

ENCARE

Enhancing Capacities of UAS staff for more successful EUfunded Research: Insight and possibilities for UAS sector

Kaisa Adair

Research Service Days 2025







ENCARE - PROJECT OVERVIEW

 Objective: Development of a training programme to strengthen and expand the skills of researchers and research support staff at UASs for the successful development and application of EU-funded projects

(https://carpenetwork.org/encare/)

CARPE Partners:

HAW Hamburg (Coordinator)

Turku University of Applied Sciences (Turku UAS)

Hogeschool Utrecht (HU)

Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV)

POLITÉCNICO DO PORTO (P.PORTO)

University of the West of Scotland (UWS)

Duration: 01.11.2023 - 31.10.2026

• Budget: 400.000 € funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, Cooperation Partnerships









STAFF IN UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AS A TARGET GROUP FOR NEEDS ANALYSIS AND TRAINING

- Smaller role and capacity for participating competitive research funding calls
- Larger role in applied research and development projects
 - Differencies between European countries in e.g. doctoral education and work division between higher education institutions
- Need for targeted training in Research Management (pre-award) for the staff in UAS sector as the basis for the project

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Skills assessment and needs

- Grant writing and proposal development
- Project Planning and Management
- Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
- Research Skills and Data Analysis
- Legal, Ethical and Compliance Aspects
- Teamwork und Leadership
- Digital Literacy and IT Skills
- Knowledge of Funding Landscape





Needs analysis and learner profiles in UAS sector

Introduction and Consent for Participation in ENCARE Project's Research Survey

The ENCARE project aims to increase the capacity of research office staff and researchers of Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) in successfully developing, writing and managing EU-funded projects This objective will be achieved with the development of a comprehensive training program and teaching/training material. WP 2 objectives cluster in identifying the special needs, learning goals, learner profiles and expertise in training on organisational level and outlining and piloting a joint program structure for the ICER-Pro program.

Aim of the Survey: This survey is a critical component of Work Package 2 (WP2) of the ENCARE project, specifically task 2.1. The primary aim is to identify the training needs and skills gaps in grant writing and pre award within the European Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) sector

The insights gathered from this data will be instrumental in shaping the ICER-Pro program, a compre capacity-building initiative designed to enhance pre-award capabilities at the European Universities of Sciences. The program will encompass various components, including Carpe Crucible and the Grant Academy, along with new, innovative elements tailored to the needs analysis and learner profiles estal

Voluntary Participation: Participation is voluntary but crucial as it is a prerequisite for being selecte ICER-Pro program. Withdrawal is possible at any time without consequences by closing the survey.

Anonymity Assurance: Responses are collected anonymously, without personal identifiers like emaaddresses. Please note after pressing Submit you will be redirected to a contact form to leave your det interested in learning more about the ICER-Pro programme. This is just to express your interest, not t immediately. Your contact information will be kept separate from your survey answers and won't be la

Confidentiality: Data is strictly confidential and used solely for research purposes

Data Sharing and Publication: Results, in anonymized form, may be used for academic purposes, in

Project Team Involvement: The project team will select participants for the ICER-Pro program base

Contact and Oueries: If you have any questions or need more information about the survey or you

6. Which part of your organization do you mainly work in?

- O Central office/service (e.g. Funded Projects Administration)
- Non-central office/service department (e.g. Grants Office within an academic department/school/c
- O Academic/research department (e.g. Department of Medicine / School of Social Work / Faculty of Humanities / servicing a number of PIs) possibly on your own
- O None of the above seem to fit my situation please specify

funding opportunities, writing project proposals, planning the research, and meeting the funding agenc

8. Approximately how many years in total have you been engaged in pre-award? * Pre-award activities are all the work done before getting a grant for a research project. This includes finding funding opportunities, writing project proposals, planning the research, and meeting the funding agency's rules

7. What percentage of your total working time do you, on average, dedicate to award activities over the course of a year? * Pre-award activities are all the work done before getting a grant for a research project. This includes fin

