Formazione trasversale sulle soft skills
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Michela Pacifici, PhD

Dipartimento di Biologia e Biotecnologie “Charles Darwin”
Collaborative project writing and networking in the context of Horizon Europe

My experience with the “Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2021-2022 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment” cluster
Building a resilient ecological network of conserved areas across Europe for nature and people

HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-08: Supporting the development of a coherent and resilient Trans-European Nature Network

Aims to design Trans-European Nature Network of conserved areas that protect at least 30% of land in the EU

Universities, research institutes, government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and key stakeholders involved
Choosing the right partners

- Partner selection is pivotal for success
- You need individuals or organizations with the right skills, a shared commitment, and a common vision
- Time to prepare a quality proposal
- Avoiding uncommitted individuals
- Avoiding overlaps with other consortia
Choosing the right partners

- Choosing the right partners was like building a dream team

- Gender balance
Choosing the right partners

- Complex challenges often demand a multidisciplinary approach
  - Our project benefited from ecologists, NGOs, conservationists, and community engagement specialists working together

- Review the track record of potential partners
  We chose key partners with a long track record of big international projects won

- Ensure that your chosen partners are aligned with the program's goals and objectives
  Our partners were in sync with the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030
Understand the call

• Several EU offices can be responsible for writing different parts of the call

• Ask for help to understand the text of the call

• Evaluators are often helped by people who wrote the call
Defining Project Objectives

• Alignment with Program Goals

• Objectives must be clear and precise

• Objectives should be measurable
  We established clear metrics to measure the growth of protected areas and the development of ecological corridors, all in line with the program's defined percentages

Biodiversity:
EU aims to protect 30% of land and sea
Project Planning and Timeline

• **Break the project into manageable components**
  We tackled specific aspects such as land protection, ecological corridor development, and stakeholder engagement

• **Set Achievable Milestones**

• **A realistic timeline is essential**

• **Efficient allocation of resources**
Project Planning and Timeline

- Demonstrate your project's adaptability
- Highlight how the different project components will work together
- Highlight your commitment to monitoring progress against milestones and adjusting the plan when needed
- Showcase project's continuity by demonstrating how the planning extends throughout the project's lifespan
Three key parts: excellence, impact and budget

- Avoid over-focusing on implementation; "Excellence" and "Impact" are extensive and vital sections.

- Simultaneously map out impacts while drafting WPs and tasks.

- Copy essential sections from the call into your proposal if they are critical.

- Dedicate ample time to budgeting.

- Be cautious of travel costs and account for potential inflation changes.
Articulating Innovation and Impact

- Clearly articulate the innovative aspects of your project
- Acknowledge and address key challenges
- Quantify the expected impact of your innovative approach
- Discuss how your innovative approach leads to sustainability and long-term benefits
- Address potential risks associated with your innovative approach and outline strategies for mitigating them
Communication and Dissemination

- Explain who will benefit from your project's outcomes
- Detail the communication channels you plan to use
- Show how you intend to engage stakeholders in the communication process
Thank you!