



ENCARE

Enhancing Capacities of UAS staff for more successful EU-funded Research: Insight and possibilities for UAS sector

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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



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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
 - ▶ Differences 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

Skills assessment and needs

- ### Needs analysis and learner profiles in UAS sector

Introduction and Consent for Participation in ENCare Project's Research Survey (WP2, Task 2.1)

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 comprehensive 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 established in the results of this survey.

Duration: The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. A laptop or similar device is a must for ease of completion.

Voluntary Participation: Participation is voluntary but crucial as it is a prerequisite for being selected for the 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 email addresses. Please note after pressing Submit you will be redirected to a contact form to leave your details if you are interested in learning more about the ICER-Pro programme. This is just to express your interest, not to contact you immediately. Your contact information will be kept separate from your survey answers and won't be linked in any way.

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 publications and presentations, while ensuring participant privacy.

Project Team Involvement: The project team will select participants for the ICER-Pro program base participation and expressed interest.

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

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

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

7. What percentage of your total working time do you, on average, dedicate to pre-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 finding funding opportunities, writing project proposals, planning the research, and meeting the funding agency's rules.

8. Approximately how many years in total have you been engaged in pre-award? *

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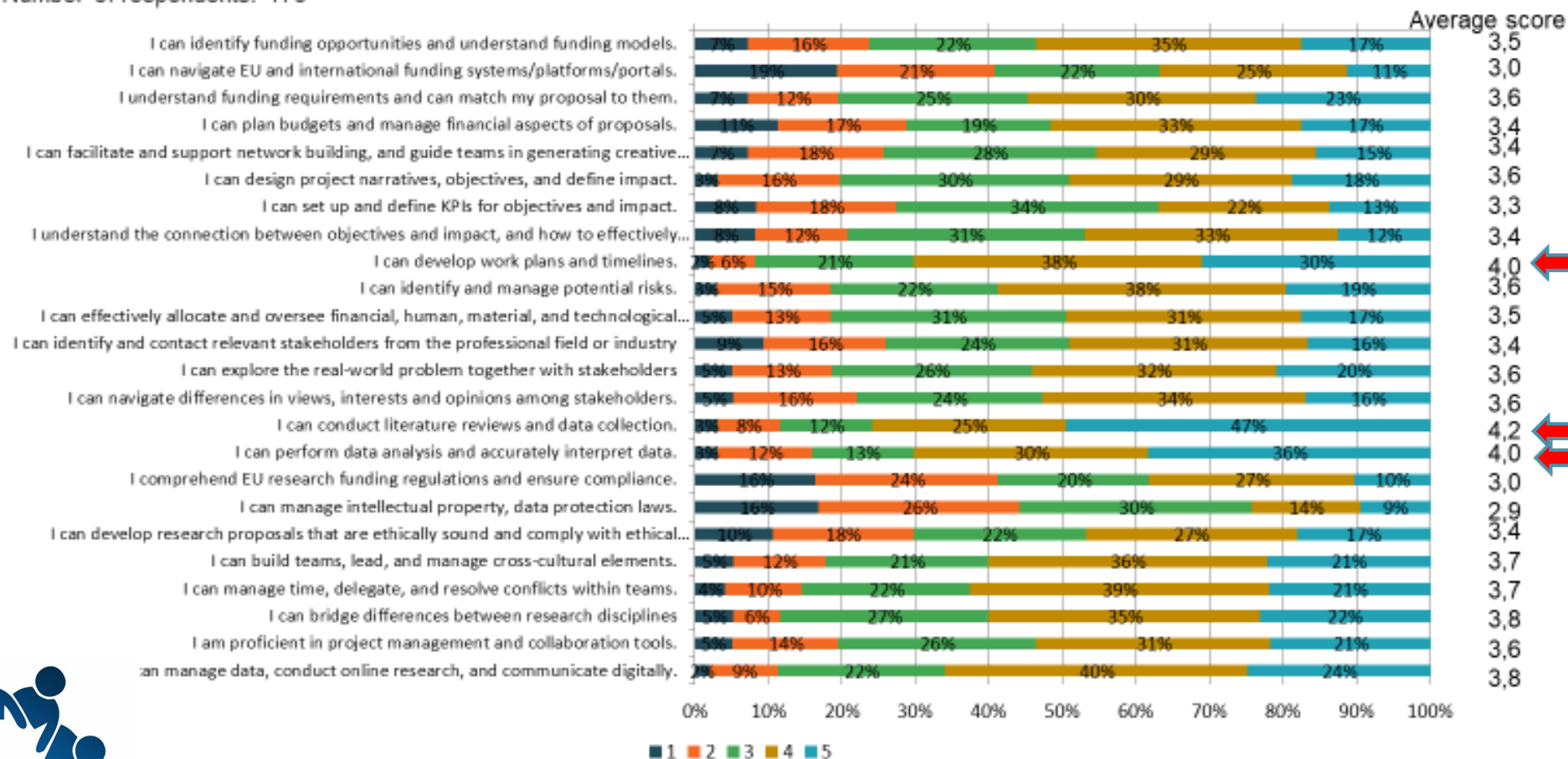
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HOW SKILLED ARE YOU IN THESE PRE-AWARD TASKS?