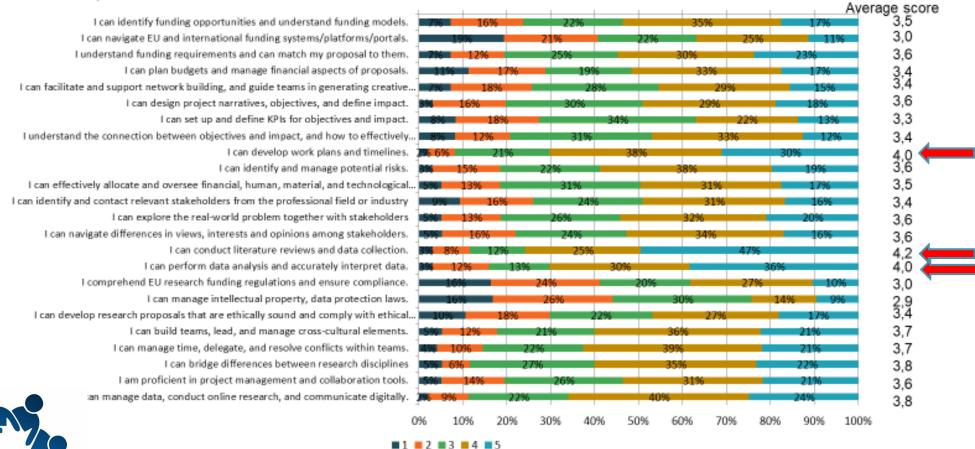
		1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
I understand funding requirements and can match my proposal to them.		0	0	0	0	0	0
I can desig and define	n project narratives, objectives, impact.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I can plan l aspects of	budgets and manage financial proposals.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I can collaborate with partners in proposal development.		0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Pl	anning and Management:						
I can develop work plans and timelines.		0	0	0	0	0	0
I can identify and manage potential risks.		0	0	0	0	0	0
I can manage resources effectively, including their allocation and overall administration.		0	0	0	0	0	0
I can monitor, evaluate, and report on projects.		0	0	0	0	0	0
Stakehold Communi	er Engagement and cation:						
I can identify and contact relevant		0	0	0	0	0	0
	the real-world problem stakeholders	0	0	0	0	0	0
college)	e differences in views, opinions among stakeholders.	0	0	0	0	0	0
f	ills and Data Analysis:						
	literature reviews and data	0	0	0	0	0	0
	statistical analysis with lerations and accurately	0	0	0	0	0	0
o pre-	nd present research findings.	0	0	0	0	0	0
- Pre-	al, and Compliance Aspects:						
nding cy's rules.	1 EU research funding ad ensure compliance.	0	0	0	0	0	0
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	intellectual property, data	0	0	0	0	0	0



HOW SKILLED ARE YOU IN THESE PRE-AWARD TASKS?

How skilled are you in these pre-award tasks? Please rate your proficiency in the following pre-award tasks on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates 'Not Skilled' and 5 indicates 'Highly Skilled'

Number of respondents: 179





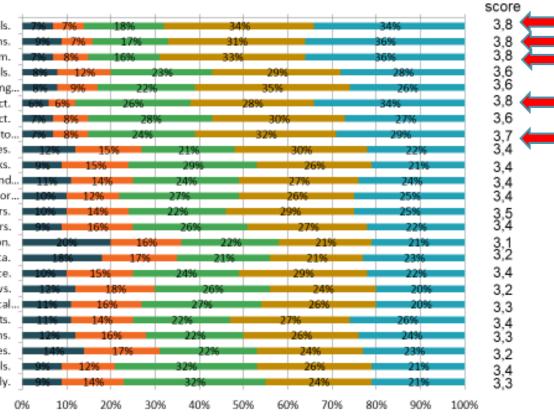


INTEREST IN DEVELOPING THESE PRE-AWARD TASKS?

How interested are you in developing or enhancing your proficiency in the following pre-award tasks? Please rate your interest on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates 'Not interested at all', and 5 indicates 'Very much interested.'

Number of respondents: 179

Identifying funding opportunities and understanding funding models. Navigating EU and international funding systems. Understanding funding requirements and matching my proposal to them. Planning budgets and managing financial aspects of proposals. Facilitating and supporting network building, and guiding teams in generating... Designing project narratives, objectives, and defining impact. Setting up and defining KPIs for objectives and impact. Understanding the connection between objectives and impact and how to... Developing work plans and timelines. Identifying and managing potential risks. Effectively allocating and overseeing financial, human, material, and. Identifying and contacting relevant stakeholders from the professional field or.. Exploring real-world problems together with stakeholders. Navigating differences in views, interests, and opinions among stakeholders. Conducting literature reviews and data collection. Performing data analysis and accurately interpreting data. Comprehending EU research funding regulations and ensuring compliance. Managing intellectual property and data protection laws. Developing research proposals that are ethically sound and comply with ethical.. Building teams, leading, and managing cross-cultural elements. Managing time, delegating, and resolving conflicts within teams. Bridging differences between research disciplines. Demonstrating proficiency in project management and collaboration tools. Managing data, conducting online research, and communicating digitally.



