



Fostering Opportunities Towards Slovak Excellence in Advanced Control for Smart Industries

Evaluation report of Training School



The training school was a component of the WP1 Capacity Building in Research Management and was conducted through three missions by research managers from the University of Pisa (UNIFI) to the Slovak University of Technology (STU). These missions took place in March 2023, June 2023, and May 2024. Throughout these missions, a series of workshops, seminars, practical exercises, and best practice sharing sessions were organized for the research managers and researchers at STUBA.

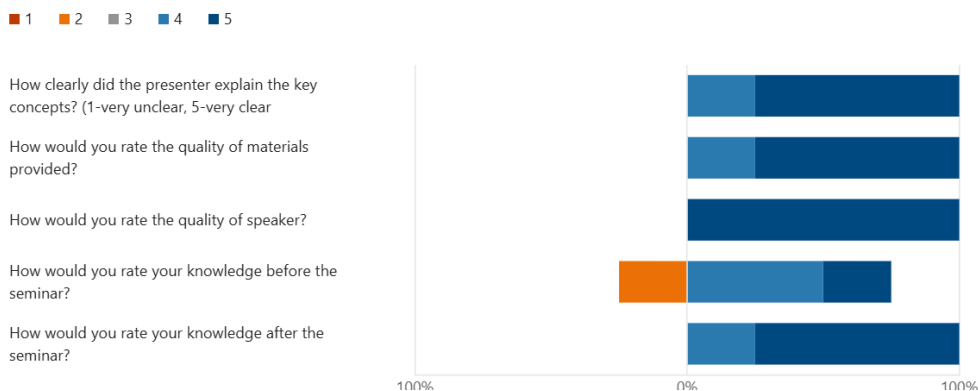
The workshops and seminars primarily consisted of presentations followed by discussions. During the practical exercises, participants worked in groups on segments of real project proposals, evaluating them using actual evaluation forms from Horizon Europe. In the final mission, two field stories were presented: a researcher from STUBA shared their experience with the MSCA-PF scheme, and a professor from UNIFI discussed their experience with the ERC scheme.

Following these activities, a questionnaire was sent to participants. Below is a brief summary of each activity.

The language of the responses are not edited.

March 2023

Workshop – Horizon Europe: overview, the Funding and Tender portal of the European Commission and the submission procedure



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- How to use the FT portal
- Actual overview of current calls

How did you learn about this activity?

- From project centre
- Newsletter

- Frontseat project

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning the format of the activity, you can add them below

- Important was that NCPs were there and you may personally discuss with them

Workshop – Horizon Europe: the RIA/IA/SCA template and the evaluation process

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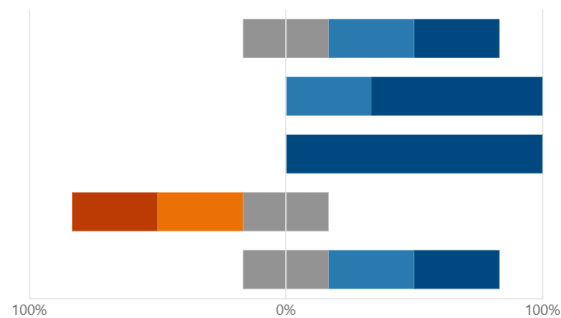
How clearly did the presenter explain the key concepts? (1-very unclear, 5-very clear)

How would you rate the quality of materials provided?

How would you rate the quality of speaker?

How would you rate your knowledge before the seminar?

How would you rate your knowledge after the seminar?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Comprehending RIA/IA/SCA template and basics of the evaluation process
- gained an overview of the topic
- interesting to see and hear how the evaluation is organised and how the form looks like

How did you learn about this activity?

- disseminated from the STUBA's Project Centre via email
- project centre

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning the format of the activity you can add them below

- None. Keep up the good work!

