2-Part Workshop Programme to Equip University Staff and Researchers with the Necessary EU Funding Knowledge and Skills

This programme aims to equip university staff and researchers with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully locate and access EU funding opportunities. By enhancing their capacity in this area, Estonian universities will be better positioned to compete for and secure EU funding, leading to increased research and innovation activities within the country. We propose to take a 2-day EU funding and proposal development course and condense it into two 90-minute sessions with the option of ongoing follow-up and support.

**Main Aims of the Workshop:**

1. To understand the mechanisms and principles related to EU funding.
2. To set up an effective schedule for drafting a proposal within a given deadline.
3. To identify possible sources of funding to match a concept idea and build solid partnerships.
4. To draft competitive proposals to be funded by the EU.
5. To develop an efficient strategy, in which potential EU funding is an integral part of the overall business development strategy of the organisation/institution.

**Main Objectives of the Programme:**

* *Capacity Building:* Enhance the knowledge and skills of university staff and researchers in understanding EU funding opportunities, application processes, and project management.
* *Proposal Development:* Provide training on developing competitive project proposals that align with EU funding priorities and requirements.
* *Networking and Collaboration*: Foster networking and collaboration among Estonian universities and other European institutions to facilitate partnerships and joint project proposals.
* *Project Management*: Equip participants with the necessary tools and techniques to effectively manage EU-funded projects, including financial management, reporting, and compliance.
* *Sustainability:* Ensure the long-term sustainability of the universities by establishing a network of EU funding experts within Estonian universities who can continue to support and train future generations of researchers.

**Course Content:**

The EU funding training programme will consist of 2 modules covering various aspects of EU funding. The content will be tailored to the specific needs and requirements of delegates, taking into consideration the country's research priorities and EU funding landscape.

After this programme, delegates will be able to:

* acquire knowledge about EU policies and funding programmes,
* locate funding and collaboration opportunities,
* design and write a proposal by defining project objectives, deliverables, and work plans through specific and project-oriented learning sessions,
* improve practical skills related to the project application process through cooperative compilation of application forms and the analysis of successful projects,
* plan financial, budgeting, and contractual aspects with concrete examples,
* write dissemination and use plans of projects to create impact.

**Workshop 1: Introduction to EU Funding**

*30th September 2024, 11.00 - 12.30 EE time*

Overview of EU Funding Programmes and Opportunities

Understanding the EU Funding Landscape and Priorities, Context, and Landscape

Identifying Relevant EU Funding Sources for Estonian Universities, Focusing Mostly on Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, EU4Health and Connecting Europe

Example Calls for Proposals

Effective Project Planning and Implementation

Building Partnerships and Consortia for EU-Funded Projects

Identifying Potential European Partners and Collaborators

Information Sources, Documentation and Monitoring

Methodology for Evaluating & Planning Funding Projects

Stages from Concept Idea to Commercialisation

**Workshop 2: Proposal Development**

*30th September 2024 15:00 - 16.30 EE time*

Understanding the Key Elements of a Successful EU Funding Proposal

Analysis of Successful EU-Funded Projects in Estonia

Creating a Project Concept and Objectives

Developing a Collaborative Project Proposal

Writing a Compelling Project Description and Work Plan

Writing Rules and Good Practices

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

How to Maximise Your Chances of Success

Tools – Logical Framework, Gannt Charts, Pert Charts, Impact Tables

How to Handle Negotiations / Consortium Agreements

Evaluation Process & What Counts for the Evaluators

Budgeting and Financial Planning for EU-Funded Projects

Financial Management and Reporting for EU-Funded Projects

Ensuring Compliance with EU Funding Regulations