Average



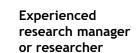




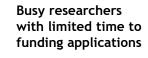
■1 ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5

SUMMARY - NEEDS ANALYSIS

Topics	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5	Cluster 6
Experience and dedication to pre-award	Large experience	Some experience	Few years of experience	Large experience	Some experience	Few years of experience
	Good amount of time dedicated to pre- award tasks	Low dedication	Good amount of time dedicated to pre-award tasks	Most dedicated	Low dedication	Low dedication
	Skilled	Some skills	Some skills	Not very skilled	Not very skilled	Very good skills
Writing funding applications	Some interest in developing their skills	Very much interested in developing skills	Some interest in developing their skills	Not interested in developing	Some interest in developing their skills	Not interested in developing
Project management and research skills	Good project management skills but low research skills	rement skills but search skills Good research skills good research skills		Very good research skills		Good project management skills
	Very interested	No interest	Very interested	No interest	No interest	No interest
Engaging stakeholders	Skilled	Some skills	Some skills	Not skilled	Skilled	Not skilled
	Very interested	Not much interested	Some interest	Not interested	Not interested	Very interested
Ethics and regulations	Not much skills	Some skills	Skilled	Skilled	Not skilled	Some skills
	Not interested	Not interested	Interested in developing their skills	Not interested	Very interested in developing skills	Interested in developing



Busy researchers with limited time to funding applications Eager to learn junior/intermediate level researcher or research manager







Funded by the European Union



ENCARE – 3 MODULE

Engaging in the EU funding environment

Crafting EU grant applications

Developing impact through research and partnerships







MODULE 1 – ENGAGING IN THE EU-FUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- Introduction to the EU Programme Structure
 Programme periods, Work programmes, EU Budget, Policy guidelines, horizontal topics
- Navigating Funding and Tenders Portal
 Search tools, What is a call, Scope, Reading calls, Practical try outs
- (Beginner)Funding opportunities (different programmes)
 Interreg, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Digital Europe, EU4Health
- Funding Opportunities: Horizon Europe
 Aim, Structure, ERC, MSCA, cluster approach, missions, EIC, EIT
- Introduction to building consortia Coordinator vs. Partner, networking events, partner search tools
- Matching ideas to funding
 Idea workshop for early stage ideas







MODULE 2 – CRAFTING EU GRANT APPLICATIONS

 Starting and developing your EU project idea (in comb. with Matching ideas to funding)

Building your project idea (Why, How, With whom)

- Planning for success
 - Finding partners, negotiating tasks and budget, partner information, critical analysis of group's capabilities, eligibility criteria
- Co-creating a project proposal
 Project rationale and objectives, workpackage structure, outcomes, results, impact
- Drafting a successful proposal
 Excellence, Impact, Workplan, Summary, transversal challenges (diversity etc.)
- Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation
 Drafting a Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation Plan
- Budget and Planning







MODULE 3 – DEVELOPING IMPACT THROUGH RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIPS

- Engaging for impact
 Stakeholder analysis, Exploring real-life problems, Towards an impact plan
- Policy engagement in EU research
 Q&A with a guest speaker who is experienced in creating impact in government policy
- Community engagement in EU research
 Q&A with a guest speaker who is experienced in creating impact in communities
- Private sector engagement in EU research
 Q&A with a guest speaker who is experienced in creating impact in the private sector
- Research communication & engaging through social media
 Channels of communication







ENCARE – NEXT STEPS

- Modules / Sessions are piloted and under development
- Train the trainers session in September 2025
- Open pilot round for interested participants from UAS sector, spring 2026

For further information, please follow us:

- <u>CARPE Website</u>
 (general project information & training material)
- on <u>LinkedIn</u> (news & up-dates)







Thank you for your attention!

For any questions, please contact the ENCARE staff:

- HAW Hamburg: <u>kathrin.rath@haw-hamburg.de</u>
- Turku UAS: <u>Kaisa.Adair@turkuamk.fi</u>
- HU: jacques.schibler@hu.nl
- UPV: Ana María Pérez De Castro; anpede1@upv.edu.es
- P.PORTO: cristinalopes@iscap.ipp.pt
- UWS: Ruth.Currie@uws.ac.uk







