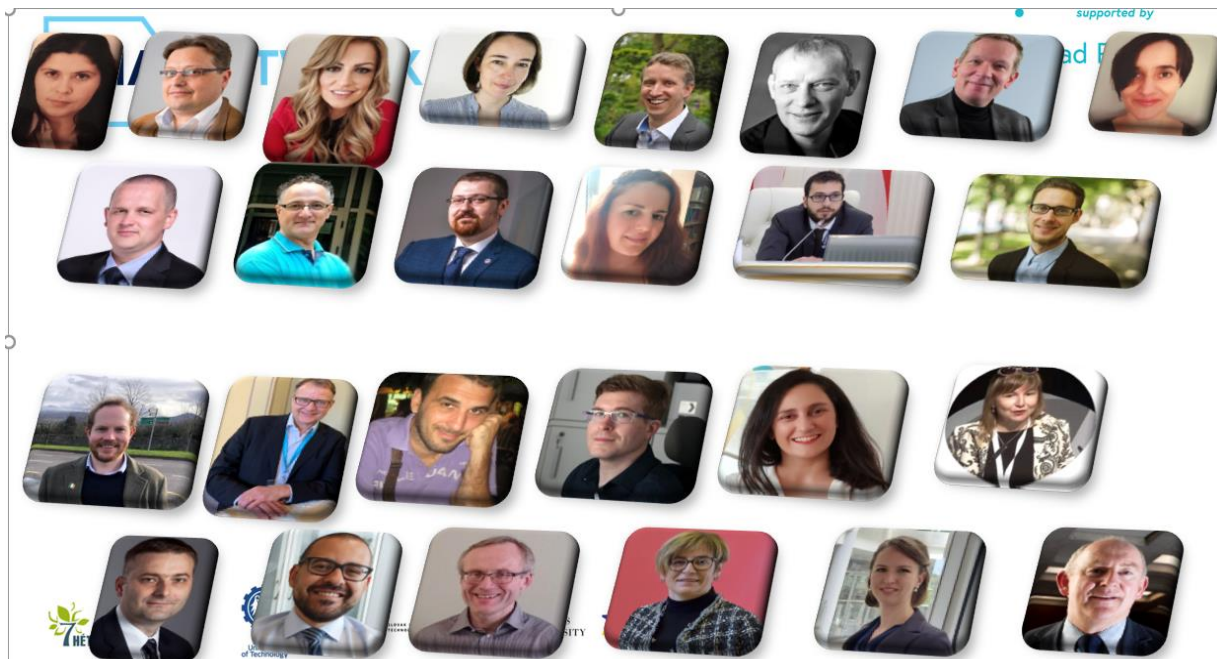
- foRMation
- BESTPRAC
- EARMA

<https://hetfa.eu/international-projects/v4wb-rmas/online-expert-pool-learning-material-platform-2/>

Webinars

Webinars running from March 2021 - February 2022

- ▶ 12 webinars
- ▶ 26 speakers
- ▶ 30 countries
- ▶ More than 600 participants



Final Conference

- ▶ To be held on 30-31 March 2022 in Budapest
- ▶ Gathering
 - ▶ RMAs, policy-makers and institution leaders project from V4 countries + BiH, Serbia and North Macedonia
 - ▶ RMAs from Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, Belarus, Bulgaria and Ukraine (CEI member countries)
- ▶ Providing opportunity for
 - ▶ Networking
 - ▶ Knowledge exchange
 - ▶ Skill development
- ▶ Boosting the recognition of the profession and establishing funding opportunities for professionals



Training and education

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What is your educational background?

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Have you attended any RMA related educational programme or training?

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If you have attended any RMA related training or educational programme, please share what it was.

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What did we learn about trainings and educational programmes?

- ▶ Existing trainings are diverse
- ▶ Problematic nature
- ▶ Very few RMAs accomplished professional accreditation or certification
- ▶ Professionals lack
 - ▶ financial resources
 - ▶ time to be dedicated
- ▶ Educational programmes for future RMAs are almost inexistent in Europe



Relevance of Europe-wide training & educational programmes/frameworks

- ▶ The requirements at EU level are the same
 - ▶ Need for professional recognition
 - ▶ Need for professionalization
- a) **General overview on the funding landscape, operation of R&I funding frameworks and projects, skill development**

For early career RMAs or for future RMAs

- b) **Demand driven specific trainings**

For professionals



Innovative and smart module
FOr potential Research Managers and Administrators
in higher educaTION

2019-1-HU01-KA203-061233

Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation

Project Duration

Start date:
1 September 2019

End date:
31 Dec 2022

Coordinator

HÉTFA Research Institute (HU)

Universities

- Corvinus University of Budapest (HU)
- Sapiientia Hungarian University of Transylvania (RO)
- Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (PT)

Research Performing Organizations

- Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea (IT)
- Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (IT)
- Slovenian Forestry Institute (SI)
- Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (PT)



Objectives

**INVESTIGATING
GOOD
PRACTICES in
the field of RMA
TRAINING**

**DEVELOPING
INNOVATIVE TOOLS
& educational
training METHODS
for potential RMAs
at universities**

**FILLING THE GAP
between the needs
of employees and
HEI graduates
through the
MENTORSHIP**

**MAKING THE RMA
PROFESSION
ATTRACTIVE and
raising awareness
on the importance
of RMAs**

What are we doing?

Collection of good practices

→ foRMAtion methodological guide and good practice collection for the elaboration of the international module (IO1)



Elaboration of the international module

→ foRMAtion international curriculum (IO2) & teaching material (IO3)



Mentorship programme

→ foRMAtion methodological guide for mentorship programme (IO4)



What are we doing?



Online learning resources

→ Online foRMAtion textbook and self-development tool (IO6) consisting of tests for knowledge development and case-based exercises for skill development

<https://www.formation-rma.eu/online-learning-resources/>

Monitoring and impact assessment

→ Guide and impact assessment for educating and training RMAs at HEIs backed by policy recommendations (IO7)



Impact assessment - preliminary results

Short-term impacts have been detected at various levels, such as the level of:

- ▶ Students
- ▶ Teachers and researchers
- ▶ University administration and leadership



As take away...

Educational and training programmes recognized at European or international level shall contribute to:

- ▶ Clarifying and strengthening the **RMA professional identity**
- ▶ Reinforcing the **recognition** of the profession
- ▶ **Raising awareness** about the existence of the profession
- ▶ **Setting the expectations** about the job,
- ▶ Enhancing **talent pool**,
- ▶ **Reducing the investment** needed in newcomers.







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