EURADA SUMMER COURSE 2020
PROCEEDINGS

Created as an excellent learning experience to help professionals acquire knowledge, valuable
contacts and skills to prepare high quality project proposals, the online version of EURADA’s
summer course welcomed the insights and expertise of several speakers from all over the EU.
These speakers not only prepared presentation related to their topic but also several activities
to involve and get feedback from participants. Below is a quick overview of what transpired
during the course of 3 days— the topics discussed, the speakers, and the valuable information
in their presentations.

DAY 1. SOFT SKILLS YOU CAN’T AFFORD TO OVERLOOK
IN MANAGING EUROPEAN PROJECTS & FAST TRACK ON
HOW TO BECOME A FORCE MULTIPLIER IN DEALING
WITH PROJECTS

5 SOFT SKILLS YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO OVERLOOK IN
MANAGING EUROPEAN PROJECTS

ANDRA COSTIN
Agentia petru Dezvoltare Regionala Nord-Est

Soft skills are non-technical skills related to your approach to work. 5 soft skills are required
more than others to develop and implement successful EU projects: empathy, to establish
common grounds and interacting effectively and harmoniously with partners; creative thinking,
or the use of imagination and association as connector among things; decision making, as the
capacity to select priorities and take the most appropriate one; problem solving, a process that
starts from the deconstruction of the problem to the necessity to take action and implement a
solution; conflict resolution, to understand different views and opinions and to be able to
compromise.

FAST TRACK ON HOW TO BECOME A FORCE MULTIPLIER
WHEN DEALING WITH PROJECTS

BOGDAN CHELARIU
Agentia petru Dezvoltare Regionala Nord-Est

Different little changes become important in order to have the right approach to increase the
possibility of making successful EU projects. Previously, an important distinction is between the
role of the manager and the leader: while the former promotes stability, the latter pushes for
change. In an EU project, both figures are needed: the leader in the creation phase, the
manager in the implementation phase. Consequently, the success of the project passes
through the capacity to think in networks, to understand cultural differences and
commonalities among the partners, to be a glue for people and reduce potential frictions, and
to be proactive— attending meetings and events.
DAY 2. ASPECTS OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT (ILLUSTRATED VIA THE TOPIC OF SOCIAL INNOVATION)

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC OF SOCIAL INNOVATION AND SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECTS

DAVID JEPSON
Member of the EURADA Eminence Grise Club

Social innovation is the process of developing new ideas, solutions and relationships that lead to social progress for the community. While social innovation is the paradigm, social enterprises are the vehicles to pursue this goal. The drivers of social change are very diverse, one of which is the long-term migration trend in our countries. Currently, this phenomenon is characterized by highly skilled refugees/migrants mainly unemployed or involved in undocumented employment. One of the current and future challenges of EU social innovation projects is to upskill refugees/migrants into median level work through training recruitment, applied language, and giving access to social networks, in order to bring mutual benefits to them and to the local community as a whole.

LEADING A PROJECT

PAULA SANTARÉN
ACCIÓ

Leading and implementing an EU project passes through different steps. The first step is to identify the reasons to start a project, the issues to challenge and verify if they align with the established EU goals. It is then important to select the appropriate EU programme (Horizon 2020, Interreg Europe, LIFE, etc.) and identify the right partners. The second step is to take time to write the project proposal: the lead partner should prepare the first draft to guarantee consistency. Once the project is approved, a clear work plan is essential to ensure the success of the project: the lead partner should indicate the roles of the partners (taking profit of each of their strengths), be restricted on deadlines while allowing margin for contingencies, create commitment with the partners for the project (through the use of slogans, songs, visibility and storytelling) to establish strong relationships.

BEING PART OF A PROJECT CONSORTIUM

ZDENEK HANZAL
RERA

Instead of developing an own project idea, the direct involvement in an EU project is possible by joining a consortium. Specific EU websites allow to search for calls for proposals and tenders, while EU member states set up info points in their territories. However, creating a network of contacts is the most efficient way to join a project consortium. During the implementation phase, some important aspects to bear in mind are a clear division of tasks and responsibilities among partners, as well as an accurate planning of the workplan. Internal and external communications should also be straightforward, with a clear description of the task of the thematic WPs. Finally, during the reporting, finance and closure phase, project partners should pay attention on potential conflicts between the EU programme’s rules and national laws as well as continuously updating the project’s most important documents (application form, budget sheet, etc.).
Practical exercise: mock proposal

