Building a portfolio of RISE projects

Dr. Jean-François Auger
Institute of Economic Studies, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
Email: jean.auger@fsv.cuni.cz

‘Propojení výzkumu a podnikání: příležitosti v programu Horizont 2020’,
Technologické centrum AV ČR, Prague, 4 December 2018

This presentation is part of two projects that have received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 681228. The presentation reflects only the view of the author, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
1. Overview

- Share the experience in maintaining a portfolio of RISE projects
- Describe the phases of initiation, proposal, implementation, and closure
- Examples of three projects in economics at Charles University
- Discuss the peculiarities of the RISE projects
- Underscore practical recommendations
2. Staff exchanges

- Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)
  - Strengthening the position of Europe in scientific and innovation networks
  - Exchanging knowledge and training via the secondment of staff members
  - Creation of international scientific networks
- Three projects in economic science
  - Networking between European institutions and prestigious research institutions abroad
  - Development of the skills and expertise of hundreds of staff members
  - Carrying scientific researches on the economics of climate and energy
3. Initiation

- Aligning the objective and the work packages with a relevant policy of the European Union
- Tapping into an international network of experts in the field
- Formation of a consortium by making a partnership with top European research institutions in the field
- Extending the network by entering into contact with highly ranked partner institutions abroad
- Inventory of the human resources and of the training activities to determine the feasibility and the scope
4. Proposal

- Proposals highlight networking opportunities, sharing of knowledge, and the skills development of staff members
- Decompose the scientific objectives into non-sequential work packages
- Align the deliverables with the supporting activities for knowledge exchange and training of the staff
- Fulfil the specific requirements as per the gender dimension by balancing the composition of the staff
- Survey the staff members to assign them tasks and determine the host institution and time of implementation
5. Implementation

- Formalisation of the project
  - Get familiar with the Grant Agreement and the Annotated Grant Agreement
    - Articles on the eligibility of the staff
    - Articles on the obligations of the sending institutions
    - Articles on the financing in person-month
  - Sign a Consortium Agreement with the beneficiary institutions
  - Elaborate a plan of implementation of the Grant Agreement and Annex 1
    - Use the Gantt chart of the project as a progress tracking tool
• Kicking off the activities
  • Develop of an all-round website platform for communication and registration of the secondments
  • Use international conferences as platform of exchange
  • Form a management team to handle the administrative requirements
  • Create a stakeholder registry with all contact details of the network
  • Organise early activities for training, knowledge, exchange, management, and coordination
• Manage the project
  • Keep the focus in implementing the secondments and reporting them
  • Monitor the process of application and implementation
  • Support the staff member in preparing their secondment abroad
  • Control the budget in person-month as the project progresses
  • Solve the problems of the secondments on the go
• Typical problems with the implementation of the secondments
  • Eligibility of the staff member, in particular for full-time dedication
  • Change in career by PhD and junior staff members
  • Personal life events with spouse, kids, and relatives
  • Delay in obtaining a visa from the host country
  • Exhaustion of human resources at the end of the project
• Reporting on the activities
  • Declare the secondments as they come in the Grant Management System
  • Renegotiate, redistribute, and revise the Gannt chart
  • Report on the milestones, dissemination, publications, gender, etc.
  • Upload regularly the deliverables as the project progresses
  • Evaluate the project at mid-term with the officer and participants
  • Report annually on the project by referring to the secondments
6. Closure

• Optimise the resources by energising the staff members about the project
• Ensure the legacy of the training, exchange, and research activities
• Transform the website into a dissemination platform where specialists can tap into the results and maintain the network
• Prepare a sequel by mobilising the beneficiary and partner institutions around new European or national project proposals
7. Discussion

• Take into consideration that secondments articulate the projects
• Accrue your position within an international network of research institutions
• Use the project as a career springboard for PhD and early researchers
• Augment the quality and circulation of your scientific production