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Supporting the coordination of multi-partner EU-funded projects

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Office for Research, Engagement and Innovation Services

Stockholm University



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Stockholm University contributes to the development of a sustainable democratic society through knowledge, enlightenment, and the pursuit of truth.

Education and Research in Human and Natural Sciences

- 30'500 FTE students
- 1'400 PhD students
- 5'700 employees
- **51 departments, centres & institutes**



16 profile areas reflect the commitment to basic research

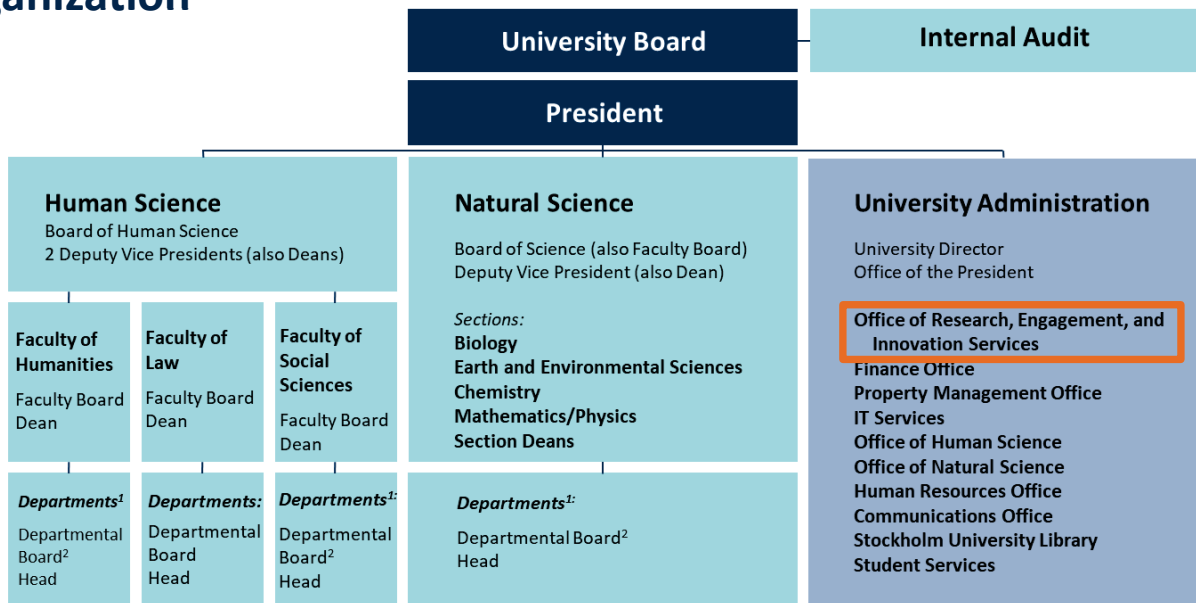
HUMAN SCIENCES

- Worlds & conditions of children and youth
- Internationalisation & Migration
- Cultural Heritage & Historical Process
- Power, Democracy & Welfare
- Norms, Law & Ethics
- Society, Organisations & Individuals
- Language & Learning
- Visual Representations & Interface

NATURAL SCIENCES

- Astrophysics, Cosmology & Particle Physics
- Atomic, Molecular and Complex Quantum System Physics
- Biological Membranes
- Catalysis in Organic Chemistry
- Climate, Seas & Environment
- Mathematical Theory Development & Modelling
- Materials Chemistry
- Gene-Environment Interactions

