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Managing Data Intensive Science - the role of Research Information Systems in realising the digital agenda

Research support services in Higher Education and Research Institutions: approaches, tools and trends

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EU funding and research support services

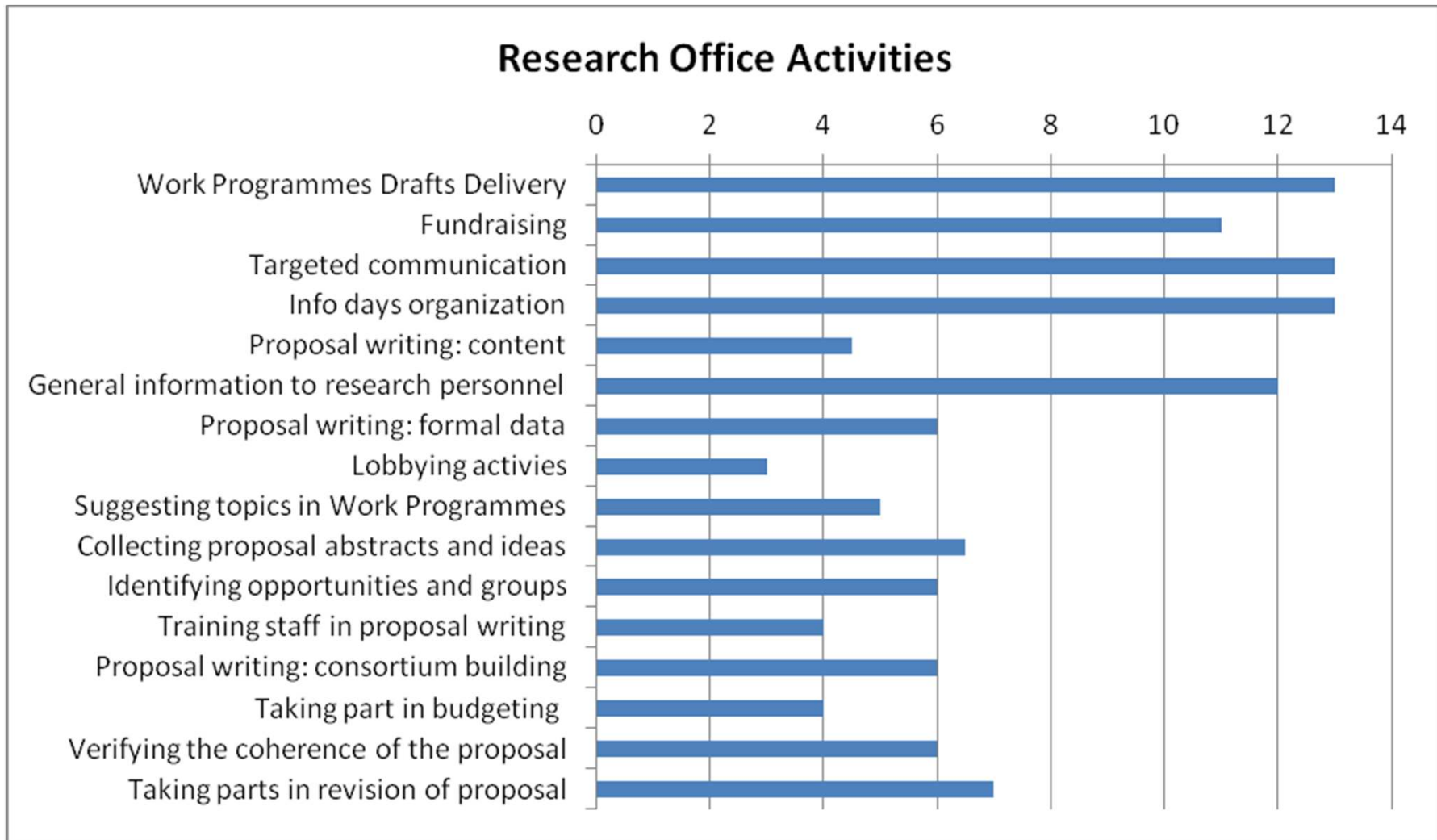
- ▶ **Italian researchers** produce **good research** but are **lacking** in **transversal skills** such as research management, search for funding opportunities, exploitation of research findings through knowledge and technology transfer activities (i.e. patenting, licensing, spin off creation)
- ▶ **Research support services** have been established. Information on funding opportunities, support to proposals design, management of projects and related data are their main goals.

