

STSM report

Grantee: Nomeda Gudeliene

Home Institution: Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

Host Institution: University of Iceland, Reykjavík University

Title of the STSM: Hosting STSMs at the University of Iceland and Reykjavík University, May 18-20, 2015

Summary	<p>STSM took place at the University of Iceland and Reykjavík University on May 18-20, 2015. The Work Plan included meeting with University of Iceland Grant Office (topics discussed: pre-and post-award, quality management, contracts and IPR) and Reykjavik University Research Service (topics discussed: administrative, legal and financial counselling, research statistics and dissemination of research activities) as well as meetings with research directors of different schools.</p> <p>My personal goal of the STSM was to learn from Icelandic universities as well as other STSM participants on how do they form university policy, organisational culture and procedures with regard to enhancing participation of researchers in H2020 projects, publishing in top-ranking journals, cooperating with external partners, etc. It was expected to learn from their experience and know-how on formation of strategies, developing priorities, finding partners and empowering researchers to take an active part in international projects. In addition, it was expected to learn on how H2020 projects are managed on operational level, what kind of research support is provided and how it is communicated to researchers. During this stay I also had the opportunity to share my experience and best practices of Mykolas Romeris University.</p> <p>It is expected that STSM will have an impact on research management system of Mykolas Romeris University from strategic and operational point of view. On the strategic level knowledge was gained regarding setting long-term and short-term institutional research management priorities and how to evaluate them. On the operational level I learned from Icelandic partners and my STSM colleagues on how to manage different pre- and post-award project stages, ensure and manage research quality, provide research support service, implement administrative, legal and financial counselling, etc. The knowledge gained was shared with leadership and decision-makers as well as researchers, PhD students and administrative staff of Mykolas Romeris University. It is expected that due to the STSM the qualitative and quantitative aspects of institutional research management system will be improved.</p>
Purpose of the STSM	STSM was aimed to share best practices of research administration of the institutions involved and to receive an insight in the internal procedures and services offered by the University of Iceland and Reykjavík University for their researchers.
Participants:	Claudia Oliveira, International Funding Officer, University of Lisbon Thomas Brandl, Institute of Science and Technology Austria Baldvin Zariog, Project Manager, University of Iceland

	<p>Ólöf Vigdis Ragnarsdóttir, Secretary of the Intellectual Property Committee, University of Iceland Sigurdur Gudmundsson, Project Manager, University of Iceland Eiríkur Smári Sigurdarson, Director of Research, University of Iceland Kristján Kristjánsson, Director of Research Services, Reykjavík University Björgvin Richardsson, Program administrator, Reykjavík University</p>
<p>Detailed description of the work carried out during the STSM</p>	<p>Monday, May 18, 2015</p> <p>The morning meeting took place at the University of Iceland. All participants introduced themselves and the programme for the week was presented. The presentation about the University of Iceland was delivered by Baldvin Zarióh, Project Manager, Division of Research Affairs. Other STSM participants also briefly introduced their organizations. Then we showed us around the premises and future developments of the University of Iceland, discussed division between centered and distributed system of research project management, relations with business and media.</p> <p>The afternoon meeting took place at Reykjavík University. Kristján Kristjánsson, Director of Research Services, introduced us to the premises, organizational structure and strategy of Reykjavík University. It was very interesting to learn that the quality of research and the number of publications has increased enormously during the last 5 years due to business strategy & assessment system. R&D most collaborations are with USA, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.</p> <p>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</p> <p>The morning the meeting took place at the University of Iceland. Baldvin Zarióh presented research evaluation / promotion system used at the University of Iceland. It is an accumulative system, researchers are given points for different scientific activities including publications, teaching, administrative work, and service to society. Researchers have to submit annual reports by the 1 February, the final results are accumulated and in July and the bonus is usually paid in September. In addition, Eiríkur Smári Sigurdarson, Director of Research at the School of Humanities, University of Iceland, commented about the importance of research funding for the University of Iceland and the consistent process of finding grant opportunities. Research support services are provided in the different schools of the University of Iceland, some of them are stronger and weaker. Ólöf Vigdis Ragnarsdóttir presented the duties of the University of Iceland Intellectual Property Committee which was established to encourage staff and PhD students to transfer technology.</p> <p>The afternoon meeting took place at Reykjavík University. Kristján Kristjánsson gave presentation on research services provided to researchers. Personal approach and daily informal communication with researchers is used. Thanks to mobilization of efforts between researchers and Research Services unit, recently Reykjavík University was awarded an ERC grant. In addition, Björgvin Ægir Richardsson</p>