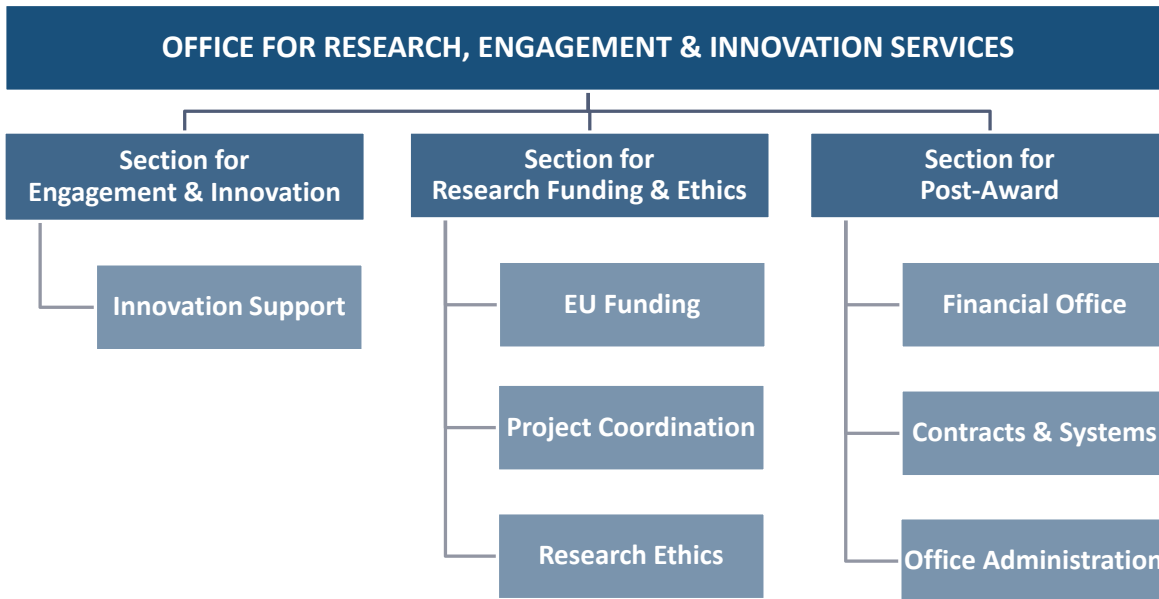
Organization



1 Or equivalent centre or institute
2 Or equivalent board



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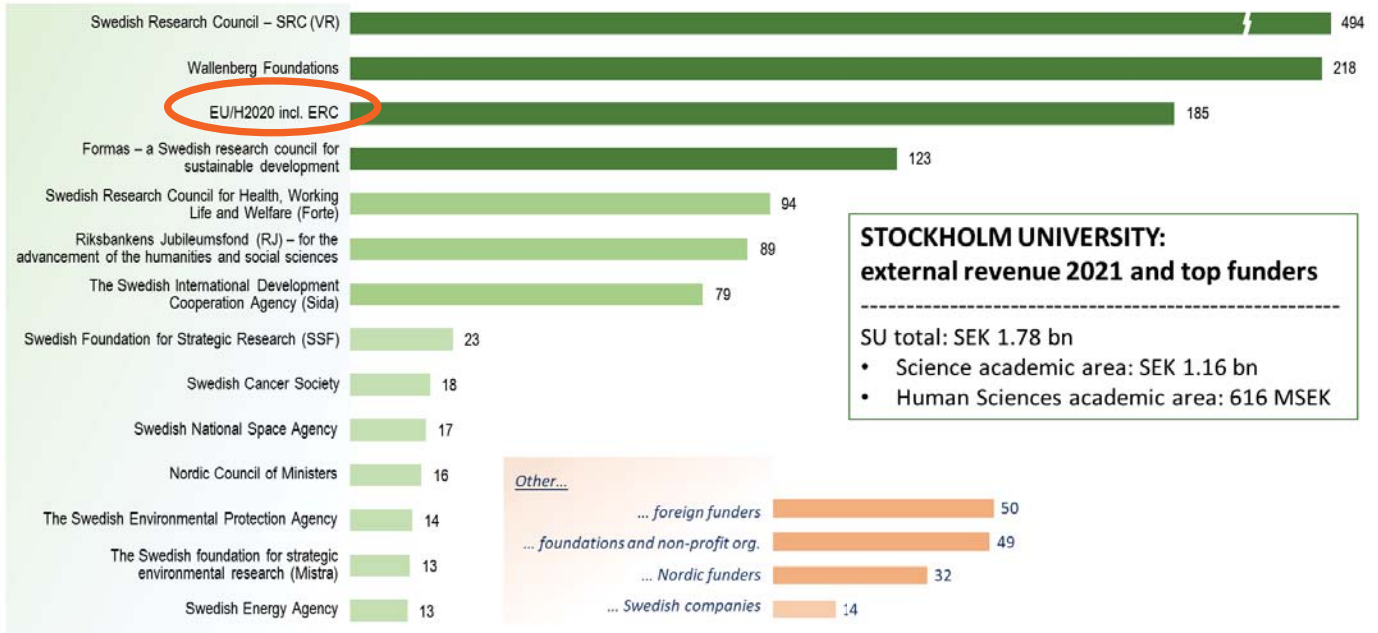