Practical exercise: Mock evaluation of a RIA proposal



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

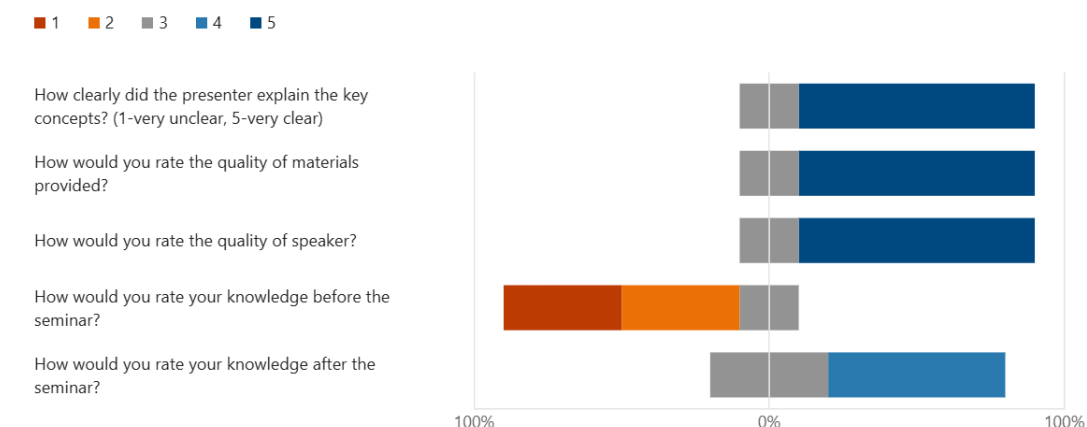
- Practical workshop was very useful to think about proposal more in deep, to discuss about proposal with partners in group
- The evaluators care about non scientific parts!

How did you learn about this activity?

- From the project centre

June 2023

Seminar: The European Innovation Council Pathfinder program: visionary thinking for new technologies



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Appreciate the comprehensive insight on how the program works and how to write a competitive proposal, and the discussion about practical problems during preparing proposals with the presenter

- You need to try more than once and read the evaluation!

How did you learn about this activity?

- Office of EU projects.
- Newsletter, colleagues

Workshop - The Horizon Europe non-scientific sections of the proposal

The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Great clarification explaining differences between "Exploitation", "Dissemination" and "Communication" activities. Useful tips on what to focus on include in the "Open Science", "DNSH" and "Gender equality" sections.
- Received valuable advice and information about the topic.
- Non scientific parts are very important and research managers can help with those parts

How did you learn about this activity?

- From the STU Rectorate's email invitation forwarded to me by the head of our faculty's project department
- Project centre

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning the format of workshop you can add them below

- Really liked how interactive and practical this workshop was. Found it really useful. Thank you for organizing it.

Workshop - Budget setting in RIA/IA/CSA, ERC, and MSCA: actual costs, lump sum, unit cost, and fixed rate

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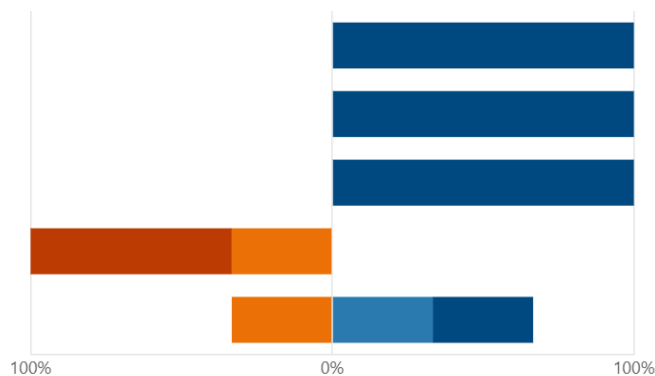
How clearly did the presenter explain the key concepts? (1-very unclear, 5-very clear)

How would you rate the quality of materials provided?

How would you rate the quality of speaker?

How would you rate your knowledge before the workshop?

How would you rate your knowledge after the workshop?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Received valuable advice and information about the topic and issues.
- General information on the budget part.
- Different times of budget settings, it was very useful especially the discussion regarding the lump sum

How did you learn about this activity?

- Project centre

Practical exercise: Budget setting in RIA/IA

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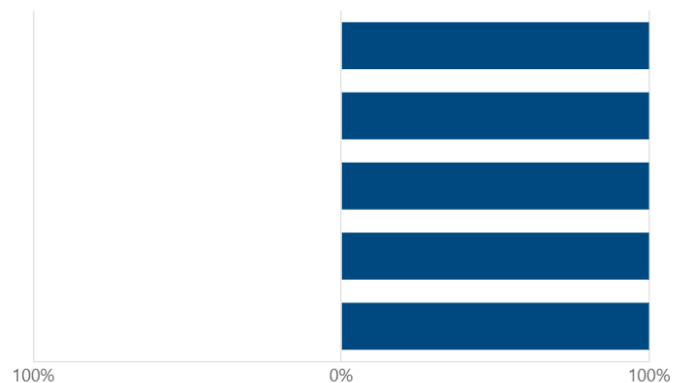
How did you like the format? (1-Very poor, 5-Excellent)

How relevant and clear was the practical exercise?