A nutshell survey

- ▶ Which **are the main activities** performed by the Office?
- ▶ Is the Office aware of those performance indicators which determine funding from Ministry of Education and Research? If yes, are there guidelines to optimise performances?
- ▶ Is there a system of incentives?
- ▶ Is there a system to monitor expenditures during the project?
- ▶ Is there a system to monitor person months?
- ▶ Are there young researchers responsible for EU funded projects?
- ▶ Which activities would the Office perform, if provided with more resources?
- ▶ What would you suggest to improve Office organization?
- ▶ Does a **research information system** exist to collect and manage information about personnel, projects and results?
- ▶

(*) 9 HEIs and 4 PROs

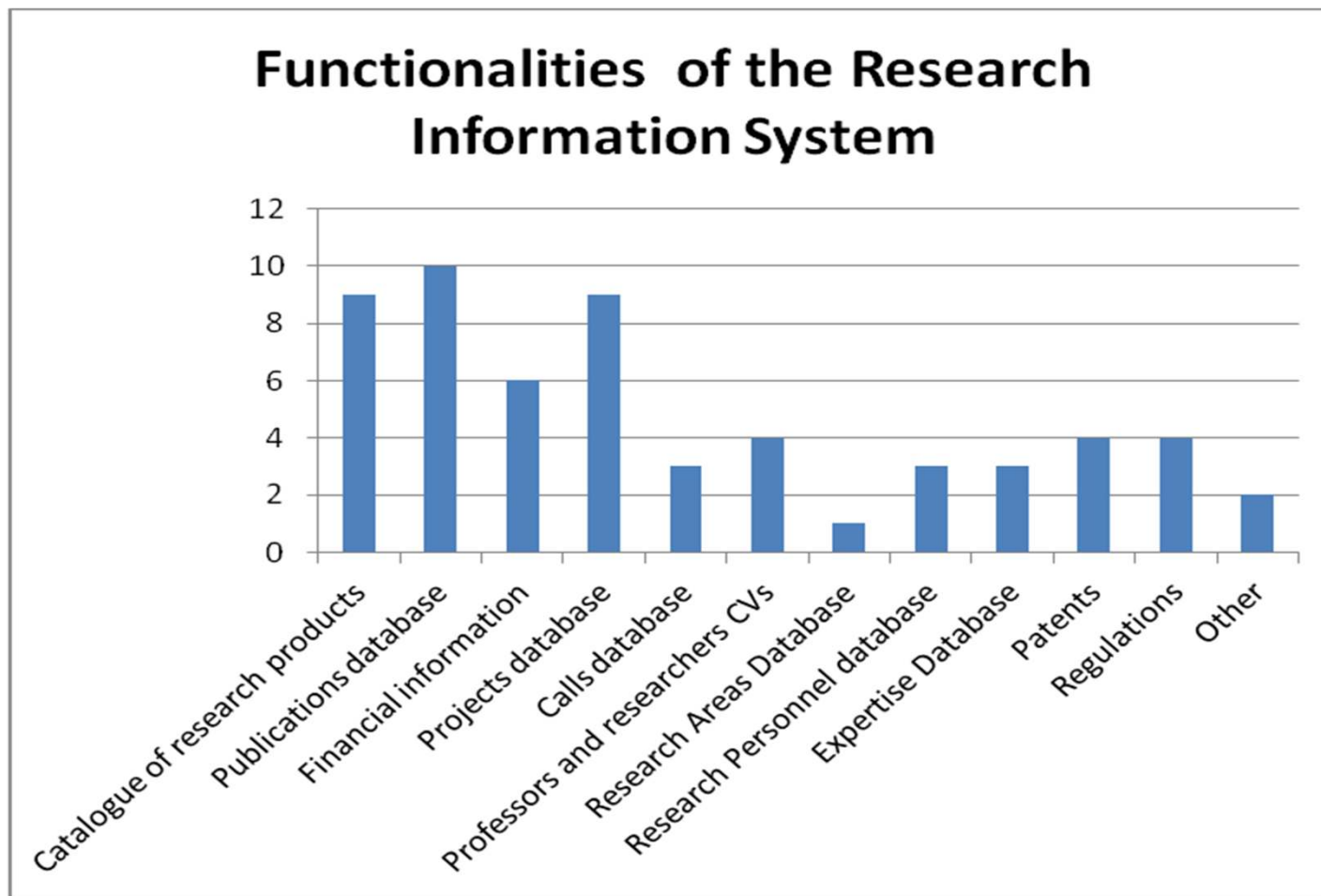
... and still a moderate approach



(*) 9 HEIs and 4 PROs



... and ...



(*) 9 HEIs and 4 PROs

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- ▶ 4 areas of excellence: humanities, languages, economics and management, environmental sciences
- ▶ Sound experience in EU funded research projects since the late 90s (4^o and 5^o framework programmes)
- ▶ GOAL #1 : increase the number of researchers involved in EU funded projects
- ▶ GOAL #2 : a successful Human Resources Strategy for Researchers



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Ca' Foscari: boosting research careers

- ▶ New strategies in approaching EU funding landscape:
- ▶ Diversification of EU, national and local funding streams
- ▶ Focus on individual grants: ERC, Marie Curie, SIR, private foundations...
- ▶ Paradigm shift from the "brain gain/brain drain" vision to the "brain circulation" one