Office For Research, Engagement & Innovation Services

- Overall goal is to ensure high quality and sustainable long-term **conditions for research and innovation as well as public and global engagement**
- Contribute to **increased external research funding**
- Provide support for **engagement/collaboration** with non-academic partners
- Provide support for **innovation**
- Provide support in **research integrity and ethics**
- Provide **support to the University leadership/Faculty Deans and Department Heads**



External funding



STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY: external revenue 2021 and top funders

SU total: SEK 1.78 bn

- Science academic area: SEK 1.16 bn
- Human Sciences academic area: 616 MSEK



Coordination of EU projects

Role of coordinator is perceived as very prestigious



Scientific excellence

Leadership

Visibility

Impact



all non-scientific responsibilities....



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Approach to support the coordination of projects

Project Manager imbedded in central administration

BUT closely working with researchers and fully integrated in project(s)

- Professional management
- EU funding insight
- Facilitated admin interactions
- Optimization of resources



- Effective management
- Researcher focus on scientific leadership



Project Coordination support offered at SU

One Project Manager, started later 2017 (me!)

Currently two additional (“part-time”) Project Managers

My background

PhD in Engineering Sciences & Degree in Chemical Engineering

ca. 10 years experience as researcher (PhD student, postdoc, group lead)

ca. 10 years experience in science management (DE, CH, SE)

Extensive experience in large, multi-partner, multi-sector, interdisciplinary projects





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Ongoing projects



H2020 RIA (Climate)

22 Beneficiaries

12 Countries

ca. 150 Researchers

ca. 8 Mio EUR

Oct 2019 – Sept 2023



H2020 MSCA-ITN

13 Beneficiaries + 11 Partners

6 (+3) Countries

15 Early Stage Researchers

ca. 4 Mio EUR

Jan 2020 – Dec 2023



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FORCeS: Constrained aerosol forcing for improved climate projections

Coordinators: Ilona Riipinen (Dept Environmental Science) & Annica Ekman (Dept Meteorology)

Overall aim: Understand and reduce the long-standing uncertainty of the effects of anthropogenic aerosol particles on climate, which are crucial to increase confidence in climate projections. Climate projections provide a basis for mitigation planning as well as key information on emission pathways that will facilitate achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement.

<https://forces-project.eu/>

@FORCeS_H2020



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821205



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ITN PERFORCE3:

Innovative Training Network (ITN) PER and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFASs) towards the Future Of Research and its Communication in Europe 3

Coordinator: Ian Cousins (Dept Environmental Science) & Jon Benskin (Assistant Coordinator)

Aims: Provide a doctoral training programme in the field of PFASs contaminants to 15 ESRs. Develop analytical tools to better characterize total PFAS exposure; improve the understanding of PFAS exposure pathways and health effects in humans; investigate solutions for PFAS contamination problems.

<https://perforce3-itn.eu/>
@PERFORCE3_ITN



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 860665.



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Different policy...

Excellent (top-down) research

VS

Excellent (bottom-up) research + high quality PhD training

Different funding model...