ESTEBAN PELAYO
EURADA

The practical exercise about drafting a project proposal was developed following three interconnected parts: searching for the call topic, identifying the main elements of a proposal, and analysing a specific proposal. To search the call topic, specific EU websites allow to look for calls for proposals and tenders by thematic interests (social innovation, circular economy, etc.). Then, the main elements of a proposal can be divided with administrative references as the first part, while the second part includes the technical annex (excellence, impact, implementation). Finally, the analysis of a specific proposal focused on the comprehension of the concepts of the work packages and the deliverables.
DAY 3. CALLS, TENDERS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

BEING PART OF A PROJECT CONSORTIUM DATA MANAGEMENT AND ETHICS IN H2020 PROJECTS

MARINA MARTÍNEZ
CDTI-SOST

Depending on the subject (e.g. health, society...), even if you get a good evaluation, if you do not manage your data properly, the Commission could decide not to continue assessing your proposal. There are 6 essential things that should be tackled when talking about data: a) what type of data is being collected, b) what standards will be used, c) how will the data be exploited (if it cannot be made available, explain why), d) how will the data be preserved, e) how much will it cost to cure and preserve the data, f) proposals that follow the ORDP (Open Research Data Pilot in H2020) will not be penalised. You have to explain and describe what are the ethical issues of your proposal. Instead of acting like an expert on the topic, it is recommended to integrate a partner in the consortium that really knows about it.

ROLE OF DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS AND INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS IN SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SMES

TAMÁS GYULAI
MIÉNK

The European DIH network currently in construction will initiate pan-European collaborations, raise European awareness and serve as a facilitator of best practices sharing and regional learning. Cities can have a strategic role in regional DIH networks as nodes for resilient digital communities. Examples of European projects with the collaboration of DIH clusters are: METABUILDING with national clusters in construction; BRILLIANT clusters in sustainable lighting and smart buildings; SMART watch which creates a network of regional observatories; 3DP PAN EU which gives SMEs access to 3D printing services; and DIH-World for further networking beyond DIH.

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT CALLS AND TAKE PART IN INFODAYS

ROSER TORRES
EURADA

Infodays are events organised by the experts of a programme and aimed at potential participants. The experts explain the calls in detail, give practical advice and answer specific questions via slido or by being approached directly. Participants have the opportunity to get detailed insights into the discussed topics, benefit from bilateral meetings, look for partners or pitch their project ideas or entities. During the coronavirus outbreak the infodays are essentially the same. Newsletters are useful because it is better to receive the information periodically than to have to search for it by oneself. The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020. It is interesting to subscribe to your country NCPs newsletter, but also to the one from Brussels since plenty of events are held there and since online participation is now possible. In the Funding and Tenders Portal, it is possible to check past and ongoing projects under the topic one is searching for. Furthermore, networks such as EURADA, the EEN, the EUREKA Network or national RDA networks can provide information.
HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN TENDERS OF EU INSTITUTIONS

ESTEFANIA LOPEZ
EURADA

Tenders are public contracts used by the Commission to buy services, works and goods from the market for its internal use. These come from the European institutions and are published in the Funding & Tender Portal of the European Commission. If interested in getting a tender, this portal must be checked. On that portal, it is possible to find all the open calls for tenders available at any moment. In addition, the portal also allows to search for partners who may have the same interests as your organization. EURADA developed a customized service for its members to help them find the most appropriate partner and proofread the project proposal before the final submission.

Practical Exercise Interreg Europe and Best Practices selection

IVANA RAE ALMORA
EURADA

Each project organized in the framework of the Interreg Europe programme - created in 1990 to formally encourage cross-border cooperation and built upon 3 strands: Cross-border, Transnational and Interregional cooperation – allows public organisations from different regions in Europe to work together for 3 to 5 years on a shared policy issue. One requirement of this programme is to identify good practices. In the context of Interreg Europe, a good practice is an initiative carried out under one of the programme’s topics (Research and innovation, SME competitiveness, Low-carbon economy and Environment and resource efficiency). It can be for example a methodology, project, process or technique which has some evidence of success in reaching its objectives. Good practices are used by the project partners either to learn from them, transfer them, or both. EURADA, thanks to its experience in the programme, has developed a Canvas model to identify the good practice and transfer them into other European regions.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S DG REGIO

AGNÈS MONFRET

Communication is an essential part of your project to make it shine. A programme should be designed taking into account the population it is going to help, not with a top-down approach, but a collaborative one, empowering citizens locally and regionally to make it happen. Providing feedback on how the project is developed or providing information about the difficulties you are encountering is very important. The European Commission has no problem promoting your project. The European Commission wants to sell the policy to the average citizens because ultimately, policies are created with the benefit of the citizens in mind. The policy and the communication therefore should be made to continuously show both sides of the same coin and be developed in a way where communication flows naturally.