



Call for Applications – Excellence-in-ReSTI

Excellence in Research, Social and Technological Innovation Project Management

Project Management Pilot Training Programme

Pilot programme duration: 10/2018 – 06/2019

Call announcement date: 01/03/2018

Venue: Eisenstadt, Austria / Budapest, Hungary / Moodle Virtual Learning Platform

Submission deadline: 31/05/2018

Announcement of selection: 20/06/2018

Invitation to Applicants

The consortium of partners within the Interreg DTP Project “Excellence-in-ReSTI”, coordinated by **Centre for Social Innovation** and represented by [the respective national partner] welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of eligibility criteria, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation. The main objective of the Excellence-in-ReSTI Project is to offer Excellence-in-ReSTI Project Management advice, theories and practices, and methods and tools generated by and for the multicultural environment of the Danube Region with its specific regional challenges.

The project is primarily oriented towards **early-stage project managers in research, social and technological innovation (ReSTI)**, as well as **young graduates as first-time applicants to transnational and multicultural projects**, within the Danube Region. The call explicitly addresses a wide spread of applicants from the **business sector, research institutions**, as well as **civil society organisations**.

Pilot Training Programme

Consisting of five modules (EU Policies, Project Design, Project Management, Social Innovation and Innovation in the Business Context), the pilot curriculum aims to enhance participants’ competences in developing and managing projects , paying particular attention to the EU policy dimension of research, social and technological innovation (ReSTI) in the Danube Region.



The breakdown of the tentative course programme of the pilot blended learning curriculum can be seen below (the specific module and course names and content are subject to changes):

Pilot Modules	Pilot Courses
Module 1 EU POLICIES	1.1 EU Grant Landscape & Funding Structures
	1.2 EU Policy Goals and Guidelines
	1.3 EU Strategy EU 2030 and beyond
Module 2 PROJECT DESIGN	2.1 Introduction to Grant Application Writing & Impact
	2.2 Advanced project development and application preparation
	2.3 Forming a Consortium
	2.4 Budget Development
Module 3 PROJECT MANAGEMENT	3.1 Introduction to Project Management
	3.2 Risk Management
	3.3 Financial Management & Reporting
	3.4 Communication & Dissemination, Capitalization
	3.5 Exploitation & IPR
Module 4 SOCIAL INNOVATION	4.1 Introduction to Social Innovation
	4.2 Social Innovation: Approaches and methodologies
	4.3 Designing and Implementing Social Innovations
Module 5 INNOVATION IN THE BUSINESS CONTEXT	5.1 Innovation Sandbox
	5.2 Introduction to Human-Centered Innovation Practice
	5.3 Toward Sustainability: Introduction to Nature-Based Innovation Practice
	5.4 Bringing Innovation to Market
	5.5 Business Development

Programme management, didactics, and quality assurance:

The project consortium of Excellence-in-ReSTI consists of **renowned academics and experienced practitioners** from nine partner countries of the Danube Region, who are committed to developing, piloting, and improving these modules, meeting the highest quality standards. From fall 2018 through spring 2019, a minimum of **25** selected pilot participants will benefit from taking courses specifically designed for successfully acquiring, leading, managing, implementing and evaluating ReSTI projects in the Danube Transnational Region.

The innovative didactic “**Five-Door Approach**” offers participants flexibility in self-organising their learning experience. Each course offers multiple entry points to the learning through these doors: The Library (resources about course content), The Café (interactive activities in collaboration with others), The Playground (playful activities and games), The Forest (reflection activities to integrate the learning), and Self-Assessment (to test the level of knowledge gained and/or skills acquired). Programme participants can walk through the self-assessment door as they



get started with a course to either define a focus for themselves while taking the course and/or to simply test out of the course and move on to those courses that provide new learning for them, helping them to adopt innovative thinking throughout the programme experience.

Participants will furthermore engage in **feedback loops** with the course developers, who offer support and guidance during the e-learning phase. The **ongoing evaluation process** will ensure that the feedback from participants is integrated to improve the ReSTI curriculum in order to develop the best learning journey possible and to guarantee a high quality experience. This participant feedback will elevate the programme to the next level of quality assurance so that international accreditation can be requested after the pilot phase ends and the programme is released to the public.