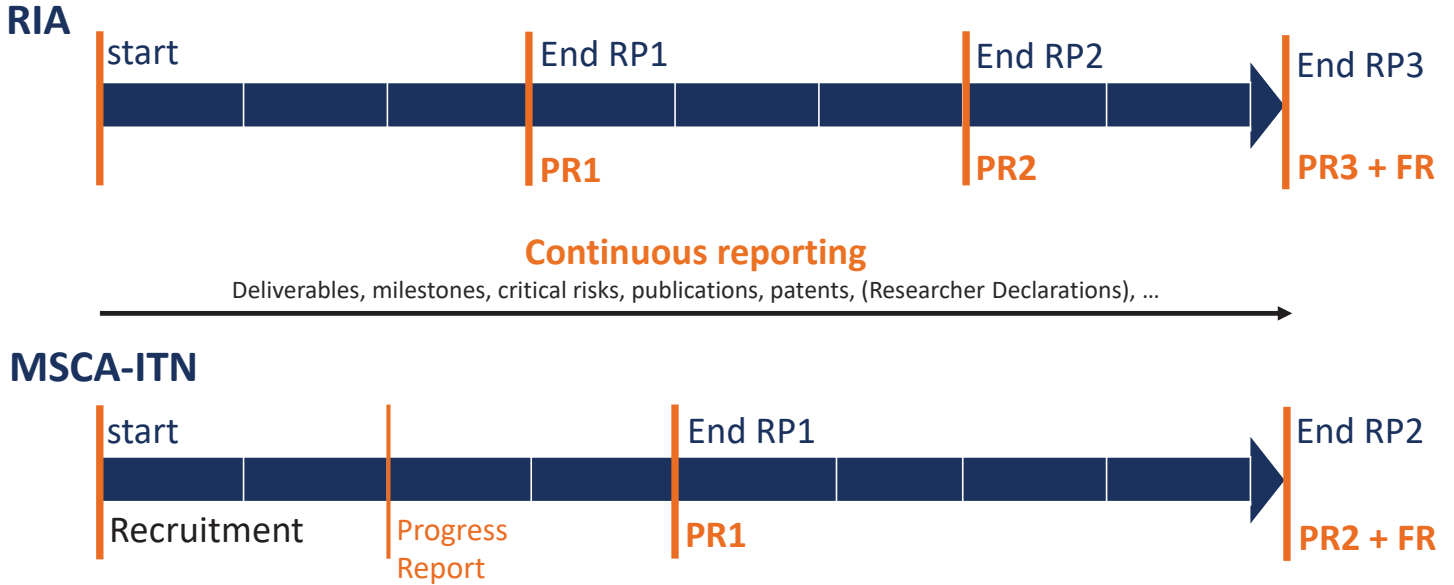
Actual costs

VS

Unit costs



Different timelines...



The support offered to coordinating researchers

From the idea to the final payment and subsequent audits/checks...





The support I offer researchers...



- Help with the identification of suitable funding sources / calls



- Review and/or proofreading of application



- Assistance with the Participant Portal



- Help with the coordination of the proposal



- Interfacing on questions regarding ethics, budgeting, data management...



The support I offer researchers...



- Handling and management of legal agreements



- Overall financial management



- Primary contact person for all administrative and legal inquiries



- Interfacing with European Commission



The support I offer researchers...



- Overall operative project coordination and management



- Plan and establish templates, write internal guidelines and setup of procedures for monitoring and quality control



- Lead the organization of meetings of consortium decision-making bodies and follow-up on the implementation of decisions



- Member of project executive body (as voting member or advisor)



The support I offer researchers...



- Monitoring of progress vis-a-vis workplan, fund expenditure, risks, gender balance



- Lead planning, coordination and preparation of progress, periodic and final reports







- Organization of reviews (with the European Commission)