How useful did you find the practical exercise?

Did the exercises encourage collaboration and discussion among participants?

Were the resources and materials provided for the exercises adequate?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- It was very useful try to count "real" budget of the project - better way to understand and remember for me
- Very good exercises, real project examples

How did you learn about this activity?

- Project centre

May 2024

Seminar: MSCA-PF - programme characteristics and interest for STUBA researchers, the application process, how to develop a competitive proposal

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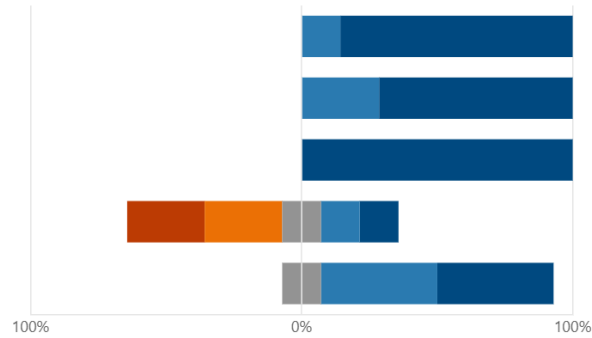
How clearly did the presenter explain the key concepts? (1-very unclear, 5-very clear)

How would you rate the quality of materials provided?

How would you rate the quality of speaker?

How would you rate your knowledge before the seminar?

How would you rate your knowledge after the seminar?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Recent updates on the work programme
- Practical experience with the MSCA and information on the criticality of the assessment.
- Practical knowledge of making a project proposal
- Seminar taught me general knowledge of call conditions, budget, etc.
- The structure of the proposal template
- New information about the topic
- Gaining an understanding of MSCA-PF program, detailed guidance on the application process, the proposal preparations and evaluations of the proposals

How did you learn about this activity?

- Newsletter of Project centre
- Project centre

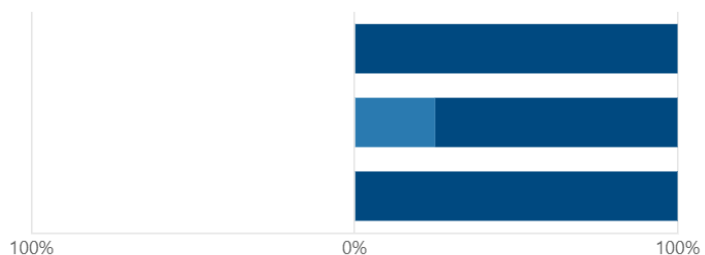
Stories from the field - Radoslav Paulen - Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava: my experience with MSCA.

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Was the story inspirational? (1-no inspirational, 5-very inspirational)

How useful were the tips given by the speaker?

How would you rate your overall impression of the speaker?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Practical experience and skills that will be useful in my future project collaborations
- Rado spoke his experiences with MSCA calls in very interesting form
- You have to have a full story, other way you will not convince the evaluator
- Useful advice

How did you learn about this activity?

- Project centre

Practical exercise: Mock evaluation of a MSCA-PF

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The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- Better understanding of the topic components and how to correctly critically assess them
- Practical workshop is always a good idea. It was useful to try to evaluate proposal and discuss about pluses and minuses of evaluated proposal
- Working in teams and discussion afterwards
- Practical experience and exercises

How did you learn about this activity?

- Project centre
- Through Project manager of FrontSeat

Seminar: MSCA-DN: characteristics and interest for STUBA research teams, the application process, how to develop a competitive proposal.

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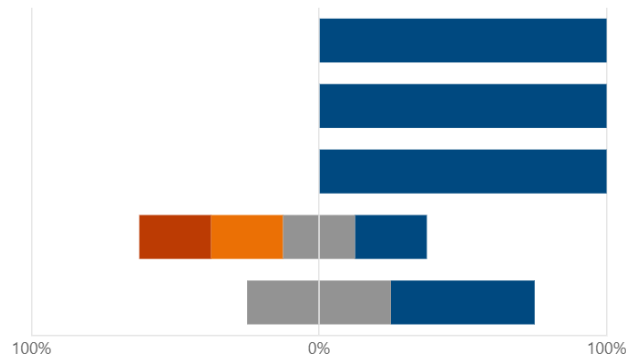
How clearly did the presenter explain the key concepts? (1-very unclear, 5-very clear)

How would you rate the quality of materials provided?

