

What Should Change for UAS Research Managers? REMAP in Practice

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Applied research at Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) plays an increasingly strategic role in strengthening regional innovation ecosystems, contributing to Europe's competitiveness and socioeconomic resilience. Arguably, the capacity to deliver impactful applied research depends not only on researchers and institutional leadership, but also on the professional in-house structures that support research development, project design, consortium building, funding acquisition, and impact delivery. However, across many UAS, research management remains weakly institutionalized: roles and responsibilities are often unclear or fragmented, career progression is limited, training and mentoring opportunities are scant, practical tools to strengthen research management capacity are underdeveloped, and recognition as a professional field remains uneven.

This session presents the Research Management Pathways: Building Capacity, Recognition, and Networks in the ERA (REMAP) project as a practical case of how European collaboration can be initiated, shaped and turned into a funded opportunity. Led by EURASHE member Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, REMAP illustrates the value of European networking, shared problem definition, and consortium-building for UAS research capacity. The project idea was first discussed and developed through networking around the EURASHE 2025 conference in Portalegre, Portugal, and has since evolved into a WIDERA-funded collaboration involving UAS partners and EURASHE.

This case, therefore, speaks directly to the purpose of the Research Community of Practice (CoP) and the kind of opportunity space it opens up: creating the connections, shared agenda and trusted space needed for members to identify common needs, build partnerships, and prepare for European research opportunities.

The workshop will briefly introduce the rationale behind REMAP and how it grew out of the shared challenges in UAS research management. It will then use the Research CoP as an active consultation arena, asking participants to provide feedback on what research managers need, which barriers are most pressing, and what REMAP should produce to be genuinely useful.

The session addresses the conference's theme by focusing on the professional and institutional conditions required for UAS to deliver applied research with regional and societal impact. It also connects to the wider European Research Area (ERA) agenda, where Research Management is

included as a dedicated ERA Action, demonstrating that it is necessary for stronger research performance, collaboration, and impact.

Against this background, the session will operate as a structured consultation with the UAS community. It invites participants to provide interactive input in five core areas:

1. How research management roles are currently understood and positioned within their UAS;
2. Which barriers are most pressing;
3. What research managers need to better support European project development, consortium-building, funding acquisition, and impact delivery;
4. Which project outputs would be most useful for the sector, and what the project should avoid, to remain relevant and practical for UAS;
5. How Communities of Practice can function as drivers of collaboration, shared agenda-setting and future European research opportunities.

The 45-minute interactive workshop will combine short input presentations with live polling, peer exchange, and structured feedback collection. Participants will first respond to Slido questions on the current status of research management, key barriers, priority REMAP outputs and success criteria. They will then work in pairs to identify existing barriers, sector needs, and desirable project outputs. Inputs will be collected and prioritised collectively. Through this two-way format, the session will both generate practical input for REMAP and strengthen the Research CoP's role as a European space for exchange, agenda-setting, and collaboration on applied research capacity.