

The professionalisation of research support staff:

New skills for research managers to face the international challenges of the research and innovation ecosystem



July 10, 2024 | 10 AM – 4 PM | Energy Center, Via Paolo Borsellino 38/16 Torino (IT)

“Research management takes various shapes across the ERA (and beyond), and therefore its definition/scope is multi-dimensional, including but not limited to the following roles: research policy advice, evidence-based policy making, foresight and strategy development; research coordination, research development, research project and funding management, financial support; evaluation and assessment support; research and complementary training programme management; data-based research support, such as data stewards and data analysts, exploitation of research data, data protection; specialised research infrastructure operation; scientific integrity and ethics expertise, gender perspective support, legal support; science communication support; knowledge transfer and innovation support, knowledge brokering, incubator coordination and business development”

(WIDERA EC, 2023-24)

BACKGROUND

The European Commission (EC) has been developing a common European Research Area (ERA) to strengthen the EU position on research and development. A set of Actions, making up a ERA Policy Agenda, has been established and, particularly important to the RMA community, is [ERA Action 17](#): the EC recognizes the importance of proper management as a backbone of efficient research and innovation systems, and that a strong community of research managers is essential for excellent hubs in knowledge creation and innovation. The ERA Policy Agenda action therefore aims to support networking and to improve the training and skills development of research management staff, to develop better research management capacities, and to pave the way towards a recognition of research management professions. To improve career prospects and working conditions for managerial staff is in line with and also part of current Europe-wide efforts to attract, retain and skill talents in Europe’s research and innovation system.

GOALS

The event will stimulate an open dialogue on the **professional development of research managers in public and private Italian institutions** and on the importance of promoting training initiatives, networking and the development of new skills, bringing concrete examples of activities carried out at the European and Italian level.

In line with the upcoming European actions on research management, the event pursues the following objectives:

- increase awareness on the professionalism of research managers in public and private research institutions
- promote the dialogue and collaboration between research managers and knowledge transfer managers, policy makers and other actors in the research and innovation ecosystem, considering emerging challenges and the new European policies
- identify new skills and training needs for professionals.

AGENDA

09:30 – 10:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

10:00 – 10:30 **Institutional welcome**

Mariachiara Zanetti, Vice-Rector for Local, National and European Affairs, Politecnico di Torino

Vincenzo Tedesco, Director - General, Politecnico di Torino

Laura Fulci, Head of Research, Technology Transfer and Innovation Department, Politecnico di Torino

SESSION 1: The role of research management in Europe and in Italy

*Presenting: Valentina Romano, Head of Collaborative Research Division, Politecnico di Torino and
Coordinator of Italian Research Managers*

10:30 – 11:00 **The Recognition of Research Managers and the Path Towards Professionalization in Europe**

Giulia Carpineti, Unit A2 - ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers,

DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

11:00 – 11:30 **Creating framework conditions for research management to strengthen the European Research Area**

Nik Claesen, Managing Director, European Association of Research Managers & Administrators (EARMA) and coordinator of RM ROADMAP Project

11:30 – 12:00 **The professionalisation of research managers in Italy**

Maria Luisa Lavitrano, Full Professor, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Expert- ERA Action 17 and coordinator of RltrainPlus Project

12:00 – 13:00 **Round table: The Challenges of the National Ecosystem for Research Managers**

*Moderating: Laura Fulci, Head of Research, Technology Transfer and Innovation Department,
Politecnico di Torino*

Alberto Anfossi, Secretary General, Compagnia di San Paolo

Alessandra Baccigotti, Representative of the Network for Research Valorization (NETVAL)

Alessandro Coda, Engineering & Technology Office – Strategic Tech Partnerships - Director of Collaborative Project & University Partnerships, Stellantis

Luca Moretti, Head of the CNR Brussels Office and Member of the ERAC Task Force (TBC)

Loredana Segreto, Director - General, Università del Piemonte Orientale

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

SESSION 2: Research Managers' Task and competences

*Presenting: Francesca Mura, Head of International Research Office, University of Padua and
Core Group Member of the Italian Research Manager Network*

14:00 – 14:30 **The European professional development framework for research managers**

Lluís Rovira Pato, Director, Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) and partner of CARDEA Project

14:30 – 15:00 **The Italian Professional Development Framework and the Activities of Research Managers in Italy**

Valentina Romano, Head of Collaborative Research Division, Politecnico di Torino and

Coordinator of Italian Research Managers

Adele Del Bello, Programme Manager, RESTART Foundation and RM ROADMAP Ambassador

15:00 – 15:10 **Soft skills in research management: RAAAP and RAPIDS projects** (recorded video)

Melinda Fischer, Grants Administrator, Clemson University

Simon Kerridge, Honorary Staff, Research and Innovation Services, University of Kent

and Founder of Kerridge Research Consulting

15:10 – 16:00 **Interactive Session: Discussion on The New Skills of Research Managers to Address the International Challenges of the Research and Innovation Ecosystem**

*Moderators: Mirella Collini, Head of Research Management Division, Università di Trento and
Marco Berzano, Head of Medical Area, International Project Service, Università*

Politecnica delle Marche; Core Group Members of the Italian Research Manager Network

16:00 **Closing remarks and end of the meeting**