



ENCARE

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

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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/>)
- **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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ORIGIN OF THE PROJECT

- ▶ CARPE as a catalysator of cooperation for more than 10 year
- ▶ Su
- ▶ The consensus:
 - ▶ smaller role and capacity for participating competitive research funding calls
 - ▶ Larger role in applied research and development projects
 - ▶ Need for targeted training in Research Management (pre-award) for staff



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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 and 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 (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 complete capacity-building initiative designed to enhance pre-award capabilities at the European Universities of Applied 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 by the results of this survey.

Duration: The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. A laptop or similar device is required for 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 to just express your interest, not to immediately receive contact information. Your contact information will be kept separate from your survey answers and won't be used for any other purpose.

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 based on the survey results and expressed interest.

Contact and Clarifications: If you have any questions or need more information about the survey or your participation, please contact the project team.

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.

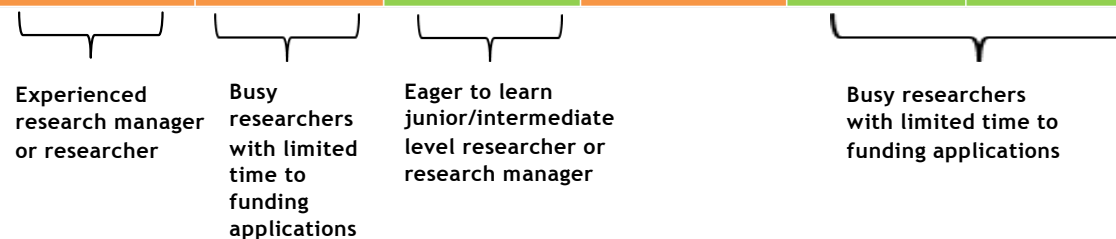
8. Approximately how many years in total have you been engaged in pre-award? *

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.

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
I understand funding requirements and can match my proposal to them.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can design project narratives, objectives, and define impact.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can plan budgets and manage financial aspects of proposals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can collaborate with partners in proposal development.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Project Planning and Management:						
I can develop work plans and timelines.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can identify and manage potential risks.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can manage resources effectively, including their allocation and overall administration.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can monitor, evaluate, and report on projects.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stakeholder Engagement and Communication:						
I can identify and contact relevant stakeholders from the professional field or the real-world problem stakeholders.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can address differences in views, opinions among stakeholders.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
ITs and Data Analysis:						
I can conduct literature reviews and data analysis.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can conduct statistical analysis with iterations and accurately.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can present research findings.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal, Ethical, and Compliance Aspects:						
I can ensure EU research funding compliance.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can ensure intellectual property, data protection.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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



ENCARE - ICER-PRO – 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 Funding**
Programme periods, Work programmes, EU Budget, Policy guidelines, horizontal topics
- **Horizon Europe: Keys of the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme**
- **Other EU Funding opportunities (different programmes)**
Interreg, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Digital Europe, EU4Health, CERV etc.
- **Horizon Europe: Start building your participation strategy**
- **Getting on board: Becoming a strategic partner and project leader**
- **Introduction to building consortia**
Coordinator vs. Partner, networking events, partner search tools
- **Gender and Diversity in research proposals**

MODULE 2 – CRAFTING EU GRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Starting and developing your EU project idea**
Building your project idea (Why, How, With whom)
- **Structure and sections of a funding application (self-learning material)**
- **Understanding calls and setting project objectives**
Defining top-down and bottom-up calls & different approaches on drafting
- **Application parameters and administration**
Programme rules, WP restrictions, eligibility rules, types of partners, types of costs/activities, institutional processes, authorization, budget validation
- **Working with others: Consortium Building, Partners, target groups and stakeholders**
- **Work plan: Workpackages, activities, deliverables, outputs, outcomes, timeline, Milestones, Impact**
- **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
- **Research communication**
- **Social Media communication**
- **Storytelling**



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ENCARE Learner profiles:

Nico



Nico is green as spring grass

User group 3

Researcher at any career level

Has been cruising on EU money coming for university, and now uni wants them to give back some

Done PhD in plant breeding
Focused on their own topic and own research

Interested in his own field, but wants to put their research into broader picture

No experience in EU projects, unfamiliar with consortiums, never been a lead

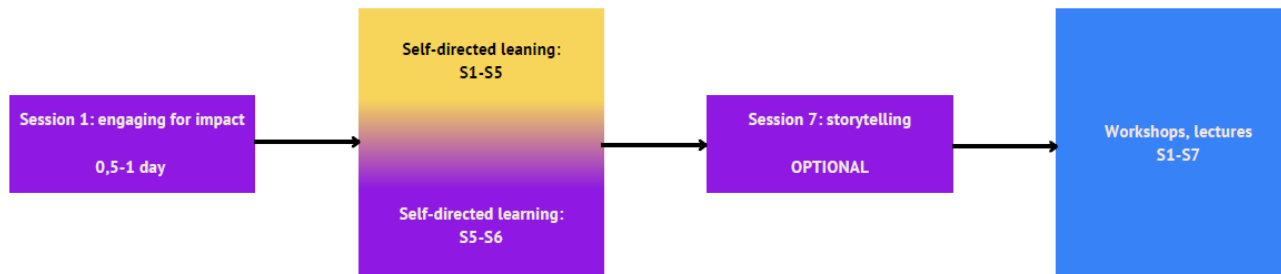
Has to apply for EU funding, pressured by the professor, or recently became a part of the team working on getting EU funding

ENCARE Learner profiles:

Personas: Nico



Nico goes ICER PRO



ENCARE Learner profiles:

Milo



This is not Milo's first rodeo
However they still need some technical knowledge in building a project

Is aware of development needs and wants to know more, will come to everything

Has some experience, but interested in everything to develop their skills

ENCARE Learner profiles: Personas: Milo



Milo goes ICER PRO

Milo might do some in yellow, some in blue, some in purple. You never know.



ENCARE Learner profiles:

Kim



User group 2, 5, 6

**Kim's been around the block,
only stops for good stuff**

Low amount of free time

Maybe did an FP7 in previous life

Maybe had bad reviews, and wants to develop
only certain parts

Wants a refresher on certain parts

Definitely posts on LinkedIn

ENCARE Learner profiles:

Personas: Kim



Kim goes ICER PRO

Kim will cherry pick whatever they like

ENCARE – NEXT STEPS

- Modules / Sessions are piloted and under development
- Open pilot round for interested participants from UAS sector, spring 2026
 - Internal selection process coming up

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 me jacques.schibler@hu.nl



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