How would you rate the quality of speaker?

How would you rate your knowledge before the seminar?

How would you rate your knowledge after the seminar?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- More information about the call, budget, consortium, etc.
- Very detailed explanation of each part of the proposal
- New information and advice

How did you learn about this activity?

- From Project centre
- Through Project manager of FrontSeat

Practical exercise: Mock evaluation of a MSCA-DN

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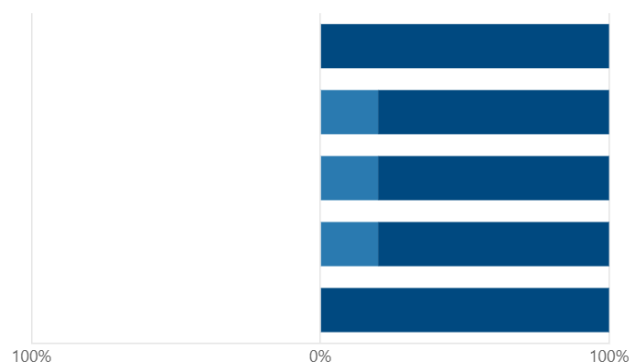
How did you like the format? (1-Very poor, 5-Excellent)

How relevant and clear was the practical exercise?

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The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

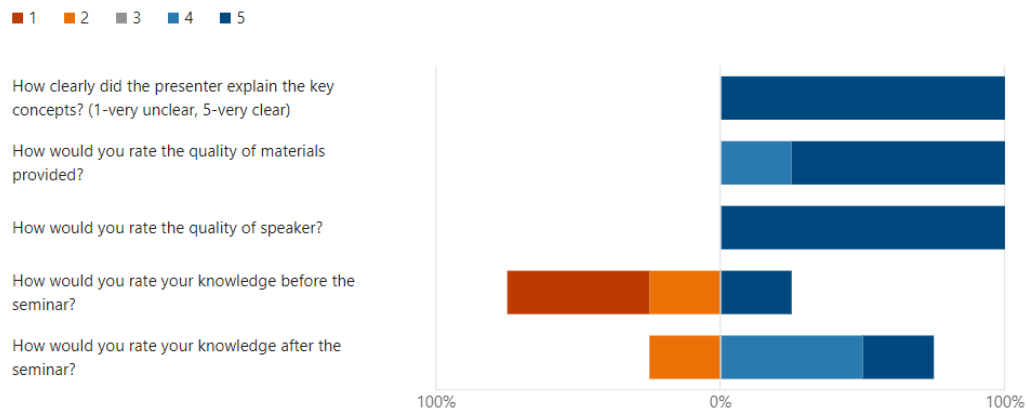
- I could test my knowledge and compare it with my colleagues

- It was useful to work on real evaluation and discuss in a group about the proposal - hear other opinions. More practical experience means more understanding to me
- Discussion after the evaluation while reading the real evaluations
- New information and practical exercises
- Trying the role of an evaluator, learning how to built a strong proposal

How did you learn about this activity?

- From Project centre
- Through Project manager of FrontSeat

Seminar: ERC: Starting, Consolidator and Advanced schemes, the application process, how to develop a competitive proposal.



What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- New information about the ERC scheme
- How competitive the scheme is
- Overall overview of the topic and valuable information

How did you learn about this activity?

- From STUBA project centre
- Through Project manager of FrontSeat

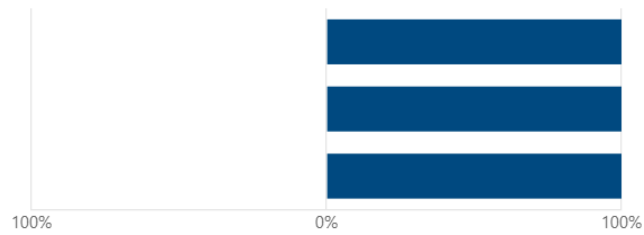
Stories from the field – Prof. Gianluca Fiori UNIFI: my experience with ERC StG

■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5

Was the story inspirational? (1-not inspirational, 5-very inspirational)

How useful were the tips given by the speaker?

How would you rate your overall impression of the speaker?



The most common answers for the question:

What was the biggest takeaway from the activity?

- New information and experience
- Great and inspiring story
- Practical, helpful tips and advice

How did you learn about this activity?

- From Project centre