

Seminar on “COMPETING IN EUROPE – PREPARING PROPOSALS IN HORIZON- 2020”

Universitatea “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iasi, Romania – 5/December/2018

Coordinator of the seminar:

Ricardo García Mira

Professor of Social and Environmental Psychology

This seminar contextualizes the financial restrictions that research and technology development funding system has suffered, both nationally and regional levels, and it raises the need to move towards a culture of research funding stemming mostly from the European Union. Researchers in different countries are now forced to rethink their practices and explore new and innovative funding channels if they wish to continue carrying out competitive research. These financial channels count with their own evaluation systems and independent review procedures.

This seminar will address key issues to consider in approaching a research bid from the formulation of the idea to the development of the state of the art research and literature review and contributions beyond this state of the art (or “excellence” and “ambition” as they are now called in Horizon 2020). Useful information about what should be done and what not will be provided, as well as a clarification about how the system operates in the definition of priorities and topics within the complex framework of European networks and their impact on research.

We will also delve into topics such as how to compete with leading groups in Europe in a given field, or in a wider international context; how to put together a good research consortium, how to gain visibility, who we have to count with, etc. These are all highly relevant aspects for the success of a proposal.

The seminar will also provide the keys to identifying competitors and obtain knowledge about their skills and experience. Also, information will be provided on how to set the grounds for efficient coordination of medium and large interdisciplinary Consortia, and the group dynamics that should be supported or avoided, and the pitfalls of inefficient distribution of responsibilities that might lead to a disproportionate amount of work being left with the Coordinator of a project.

The seminar will also address the most relevant research programmes within socio-economic and humanities sciences (SSH), but also in environmental and climate change (ENV). Budgetary relevance of these programs within the European funding or the Research Programme Horizon 2020 will also be addressed.

Researchers will also receive advice on how to become part of relevant European “lobbies”, in order to have a say in defining priorities and implementing themes in research calls; how to participate and in what meetings in Brussels; the relevance of info-day sessions and other important meetings. In short, it is about providing the keys to establishing a successful research strategy.

Structure of the seminar

1. Preparing Horizon 2020 proposals in the fields of Political Science, Applied Psychology, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Environmental Sciences.
2. Characterization of the current situation. Consequences.
3. Preliminary steps in the elaboration of a proposal. The work programme. Formulating the idea.
4. Putting together a good proposal: Scientific review of the problem. Beyond the state of the art.
5. Methodology and the work plan. Specifying and defining tasks and deliverables.
6. Implementation and management. Relevant aspects.
7. The Budget. Key aspects in the distribution of responsibilities in tasks and the coordination of Workpackages.
8. Impact and dissemination.
9. Forming the Consortium. Visibility. Working with the partners.
10. Elaborating research priorities: topics, actors.

Complementary activities

The seminar will consist of a mix of interactive presentations, discussions and group work where a successful proposal of the *Environment and Climate Change* programme, and other from the *Socioeconomical Sciences and Humanities* programmes will be presented.

It will provide hands-on training through the use of examples from successful proposals, and in direct interaction with local researchers.

Brief Curriculum Vitae description

Dr Ricardo García Mira is a Professor of Social and Environmental Psychology at the *University of A Coruna*, Spain, where he leads the People-Environment Research Group (1995-2016). Visiting Professor at the Institute for Policy Research at the *University of Bath*, UK (2016-2020). He has held research grants from the Galician Government, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Spain, and the European Commission (EFRD, FP7 and Horizon-2020 Programmes). Coordinator of research on the “Prestige” disaster occurred in 2002, and the Northwest Spain fires occurred in 2006. Project Coordinator of the GLAMURS project (2014-2016), on “Sustainable Lifestyles and Green Economy”; Project coordinator of the LOCAW project (2011-2013), on “Low Carbon at Work”, and Partner of the TRANSIT project (2014-2017) on “Transformative Social Innovation”. He is currently a partner in the CONNECTING project (2017-2022) on “Nature Based Solutions” and in SMARTEES (2018-2020) on “Energy and Social Innovation”.

R. García Mira is the Past-President of the International Association for People-Environment Studies – IAPS (2014-2018); Visiting Reader at the University of Surrey, UK (2003-2012); International Visiting Scholar at Texas State University – San Marcos, USA (2001). He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath (2016-2020). He is the current European Editor of the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* and a member of the Editorial Committee of a number of international journals. Author/editor of more than 100 papers / monographs / reports and a number of books on environmental assessment, environmental attitudes and methodology in the social sciences. R. García Mira was recently elected as a Member of the Parliament of Spain (2016-2020), and appointed as Spokesman of Climate Change for the Commission for Ecological Transition.