

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: TN1302

STSM title: “Best practices of research management: Project management, project development, university industry collaborations, technology transfer, research planning and policy development”

STSM start and end date: 09/04/2018 to 11/04/2018

Grantee name: Fanni Bobák

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

The STSM at Sabanci Univer provided excellent opportunity to learn about the project development and project management process at one of the biggest universities in Turkey.

In order to get an insight, the main objectives of the Group STSM were the followings:

- presenting the general operation of Project Management Office (PMO) and the Project Development Office (PDO)
- sharing best practices in the field of research management, with a special focus on Horizon2020
- discussing the frequent challenges of the pre-award and post-award phase and potential solutions meeting legal, financial and further administrative experts engaged in research management
- get a real insight into the implementation of business&university cooperation (SUIMC visit)

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

Day 1

On the first day, representatives of the host institute’s PMO and participants (University of Warsaw, HÉTFA Research Institute) presented their institutions with a special focus on research management. Colleagues from Sabanci University gave us an overall picture about the general operation of the university, then focused on the work of the different offices dealing with research management: Project Development Office, Industry Collaboration Office, Europe Enterprise Network collaboration, Research Planning and Policy Collaboration Office, but especially focused on the work of Project Management Office (post-award). After visiting the huge university campus, we had the possibility to meet with the representatives of Industry Collaboration Office and Europe Enterprise Network (in which Sabanci is a member from Turkey), ask our questions and think about future collaboration.

Day 2

On the second day through an interactive presentation we had the possibility to get to know the innovation hub of Sabanci, which is called SuCOOL. This program supports start-ups also in their really pre award, but supports already working ones as well, and it is also in touch with business partners. Moreover, we have learnt about the operation and tasks of the Project Development Office (pre-award) and InnoTEAM.

Moreover, since Sabanci University coordinates several project, therefore has a separate Research Planning and Policy Development Office about which we have gained information as well. Besides, it has to have special attention about Intellectual Property Rights due to the several national and H2020 projects, which was really useful to hear about.

As a nice closure of the day we have visited the Museum belongs to the University, and had a really nice dinner next to it.

Day 3

On the last day we had time to share best practices mainly related to post award phase (finances and management), and get insight into the new operation system of PDO&PMO. Moreover, as a great opportunity to see how business and university cooperation is coming true, we have visited the Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SUIMC), which was really interesting.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

Since Sabanci University is one of the leading universities in research and innovation in Turkey, its organizational structure and working procedures set a good model.

The main outcomes for me were the followings:

Universities should work as innovation hubs

Universities are often considered as mere educational institutions. However, they could and should operate as incubation for innovative ideas and groundbreaking projects. It is really nice to see, that Sabanci University has recognized this several years ago and its approach support innovation in many different aspects: investments in research, management and support, incentives for researchers, international cooperation, patents. I think, the innovation-based approach can be a key factor not only in the present and future competitiveness of the universities but for the economic and social development for the broader society.

Relations with the industry and business sector

Similarly to the previous point, Sabanci University recognized that it has to cooperate with the business sector to improve its competitiveness and to meet the actual trends. People working in business have a different mindset which is very useful when research results should be turned into concrete products. The cooperation between the research community and the business sector can strengthen the usefulness of the researches' outcomes and it helps connect science with the everyday end-users.

Cooperation with Europe Enterprise Network

One of the main strengths of Sabanci University is its membership in Europe Enterprise Network. This relation helps the successful and effective work of business-university cooperation.

Best practices in EU project management

As a project manager of a small research institute, it was very instructive to see how a (so much) bigger institution organize its working methods and procedures. Once, HÉTFA will have the necessary resource and capacity to improve the project management office, we will definitely pay attention to distinct pre- and post-award phase during the management and to be specialized in legal and financial issues.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

I found this STSM very useful also regarding the possible cooperations. My home institute, HÉTFA Research Institute is open for future collaborations in different EU programmes, about which Horizon2020 or Erasmus+ can be a join point between the three participated institutions.

Not being a university, but an independent think tank, it can provide a different approach in research and analysis, and it also has good relations with different public authorities and SMEs. We have saved hosts and participants' organizations in our contactlist and in case of any relevant project idea we will definitely contact them to develop a joint proposal, especially on the field of entrepreneurship support and competitiveness.