

Turning to the future: a new approach for EU socio-economic and humanities research until 2013

Professionalisation of research management

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Observations

- **More than half of the projects request project extensions**
- **In 1% of the projects the financial reports are immediately correct**
- **For up to 10% of the reports the total approval period exceeds 12 months**

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Consequences

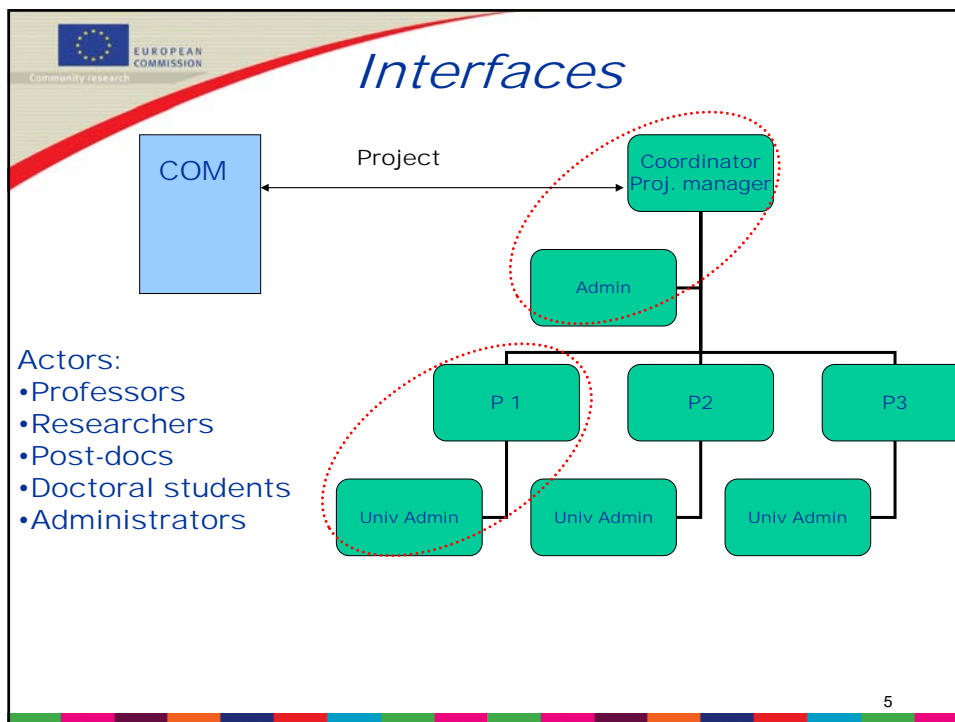
- **Delays and potentially interruptions in the project**
- **High administrative effort both on Commission and on the project side**
- **Increased risk for friction within consortium and consortium and Commission**


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Key competences in European collaborative research

- **Excellence in Research**
 - **Need to deliver excellent scientific work and output**
 - **Researchers need to be able to concentrate on research**
- **Management**
 - **Decision making process**
 - **Monitoring of objectives and finances**
 - **Reporting**
- **Two key competences required:**
 - **Research** and **Management**

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 **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**
Community research

Management tasks according to FP7 Grant agreement and guide to financial issues

Management tasks (100% reimbursed)	
Management as an activity	Tasks of the coordinator
Maintenance of the consortium agreement	Administration of the EC financial contribution (allocation between beneficiaries and activities)
Overall legal, ethical, financial and administrative management (including obtaining audit certificates)	Keeping records and financial accounts of distribution of EC contribution
Implementation of competitive calls for new beneficiaries (if foreseen in Annex I)	Information of the Commission on the EC contribution and transfer to beneficiaries
Any other management activity foreseen by the annexes o the contract, except coordination of RTD activities, i.e. "scientific coordination "	Review of consistency of reports
	Monitoring the compliance by beneficiaries with their contractual obligations

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Professionalization of project management

- **Reflection launched by Directorate L on professionalization of research project management**
 - **22 June 2009 : Internal workshop on professionalisation of research management**
- **Gather good practices on project management**
- **Identify possible measures to improve project management**
- **Identify the needs for additional guidelines**

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Outcome of seminar Key issues

- **The real challenge will be the content of the large scale SSH projects**
- **But the multidisciplinary approach and evolution towards large projects will also have an impact on management**
- **Assessment of the management capacities will be essential at evaluation stage**
- **Managing more partners will be more challenging than managing large amounts**
- **Management of projects by small partners is not a pb but more a strategic issue**
- **Outsourcing the management is not necessary, can be useful for specific issues (dissemination, legal advise, conferences, etc.)**

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Outcome of seminar Interesting suggestions

- **Install network of financial/administrative staff**
- **Develop on-line management tool to monitor progress**
- **Universities could employ research managers to be made available to their researchers in case of successful application.**

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New Public consultation on modification of financial regulations

- Will concentrate on grants and grant management
- http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_fr.htm#open

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