

## Experiences and tools

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Brunel University</b>
<b>Topic:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Practices for fostering higher participation in EU research funding programmes</li> <li>2. Upgrading the system of Research and Innovation</li> </ol>	1
<b>Country:</b>	UK
<b>Geographic level (regional or national)</b>	Regional
<b>Organisation</b> (Please include here the name and some background information).	Brunel University is located in Uxbridge, UK. The University was first established in 1966 and provides courses to more than 14,000 students housing 1500 academic staff.
<b>What were the aims of the experience/tool?</b>	With regard to research, Brunel University aims to become a research led institution, increase its research income, encourage further research collaboration and create a vibrant culture of research excellence
<b>In which part of the decision tree is the experience (see image at the end of the document)</b>	<p>The research support and development office provides support for both pre-award and post-award phases of funding.</p> <p><u>Pre-call intelligence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and promoting new research opportunities</li> </ul> <p><u>Applicant awareness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a newsletter.</li> </ul> <p><u>Passive attitude (Partner search)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting collaborative projects in industry.</li> </ul> <p><u>Proposal drafting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costing and pricing research proposals, advice on financial matters.</li> <li>• Assisting with proposal development.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Who were the beneficiaries or the target group?</b></p>	<p>Academic staff at Brunel University</p>
<p><b>Description of the experience of using the best practice:</b> (Describe the operating experience with particular focus on the evolution of its development, end user experience).</p>	<p>In practice, Brunel University’s approach to furthering their research engagement had four principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing the awareness in European Programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of forthcoming calls and initiatives</li> <li>• Raising the awareness of national and regional events with promote FP work programmes</li> <li>• One to one meetings with researchers to further increase awareness of funding available and develop a potential proposal</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Provision of support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of guidelines and templates for writing proposals</li> <li>• Peer reviewing of proposals within departments and externally</li> <li>• Usage of the network of national contract points for advice (provided by the EU) and support from UK research councils.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Establishing practices to help foster scientific excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A check service was set up with project officers to ensure all proposals are critically reviewed internally.</li> <li>• Organising workshops for staff new to applying for funding from European projects and learning from more experienced staff members.</li> <li>• Making the most of Brunel’s membership to regional organisations such as the London Higher and European groups such as the Associations of Research Managers and Administrators.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Building networking knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A database has been developed with holds information on academics who are specialist in their areas of expertise. This</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	information is drawn upon when developing proposals.
<b>What is the period during which the experience/tool has been carried out?</b>	From 2010 onwards with a further programme of transformative change launched in April 2013.
<b>What were the results of this best practice? (Please provide any charts, data, statistics, etc. showing the results of the implementation).</b>	<p>The results of the practices implemented was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the number of proposals submitted to EU programmes rising from 52 from 2008 to 2009, to 221 from 2009 to 2010.</li> <li>• The success rate of these proposals also increased from 20% to 30%.</li> <li>• The income generated from European contracts has also risen from €3.6 million from 2008 to 2009, to €8.5 million from 2009 to 2010. Contracts from the EU now represent 30% of all Brunel's contracted research funding.</li> </ul>
<b>What is needed for the experience/tool to be successfully replicated?</b>	<p>The practices implemented could be easily replicated. No specific experience is needed. Key underpinning factors that were critical for the success of the project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement and development of expertise already present within organisations.</li> <li>• Emphasis on publicising success</li> <li>• Maintaining good working relationships with academics both internally and externally.</li> <li>• The importance of maintaining a constant line of discussion with contacts, networks and other organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>Please include any references or bibliography here:</b>	<p>Brunel University (2014) Research at Brunel - Research Impact. [online] Available from &lt;<a href="http://www.brunel.ac.uk/research">http://www.brunel.ac.uk/research</a>&gt; [31 July 2014]</p> <p>Eliare Network (2010) Good Practices. [online] Available from &lt;<a href="http://eliare.eu/support-to-stakeholders/good-practices/">http://eliare.eu/support-to-stakeholders/good-practices/</a>&gt; [30 July 2014]</p>



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## The Decision Tree for Participating in Horizon 2020



Source: EURADA