Training Course: "Enhancing Success in European-funded Proposals"

europlan

Guiding you through the European funding maze

Background

The EU makes available considerable funding to support research work, because it sees research and innovation as vital for the future of Europe. The main vehicle is the current Framework Programme, FP7, but other programmes, such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) are also relevant, and in some cases Structural Funds can also be used to enhance research capacity. FP7 funding can be awarded to individual researchers, but the greatest amount is assigned to collaborative projects, in which several organisations (companies, universities, research institutes) work together on a project. However, the EC receives a great number of proposals for this support, and only a small proportion can be funded. This raises the key questions:

- **What sort of proposal is most likely to succeed in being awarded funding and how can I adapt my idea to meet these requirements?**

- **How can you write a proposal that presents your idea in a clear and convincing manner?**

This course aims to provide answers to these questions.

Course options

Since people have different requirements, the course is offered in two different formats.

- A **standard** course, which covers a wide range of topics in 1 or 2 days and is open to participants from any organisation.

- **Customised and extended** courses, lasting 1, 2 or 3 days. These courses go into more detail, in particular allowing more time for practical exercises and discussion in groups to consolidate learning. Since they are limited to a smaller number of participants, there is more time to address specific questions and the particular interests of participants. The 2 and 3 day courses also allow more consideration of the different types of application for different programmes.

Course outline and content

The course introduces the types of funding available and the basic procedures, and focuses on developing and writing a proposal that presents your idea effectively, in a clear and convincing manner. It will also cover slightly wider topics such as, on-going project management, the evaluators' perspective and specific issues for writing in the English language. A typical programme for a two-day course is as follows:

Day 1	• Overview of EC Research programmes and procedures • Planning a proposal and developing a work plan (objectives, state of the art, methodology, etc.) • Developing a proposal (Implementation 1) – management procedures, selecting partners • Developing a proposal (Impact) – impact, dissemination and exploitation
Day 2	• Developing a proposal (Implementation 2) estimating the costs • Writing the proposal in a clear, coherent manner; issues with English language • The Evaluators' perspective and what we can learn from it • On-going management of successful projects • Variations for other types of proposal and other programmes (CIP, Structural funds)

The one-day course covers the same topics, but in less detail, and in particular, with less scope for participation in exercises In order to provide a focus for practical tips, the example of a collaborative FP7 project is taken as the basis for the course. However, the basic principles can be applied to different programmes and types of project. The 2 and 3 day course options allow time for greater consideration of the other programmes.

Our Team

Europlan trainers have extensive experience in working in the European Commission, in writing proposals, in managing successful projects and in taking part in proposal evaluation and project reviews.

Stephan Pascall until recently worked in the European Commission where he was involved in high level policy and strategy coordination, international collaboration, research programmes and the integration of New member States.

Ken Fitchew has a background in telecoms research and is also a teacher of English as a foreign language. He has worked as an expert in the European Commission and since then has been involved in project reviews and evaluations. He also proof-reads technical papers written in English by non-native English speakers.

Goff Hill worked for many years in telecoms research. He has written successful proposals and has managed projects in EU framework programmes including one award-winning project. He regularly acts as an evaluator or recorder in the Framework programmes.

All three trainers participated in 2 and 3 day courses run in summer 2011 for Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and for the Bulgarian Academy of Science (see picture on left).

Please contact us for more information, or indeed to discuss needs for any different type of course that would meet your needs.