	<p>presentation the case in detail, how after three times of negative answer, they managed to promote the proposal and how close team-work between a researchers and research management helped to achieve the result. Main functions of Research Services: i.) Monitor project funding opportunities on the national and international level; Carry out idea check (peer-review) prior to writing an application; Help researchers writing application; Assist researchers in implementing project and writing reports. ii) Collect data and statistics and coordinate external research assessments; iii) Disseminate research results and help building cooperation.</p> <p>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</p> <p>The meeting took place at Reykjavík University. Kristján Kristjánsson delivered a presentation on dissemination activities used by the University. He presented the PURE system that is owned by Elsevier, and widely used by Nordic universities, Reykjavík University plans to acquire. In addition, financial officer explained the system and process that is used in financial project administration. I was surprised that 1 person is in charge of 150-200 projects due the accounting system that is used by Reykjavík University. Also, it was very interesting to learn about the role of different parties involved in managing a research grant.</p>
<p>Contribution to the goals of the COST Targeted Network</p>	<p>This STSM fulfilled the overall objective of COST Action No. 1302 BESTPRAC - to establish a network for the administrative, finance and legal services in universities, research organizations and related entities supporting researchers involved in the lifecycle of transnational external competition based (in particular European funded) projects in order to exchange experiences and share and develop best practices, encourage knowledge sharing, knowledge transfer and increased efficiency. I think that this STSM contributed to building a network between Icelandic, Austrian, Portugese and Lithuanian university research administrators. Drawing on the experience of the STSM other colleagues from our universities / institutes will have a better framework to network for the sake of better service to European researchers.</p>
<p>Description of the main results obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elaborate in detail on the results obtained -Describe what you have learned during your visit -Please take into consideration that the readers of the report shall also be able to learn from it 	<p>The main results obtained from the STSM include learning from Icelandic partners and other STSM colleagues how do they form university policy, organisational culture and procedures with regard to enhancing participation of researchers in H2020 projects, publishing in top-ranking journals, cooperating with external partners, etc. I learned from their experience and know-how on how to form strategic goals and measures to achieve them, find research partners and empower researchers to take an active part in international projects. In addition, I learned about H2020 project management on operational level, what kind of research support is provided, how it is communicated to researchers, what systems are used in project pre-award and post-award stages. In particular, I would like to emphasize 3 areas that were the most impressive: 1) The external evaluation used by Reykjavík University. This system is based on 4 points system and each researcher is evaluated by external experts annually. Due to the system the number of publications, PhD students and projects increased drastically. 2) The internal</p>

	<p>evaluation / incentive system used by the University of Iceland. The system also prompted the increase in the number of publications, projects, PhD students. 3) Research support system used by Reykjavík University especially when applying to H2020, ERC grants. They experience show that Research Service unit is very important for researchers in obtaining grants. Also, I was impressed that only 2 persons work full time in the Research Service unite and 150-200 project financial management is implemented by 1 person using an advanced accounting system.</p>
<p>Describe which of the best practices / tools / system from the host institution will be (tried to be) implemented by you within your institute. Please also describe the reason / benefit of its implementation.</p>	<p>University of Iceland presented us the point system used for researchers' evaluation and promotion. It reassured me that the system developed at Mykolas Romeris University echoes with the system used in the University of Iceland.</p> <p>Kristjan Kristjansson from Reykjavík University presented their researchers' annual evaluation system that is carried out by external experts. Having experienced the Benchmarking exercise under which different Mykolas Romeris University units along with units of other Lithuanian universities were assessed, the proposal to evaluate individual researchers will be proposed to the leadership of our university.</p> <p>Reykjavík University also presented us the PURE system, owned by Elsevier and widely used in Nordic universities, they are about to acquire. As our university is also in the process of acquiring a similar system which automatically collects and updates electronically found data, I was reassured that our decision is right and in line with the most progressive research management tools used for researchers' profile building and visibility. In addition, as now Mykolas Romeris University is now in the process of developing Research Support System, the experience of Reykjavík University, was shared with Mykolas Romeris University leadership and managers.</p>
<p>Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)</p>	<p>I will constantly share my experience with my colleagues, researchers, PhD students and administrative staff at Mykolas Romeris University and encourage them to take part in similar mobility programmes. By maintaining close relations with research administrators from University of Iceland, Reykjavík University, Lisbon University and Institute of Science and Technology Austria I will seek for the opportunities our researchers, PhD students and other research administrators to engage in joint projects, joint events for networking, joint publications, joint study programmes, mobility events, etc. We will be open and seek proactively any forms of further cooperation on the institutional and personal level.</p>
<p>Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM</p>	<p>Please find attached</p>
<p>Other comments</p>	