- Contact person for project participants and organizations administrative staff

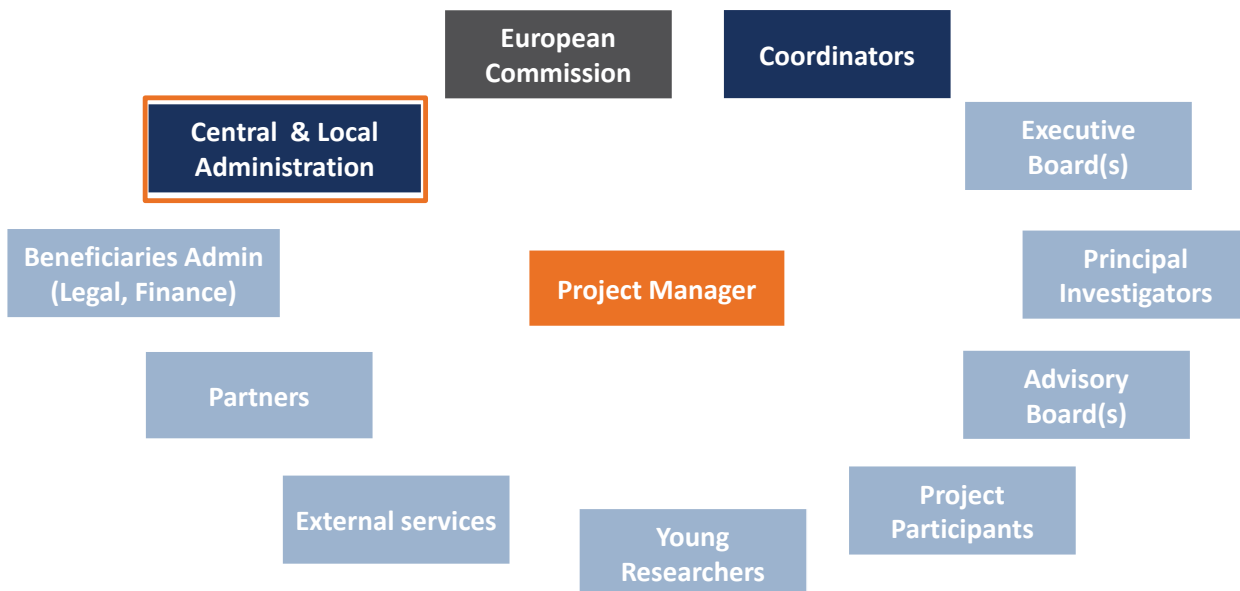


The support I offer researchers...

-  • Responsible for internal communication
-  • Support with external communications
-  • Coordinate organization of consortium meetings and other activities
-  • Interface / support other aspects including e.g. ethics and open data

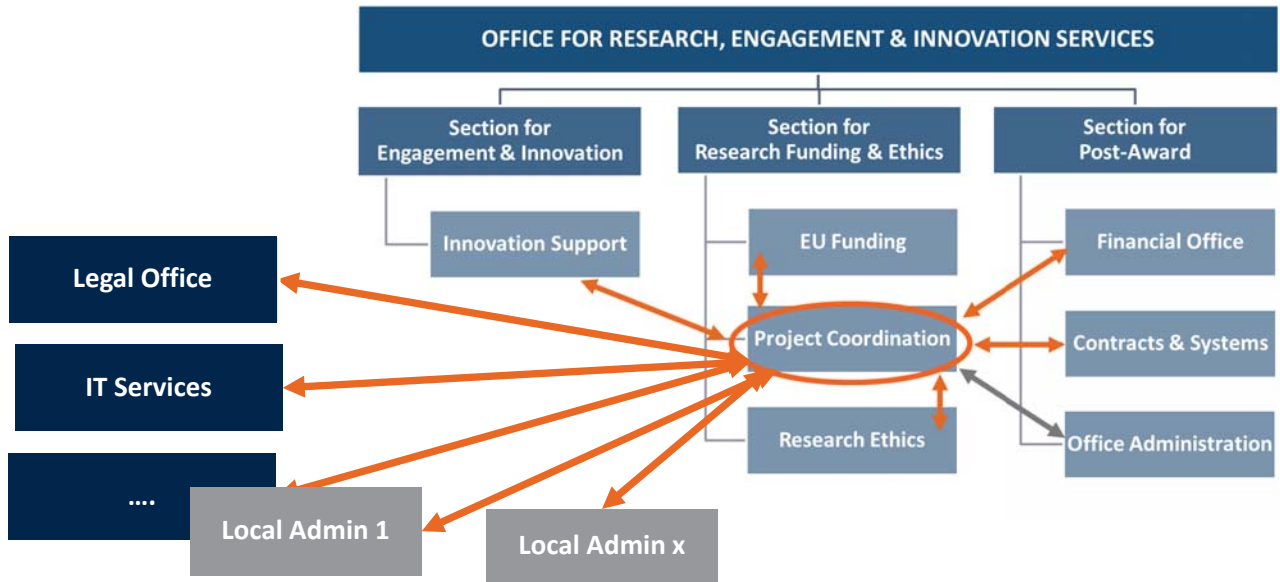


Interactions in a project





Facilitated internal admin interactions



Skills needed...

- Academic background
- Organization
- Communication
- Writing
- Proactivity / leadership
- Pragmatism
- Flexibility
- Ability to deal with change and ambiguity



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Challenges

- Launching phase
- Overlapping deadlines (multiple projects)
- Several countries (incl. office hours, holidays)
- Several topics
- Managing expectations
- Limited resources



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Thank you for your attention!



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