

Management of Collaborative Research Projects



Managing research projects is not easy. They pose many challenges not necessarily present in more conventional project management. Research projects may be collaborative and multi-cultural incorporating partners with diverse objectives and working cultures; they involve a high level of technical risk and expectation, but are also designed to serve a political agenda. Project management in EC Framework 7 collaborative projects will serve as an illustrative example with typical characteristics for all kinds of research projects.

This workshop is designed for PhD candidates, particularly from the 2nd year onwards. It is also suitable for others involved in research, especially early-career researchers in natural sciences and engineering. The workshop provides the chance to examine project management issues, focussing on the practical challenges.

This workshop is a building block of our ReMaT concept which intends to provide a foundation of complementary skills for managing research through informal interactive teaching in small groups. The objective is to introduce participants to research management, providing an overview of key issues relevant to PhD students and early career researchers. ReMaT has been conceived and developed by a partnership comprising the Brussels Office of the Hermann von Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the Science Enterprise Centre at Oxford University's Saïd Business School and TuTech Innovation GmbH, the knowledge transfer branch of Hamburg University of Technology. It has been developed and piloted with funding as a Specific Support Action under the European Framework Programme 6.

Workshop aims

The aim of the workshop is to equip PhD candidates and early-career researchers with a knowledge and understanding of how to manage research projects. Topics include

- What do we understand by project management
- Formal and operational requirements
- Managing multi-cultural teams
- Handling Conflicts and Crises
- Managing change
- Presenting the results

Workshop Presenter

Monica Schofield is Head of the EU Office at TuTech Innovation GmbH, a technology transfer service company which has for over a decade provided support for researchers at Hamburg University of Technology in preparing proposals and providing pro active practical project management support for EC supported research projects, in many cases involving intensive partnerships with industry.

Monica has more than 15 years experience of EU R&D programmes as a reviewer, evaluator and project manager. Prior to joining TuTech she spent 18 years working in industry large and small in Sweden, the UK and Germany. She has been giving training workshops on project and innovation management in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe since 1995. Monica Schofield is a member of the Association for Project Management and a Chartered Engineer. Monica was a member of Commission Potočnik's Sounding Board for the participation of smaller actors in Framework 7 and has recently led a number of projects relating to the role of universities and research in the regional economy.

Programme

The basics

- Introduction to project management
- Role of coordinator
- Basic management issues
- Starting on the right track

Keeping control

- Project governance
- Effective communication
- Project controlling
- Managing milestones and reviews

Managing multi-cultural teams

- Organisational and national characteristics
- What a project manager needs to deal with

Dealing with conflicts and crises

- Root causes of project difficulties
- Handling conflicts
- Dealing with non-performing partners

Managing expectations and completion

- Presenting the results
- The final review