My Experience with EU Research & Being a Coordinator

Dr. John Dinsmore
Health Innovation Lead/Deputy Director
Trinity Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation
fear

① eyebrows raised and pulled together
② raised upper eyelids
③ tensed lower eyelids
④ lips slightly stretched horizontally back to ears
happiness

A real smile always includes:

① crow’s feet wrinkles
② pushed up cheeks
③ movement from muscle that orbits the eye
WILL IT BE EASY?
NOPE.
WORTH IT?
ABSOLUTELY.

yourdailypositivity.com
Advancing your research career – Going EU

4. **Be a named advisor** to a WP/Consortia – *Great for young researchers* to understand the complexity of EU Calls

3. **Collaborate on a Work Package (WP)** – Support the writing and development with a WP leader – *Great for gaining experience* of designing research in a call

2. **Lead a WP** – With experience – *Great to bring in your first proposal/research money and develop skill sets* – Significant time involvement.

1. **Be a coordinator** – Requires *extensive experience* of EU call and frameworks, networks (find a mentor!) – *Tough role and very time consuming.*

*Note: its about the team and best learning experience.*
1- Challenge the EU focus on supporting a single disease framework of care to create a patient centric integrated care (IC) ecosystem to understand and manage multimorbidity.

2 - ProACT aims to develop and evaluate a cloud based open API to integrate a variety of new and existing technologies to advance ‘home based’ integrated care (IC).

www.proact2020.eu
IMPACT

- Approximately 50 million patients in Europe with multimorbidity
- 70-80% of healthcare costs are spent on chronic diseases
- €700 billion per annum in EU
- Diabetes COPD CHF/CHD (MCI)

WORK PACKAGES

1. Ecosystem Definition
2. ProACT Ecosystem ICT-AT Development
3. Data Representation, Comparability, Interchange and Analytics
4. Developing a Behavioural Change Assessment Kit and Framework
5. Trial Implementation and Evaluation (INC. Transferability Study)
6. Dissemination, Exploitation, Communication and Commercialisation
7. Project Coordination and Management
8. Ethics
Project Outline (2016-2019)

Phase 1: User Needs Research and Scoping (complete)

Phase 2: System Design, Development and Testing (in progress)

Phase 3: Pilot Trials (early 2017)

Phase 4: Main Proof of Concept Trial (2018)

• Ireland: 60 PwM and support actors
• Belgium: 60 PwM and support actors
• Conditions: Diabetes, COPD, CHF/CHD (65+)
• Longitudinal Action Research Design (12 months)

Phase 5: Transfer Feasibility Study (mid 2018)

• Italy: 15 PwM and support actors
LESSONS LEARNED
Lesson 1: Understand the Framework & Calls

1. Understand **how to navigate** the call sites/participant portals!

2. Understand **all that will be requested**: Challenge, Scope and Impact
   - Topic conditions and documents
   - Funding conditions
   - Understand scoring and thresholds
   - The FAQ document

3. Go **extensively through applications** (e.g. H2020, Part A, B, C):
   - Ask colleagues who have been through the process
   - See example applications (if possible successful)
   - If possible see recent evaluation reports

4. When collaborating – **understand your role/USP**
   - Be realistic in your assessment
   - Work with the coordinator
   - Just because your invited doesn’t mean you will make the final application
Lesson 2: Promote Yourself - Network
Building a Network = Building Consortia

VITAL IN EU GRANTS and Consortia Building

1. **Get out there** – it will not happen from the desk!

2. **Build on multiple levels** – Academic/research, SME’s, Multi-Nationals, Policy makers, services, patient/user advocacy groups, clinicians, NCPs, EU Consultants.

3. Unfortunately good **networking costs money**!

4. **Be Visible!** Attend events such as:
   - National – HRB/Enterprise Ireland H2020
   - EU – Commission related events e.g. ES:GC
   - Make yourself known to the NCPs!
Lesson 3: Sorting the Kale from the Cabbage – Identifying a strong consortium

1. Who is the coordinator? What is their track record? Can they **focus and consolidate** the call approach?

2. What is the make up of the consortia? Do they have strong proof of principal for the research, good balance, prior collaboration, strong industry/SME presence?

3. Is the Strong in **Excellence, Impact, quality/efficiency of implementation**? Is the proposal **state of the art**? This will be your Grant Agreement
Ask yourself the 5 key questions (particularly if you decide to coordinate) – Sean McCarthy (Hyperion)

1. **Why bother?** - This will be all about the lack of skill in Europe for this industry or the societal challenge you are addressing. What already available isn’t good enough etc. Facts and figures are very important

2. **Is it a European/global priority?**  
   Background to your work

3. **Is the solution already available?**  
   What is the difference between what you are doing and what is already out there. Where exactly is the innovation?

4. **What would happen if you weren’t funded or supported by Industry?**

5. **Why are you the best person or people for the work?**
WHERE DOES YOUR RESEARCH FIT INTO THE BIG SOCIO-ECONOMIC PICTURE??
Lesson 4 - Work with Industry to Improve Impact

1. There is **no formula for engagement** – Network, mail, serendipity

2. Be fully prepared with your call topic and **explain where exactly they can fit into the picture**

3. Follow up **quickly and drive** the process

4. Plan to have a full application drafts done **one month in advance of deadline** - Legal

5. Be **patient and have a plan B** if they drop out
Lesson 5: Top 10 Tips to Being a Coordinator

1. Write 80% of the proposal minimum! (Get a coordinator award)
2. Find a mentor if coordinating for the first time
3. Know the call inside out
4. Choose your partners wisely
5. Keep calm and focused
6. The real problems will not come from the research but from people – learn to be diplomatic – be firm but fair
7. Make sure you have a great Project Manager and staff – Hire wisely
8. Use the support of the finance, research and legal offices as well as RPO’s NCP and PO.
9. Lead by example
10. Be organised from the beginning – set a momentum and standard of work early
Thank You
Dr. John Dinsmore (tweet @johndinsmore)

TCPHI

E-mail: dinsmorj@tcd.ie
Web: www.proact2020.eu
ProACT Twitter: @proact2020