The new European Research Area

ERA Action 17: *Research Management*

State of play
November 2024

European Commission

ERA Action 17: *Enhance the strategic capacity of Europe's public research performing and funding organisations*

- **Aim**: contribute to improve the European R&I system across the entire ERA, by strengthening the capacity for research management in Europe's public research performing & funding organisations

Research Management Initiative

- **Recognition:** contribute to professionalization
- **Upskilling**: improve training and skills of research management staff
- **Networking**: support best-practice exchange
- **Capacity building**: support less R&I advanced regions and organisations

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- **Commitments**:

  16 Member States: AT, BE, BG, HR, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, HU, LV, MT, NL, PT, SK

  + non-committed MS sent delegates: EL, IT, PL, ES, SE

  1 Associate Country: Norway

  2 Stakeholders groups (SH) :

  Universities: AURORA, EUA, The Guild, YERUN

  RTOs: EU-LIFE

- **Sponsors**: DE, HU, universities (AURORA)

- **Projects**: RM ROADMAP and CARDEA

- **Method**: organised ad hoc workshops in 2023 (March, May, November) and 2024 (April) with independent experts

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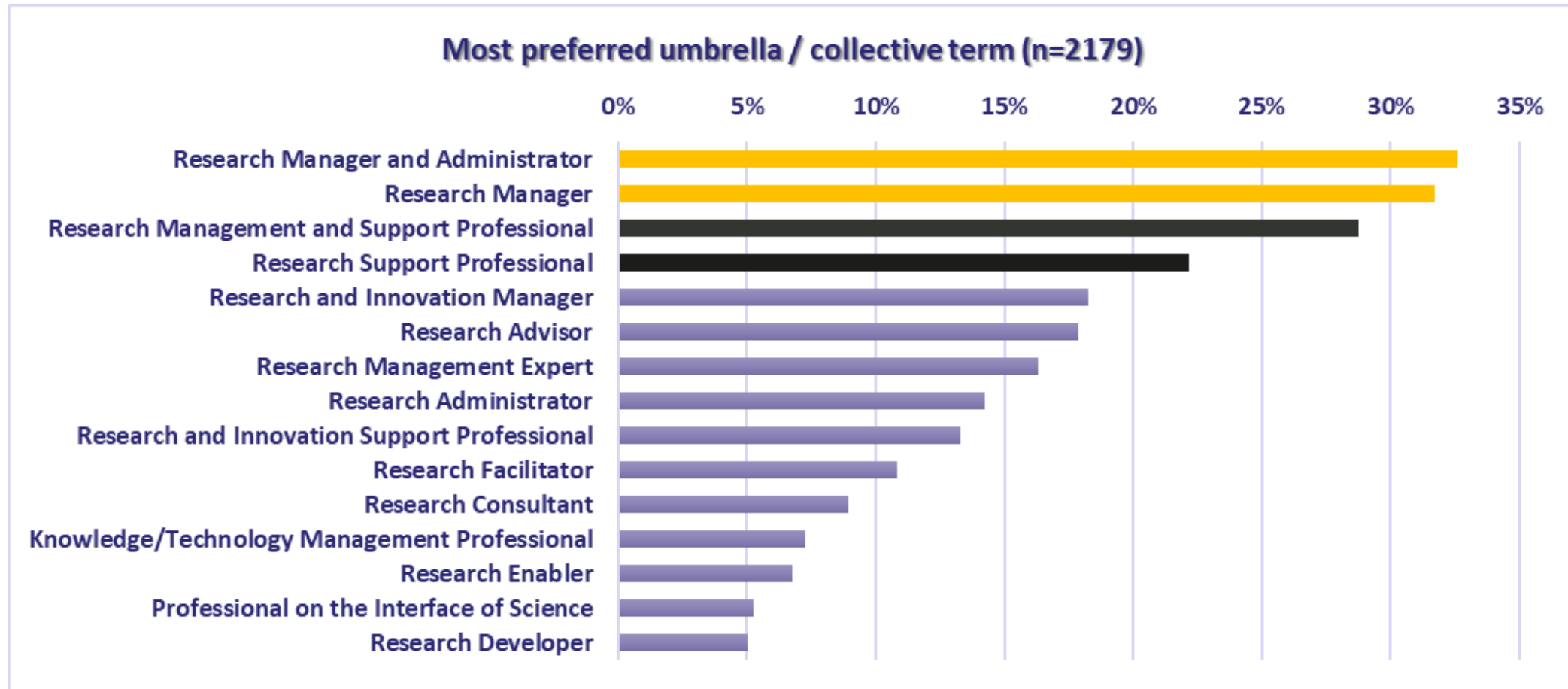# Main challenges for Research Managers

- Lack of definition of the profession

- Lack of understanding of the impact and added value of RM for impactful research

- Absent of a Careers and competence framework for RM

- Access of Research Managers to training unequally distributed in ERA (often financially), with often variety of quality

- Fragmentation and lack of visibility of existing associations and networks

- Lack of resources – platforms and mailing lists, management tools

- Lack of time and high turn-over of human resources

- Lack of career paths and low salaries for RM

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Definition of the RM profession

Aim to reach a basic consensus on RM definition that can be adapted to national and organizational context, providing a common language for European-level discussions

- Survey for the preferred terminology launched in Nov 2023 (closed May 2024)

- Respondents: wide range of stakeholders, including RM Roadmap ambassadors, national and thematic groups, RM associations and related groups, and other umbrella organisations or networks of universities, research institutes, etc.

- Research Manager and Administrator chosen as preferred "umbrella term" by the 2179 respondents

- Definition: Research Managers enable, facilitate and support the performance of research in all its applications. Research Managers hold generalist or specialized roles within the research and innovation ecosystem

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RM definition: survey results

Most preferred umbrella / collective term (n=2179)

Career and Competence Framework for RM (RM Comp)

Aim to develop a Career & Competence Framework for Research Management

- RM Roadmap and Cardea worked together on the development of the Framework

- Internal consultations with DG RTD, REA, ERA Forum members and stakeholders have been launched to create a final document that can be adopted by the Commission

- An interoperable Framework on RM will lead to consistency and coherence across different organisational and national context and career levels, facilitating coherent career progression

- RM Comp will serve also as a tool for advocating the importance of RM, encouraging stakeholders to appreciate the diverse and worthy contributions Research Managers make to the success of research and innovation efforts in the European context

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Progress on Networking

RM ROADMAP: development of Ambassador Network

- 150 'ambassadors', covering 40 countries

Objectives:

- Establish or maintain national/local communities for practice exchange

- Gather input from national/local community and feedback to project and EU

- Function as (online) moderators to inform the co-creation of future RM

- 3rd RM Roadmap Ambassador Meeting held in November 2024

RM Success Stories campaign

Aim to create an awareness raising campaign to promote RM in the ERA

- A survey has been created and shared with the RM community asking to contribute with success stories from institutions and roles across the ERA

- By middle of June, 77 success stories have been collected

- The most valuable and impactful stories will be picked to create the dissemination materials

- The campaign will serve to share the vital roles that Research Managers play in advancing scientific inquiry and innovation

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European Research Area Platform

The platform provides space for researchers, innovators, citizens, and policymakers to connect, collaborate, and access the latest information, data and resources related to the European Research Area

- A webpage has been created with all the information and projects regarding Research Management

In particular:

- List of RM Ambassadors

- List of RM Associations in Europe

- Video explanatory of RM Comp

- https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-support-research-management

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Thank you!

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