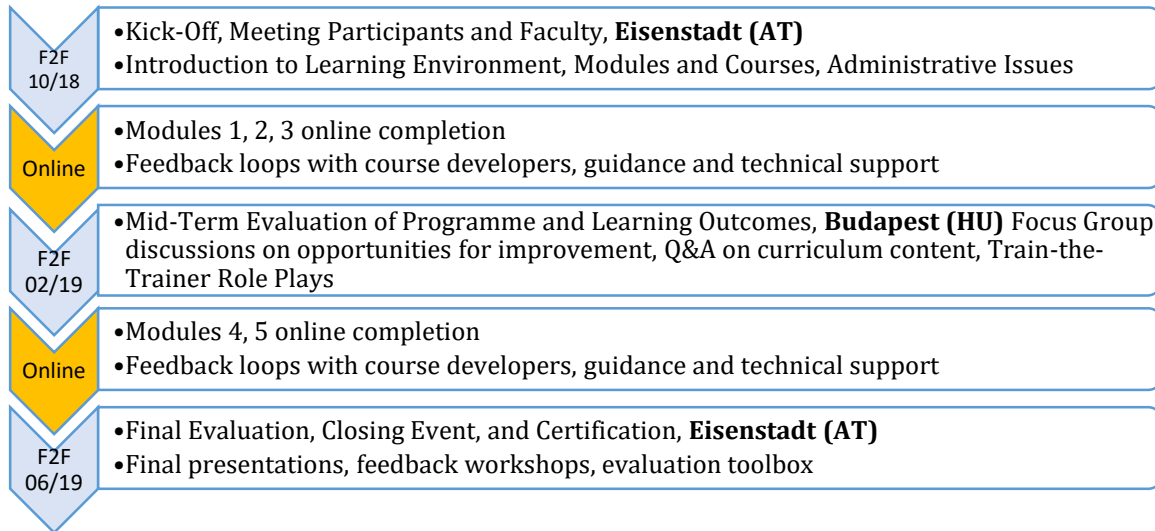
Implementation

The **programme is designed in a blended learning format**, using an innovative Moodle learning environment that caters to participants' individual learning styles. Participants will be working individually and in informal groups in the online courses. The working language is solely **English**, the workload for earning the certificate will be spread over the pilot of a whole academic year.

Three face-to-face (F2F) meetings will be held in order to facilitate the learning process and to enable learning interactions between participants and course developers:

- Kick-off: Oct 2018, Eisenstadt (Austria)
- Mid-term: Feb 2019, Budapest (Hungary)
- Final: June 2019, Eisenstadt (Austria)
- The F2F meeting will respect the “train-the-trainer” aspect in the sense that participants are required to give relevant feedback on the courses finished.

Tentative timeline:



Eligibility Criteria

Young graduates and early-stage professionals coming from the Danube Region constitute the main target population of the ReSTI Pilot. In order to be eligible to participate in the ReSTI Project Management Pilot Training Programme the applicants must:

- ✓ Be permanent resident of an eligible country of the Danube Region: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (two states: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine (four provinces: Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast and Odessa Oblast)
- ✓ Be early-stage graduate, project manager or innovator from research or higher education institution, SMEs/Industry, or Civil Society Organisations (incl. NGOs)
- ✓ Hold at least Bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification attested by a nationally certified institution
- ✓ Be fluent in English (at least B2 English proficiency level within the CEFR)
- ✓ Be highly motivated and enthusiastic to obtain knowledge & know-how in the professional area of ReSTI project management.

Selection of participants is competitive (open call for applications, to be evaluated by the ReSTI project committee). The selection process will take into consideration experience and motivation to acquire knowledge and develop new skills in ReSTI project management, and level of fluency in English. The selection process is designed to also provide for a balanced geographical and



demographical selection, in particular, gender of participants. Up to 25 early-stage ReSTI managers will be selected for funded participation.

Partner team members of Interreg DTP Project “Excellence-in-ReSTI” are not eligible for application.

Certification

Participants who complete **all five modules** during the pilot phase **and** who fully participate in the **three face-to-face sessions** are eligible for a **certificate issued by the consortium**. The initial plan of the consortium is to grant at least 25 certificates to the fully funded participants at the end of the pilot programme in June 2019 – the actual number of awarded certificates may vary based on actual interest and completion rate.

Additionally, the ReSTI Project Management Pilot takes a leading role in didactic innovations by issuing **virtual badges** for credits earned for each completed module and the final certification. These badges are then consolidated in a virtual backpack that can be uploaded to digital resumes and/or professional profile systems such as Linked in or Xing to demonstrate achievements across relevant platforms.

Costs

No tuition fees will be charged throughout the entire pilot. The costs for **travel tickets and accommodation** for selected 25 applicants to attend the three face-to-face sessions will be reimbursed by the consortium. The applicants benefit from European Union funds (ERDF, IPA) and the co-financing of project partners. In turn, participants are obliged to offer substantial and constructive feedback in an ongoing evaluation process throughout the pilot, and must meet the requirements outlined in the learning contract. Non-eligible expenses will not be covered.

There is also room for **non-funded participants**. In the likely case the number of applications exceeds the number of funded places, applicants who fulfil the eligibility criteria but who are not chosen for funded participation will be contacted to explore the possibilities for non-funded participation: for certain preferred modules, without obligation to attend face-to-face sessions.

Important Application Information

National Info Sessions will be held in project partner countries from March to May 2018.

Please find the information sessions relevant for you here:

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/excellence-in-resti/section/call-for-applicants>

Those interested in participating in the ReSTI Project Management Pilot need to submit an online application package, in English, **at the latest on May 31, 2018 (midnight CET)**, at the following registration link: [LimeSurvey](#), including:



- Personal data
- Curriculum Vitae, following Europass format
- Copy of Bachelor degree diploma or equivalent qualification attested by a nationally certified institution
- Short description of potential previous experience in the area of research, social and technological innovation (max. 2,000 characters)
- Motivation letter highlighting your personal, educational, and/or professional background and which knowledge or skills you wish to develop during the pilot training (max. 2,000 characters)

Please find the detailed instructions for submitting your online application here:

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/excellence-in-resti/section/call-for-applicants>

- **Deadline for applications is May 31, 2018 (midnight CET)**
- Announcement of selection results will follow after June 20, 2018
- Information about the programme, the venue, meetings and all other necessary details will be provided thereafter

For questions please contact: resti@fh-burgenland.at

Please state all of your questions in English language when using the above e-mail address.

References

Project Information Excellence-in-ReSTI

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/excellence-in-resti> Centre of Social Innovation (Lead Partner): <https://www.zsi.at/en>

Virtual Badge System: <https://openbadges.org/>