- ▶ Incentives in evaluating applications to research fellowships are given to successful applicants in ERC, SIR or Marie Curie Actions
- ▶ 40% of internal funding for research reserved to early stage researchers...



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INGV- Ist. Naz. Geofisica e Vulcanologia

- ▶ A reference point in environmental sector
- ▶ Two outstanding (ESFRI) infrastructural projects EPOS - European Plate Observing System and EMSO - European Multidisciplinary Seafloor & water column Observatory.
- ▶ Other projects ...



Acronimo	Nazionalità coordinatore	Durata
APhoRISM	Italia (INGV)	01/12/2013 - 30/11/2016
ASTARTE	Portogallo	01/11/2013 - 30/10/2016
CALIBRA	Regno Unito	19/11/2012 - 18/11/2014
CO2VOLC	Italia (INGV)	01/01/2012 - 31/12/2016
COOPEUS	Germania	01/09/2012 - 31/08/2015
ENVRI	Olanda	01/11/2011 - 31/10/2014
EPOS	Italia (INGV)	01/11/2010 - 31/10/2014
ESPAS	Regno Unito	01/10/2011 - 30/04/2015
EUDAT	Finlandia	01/10/2011 - 30/09/2014
GLASS	Italia (INGV)	01/10/2010 - 30/09/2015
JERICO	Francia	01/05/2011 - 30/04/2015
MARsite	Turchia	01/11/2012 - 31/10/2015
MED-SUV	Italia (INGV)	01/06/2013 - 31/05/2016
MELODIES	Italia (INGV)	01/11/2013 - 31/10/2016
MYOCEAN2	Francia	01/04/2012 - 30/09/2014
NEMOH	Italia (INGV)	01/01/2012 - 31/12/2015
NERA	Svizzera	01/11/2010 - 31/10/2014
REAKT	Italia	01/09/2011 - 31/08/2013
SCIDIP-ES	Francia	01/09/2011 - 31/08/2014
SEADATANET II	Francia	01/10/2011 - 30/09/2015
STREST	Svizzera	01/10/2013 - 30/09/2016
TRANSMIT	Regno Unito	01/02/2011 - 31/01/2015
VERCE	Francia	01/10/2011 - 30/09/2015
VERTIGO	Germania	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2016
VUELCO	Regno Unito	01/10/2011 - 30/09/2015



