

Research Partnership and Twinning of Laboratories

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What are the goals ?

- Foster academic research
- Demonstrate in house research capacities
- Gain new research capacities
- Improve relations with practical applications
- Prepare for program opportunities in the frame of the EU Framework Programs
- Share responsibility for program management and execution
- Share methods and strategies
- Help scientists to learn about other cultures and feeling to belong to a larger Community

Which steps need to be executed?(1)

- Identify strengths, weaknesses and needs of your organisation, develop a vision and clear objectives.
- Be aware of the needs of your society. How will you achieve sustainability eventually?
- Identify potential twinning partners: they could result from past partnerships. Contact potential partners and exchange information
- Identify other potential funding sources other than the EU

Which steps need to be executed? (2)

- Choose activities and make sure that they are achievable within the resources available
- Ensure that all people of your organisation agree with the project concept and the chosen partner(s).
- Define and communicate the role and responsibilities of each participating individual

What can we learn from existing twinning projects

- In a twinning partner system a real equilibrium between the participants has to be achieved. It should not only be a division of tasks but a very active collaboration which allows for continuous development of the work and a transparent decision making process for all people involved.
- A coordination group headed by the project coordinator should be in charge to get participants really involved in the overall project execution rather than in single contributions.

Positive experience and points for potential improvements in performing projects (1)

Positive experience

- Scientific value of projects
- Improved marketing potential of activities
- Conversion of military staff

Potential improvements

- Better define vision and objectives for Institutes
- Adapt infrastructure
- Address sustainability problems efficiently
- Increase contacts with industry

Positive experience and points for potential improvements in performing research (2)

Positive Experience

- Detailed program planning
- Partnership with other national Institutes

Potential improvements

- Engagement of young researchers
- Choice of real collaborators
- Review and follow up of work including reporting

Thematic areas

Find the right research areas in the EU framework program 7 which fit best with your competences , your infrastructure and with the necessities and priorities of your Country

Conclusions

- Many of the above mentioned points for potential improvements can be addressed in running research activities in tight collaboration with western and eastern laboratories and activating in house partnerships
- Partnerships need to be considered on the basis on an equal approach with mutual opportunities and duties