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'

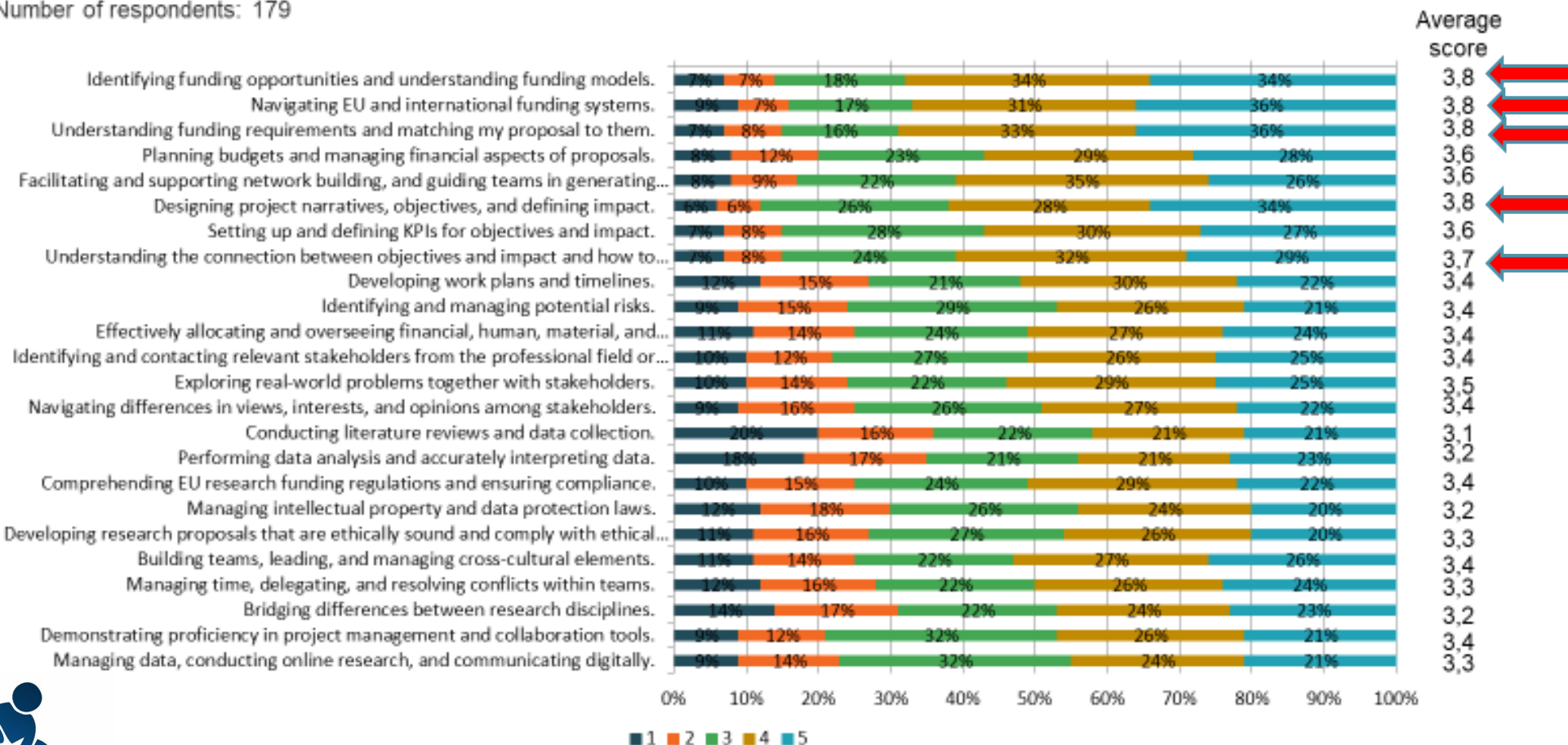
Number of respondents: 179



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



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
Writing funding applications	Skilled	Some skills	Some skills	Not very skilled	Not very skilled	Very good skills
	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	Good research skills	Some skills in project management and 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

Experienced research manager or researcher

Busy researchers with limited time to funding applications

Eager to learn junior/intermediate level researcher or research manager

Busy researchers with limited time to funding applications

ENCARE – 3 MODULE

Engaging in the EU funding environment

Crafting EU grant applications

Developing impact through research and partnerships



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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:

- [CARPE Website](#)
(general project information & training material)
- on [LinkedIn](#)
(news & up-dates)



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Thank you for your attention!

For any questions, please contact the ENCARE staff:

- HAW Hamburg: kathrin.rath@haw-hamburg.de
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