INGV

INGV- Ist. Naz. Geofisica e Vulcanologia

- ▶ Under a reorganization of offices and structures to increase support services to researchers
- ▶ A new Project Office to identify calls of interests, harmonize administrative procedures during all life-cycle phases, identify critical points in financial management of each project, bridge the gap both between the three scientific Departments (Strutture) and Central Administration both among different offices of Central Administration
- ▶ Running a OA DSpace repository www.earth-prints.org
- ▶ Strategic goal: progressive adoption of an Enterprise Resource Planning (**ERP**) system
- ▶ 1° research institution to join the pilot cohorts of Human Resources Strategy for Researchers





The NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND APPLIED GEOPHYSICS is an internationally-oriented public research institute developing basic and applied research in the following scientific sectors:

- Oceanography (physics, chemistry and biology)
- Geophysics and marine geology
- Applied and exploration geophysics



OGS – Istituto Nazionale Oceanografia e Geofisica Sperimentale

- ▶ Policies aimed at the enhancement, valorisation and internationalisation of human capital
- ▶ First research centre in Italy granted the European Commission acknowledgement “HR Excellence in Research”
- ▶ Current and next actions for supporting mobility:
 - Promotion of OGS as hosting institution for ERC grants and MSCA
 - High quality incoming services for international fellows
 - Outgoing mobility measures for enhancing and diversifying researchers’ skills



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



OGS – Istituto Nazionale Oceanografia e Geofisica Sperimentale

► Actions for implementing successful participation in European R&I programmes

- Research Promotion and International Cooperation Office
- Developing support services customised for the specific needs of researchers
- Reinforcing integration between Central Administration and Research Departments
- Increasing internal awareness and monitoring of on-going projects activities
- A new information system is being currently implemented



Important notice! H2020 Grant Agreement

- ▶ Article 32: Obligation to take measures to implement the **European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**
- ▶ The beneficiaries must be **proactive** and take specific **steps** to address conflicts between their policies and practices and the principles set out in the Charter and Code of Conduct.



EU projects: trends and mobility figures (1)

- ▶ Considering the V, VI and VII Framework Programme, **Italy is ranked as fourth country** in Europe, as for the proposals submitted and funded, following UK, Germany and France.
- ▶ **The trend of the Italian performance**, i.e. the percentage of grants obtained **has decreased over time**: from a share of 9.4% in FP5 to 8.4% in FP7, probably due to the increased competition generated by the opening of the FPs to the new Member States.
- ▶ **The spread between Italian contribution to the EU budget and the overall grants obtained within VII FP is negative for Italy (-3.9%)**; Germany is close to the balance, while the UK has a positive return equal to +4.4%.

EU projects: trends and mobility figures (2)

- ▶ The success rate of proposals upon Italian coordination (12.3%) is lower than the overall European success rate of proposals (15.9%).
- ▶ In the 7th FP, Marie S. Curie Actions (MSCA) are the only case in which the Italian success rate exceeds the European average. Nevertheless the alarming fact is that 78% of the mobility concerns Italian researchers going abroad, compared to 22% of foreign researchers choosing to come to Italy.
- ▶ In the ERC grants Programme, the success rate is particularly low in Italy (3.2%), much lower than the European average (14%). The Italian researchers funded are 154 - among which 65 Advanced Grants and 89 Starting Grants - and 86 of these are hosted by foreign institutions. (*)

(*) Source: Horizon 2020 Italy updated to Dec. 2012

Conclusions: what can help?

- ▶ At national level ...
- ▶ Active and continuative participation in the process of defining objectives and drafting programs;
- ▶ The development of an Italian R&I system complementary and consistent with the European one
- ▶ The coordination of ministries, local administrators, programme experts, both at national and European level;
- ▶ Achieving a critical mass and promoting consultations among different national stakeholders to identify ideas and common priorities;
- ▶ Reducing "barriers to entry", harmonizing national regulations to the EU ones (i.e. salary levels, visa issues, compulsory procedures to buy equipment or to hire staff members).

Conclusions: what can help?

- ▶ At individual institution level ...
- ▶ Defining **clear, strategic choices** based on the identification of specific disciplinary sectors and types of funding programmes on which to bet and rely on;
- ▶ Genuine daring **to invest adequate resources for the development and qualification of support services** in order to foster participation to EU Research & Innovation funding programmes.
- ▶ **CRIS would fasten procedures and free human resources for other strategic activities.**

Thanks!

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