



ARQUS

ACADEMY WEEK

3-7 MAY 2021

SHAPING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE



**Towards a professional
framework proposal for RMAs:
the Italian experience**

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European University Alliance

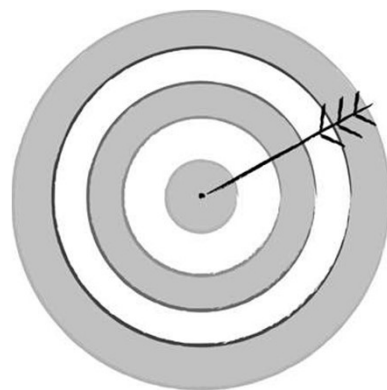
Is **RMA** perceived as a **profession** in Italy?
How could Italian RMAs get a **professional recognition**?



Need to increase awareness and stimulate the potential of the profession in Italy

OBJECTIVE

Working group of RMAs
from 12 universities
(2020-21)



**A professional development
framework for RMAs in Italy**

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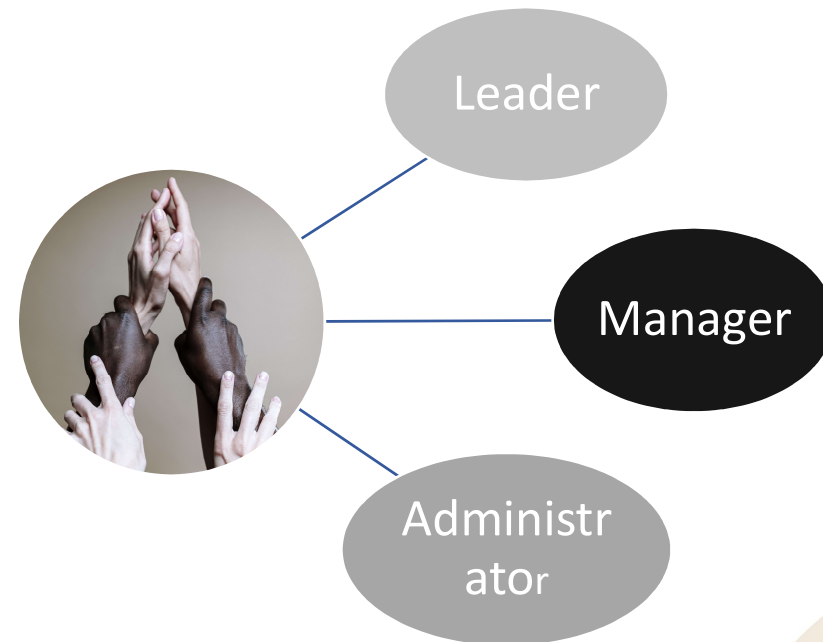
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PHASE 0

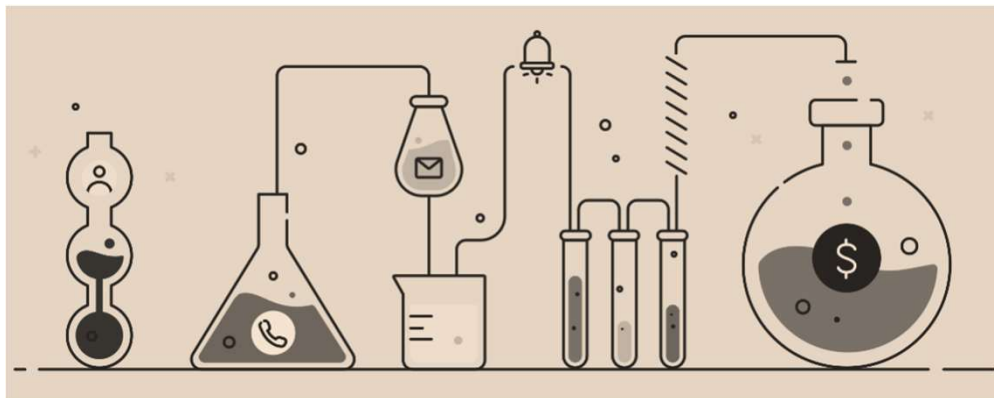
DEFINITION OF RMA

- Supports funded research
- Works in:
 - universities
 - research institutions
 - other public bodies
 - foundations



PHASE 1

Mapping of existing **professional development frameworks** worldwide



➤ **Comparison among RMA associations worldwide:**

- 22 RMAs associations
- BESTPRAC

Website analysis/Interviews by e-mail

➤ **OUTPUT:** A benchmarking table

PHASE 1: OUTPUT

NAME AND COUNTRY	SCOPE	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK	PROFESSIONAL LEVEL(S)	TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION RECOGNITION	WEBSITE
ARMA (UK)	Founded in 1991, has over 3,000 individual members from around 250 organizations, ranging from Universities and Funding Bodies to the National Health Service and independent Research Institutions.	Yes, available on the website https://arma.ac.uk/professional-development/	Three professional levels.	Two certificates (Foundation and Advanced) accredited by Awards for Training and Higher Education (ATHE) https://arma.ac.uk/qualifications/ other than training events https://arma.ac.uk/events/	www.arma.ac.uk
ARMA-NL (the Netherlands)	Founded in 2018, following 10 years' activity as an information network. It includes professionals active in advice, management and administration of international as well as national financed research, innovation and education projects.	Under development.	Not yet available.	ARMA-NL is developing a program of certified training courses and workshops.	www.armanl.nl/web
ARMS (Australia, New Zealand and Singapore)	Founded in 1999, involves more than 3,000 members from universities, independent research institutions, government and health and research institutions.	Yes, available on the website https://www.researchmanagement.org.au/professional-development	Three levels for knowledge enhancement.	Two accreditation programs (Foundation and Advanced) https://www.researchmanagement.org.au/advanced-level-accreditation-program-opportunities-still-available-join-2020-cohort	www.researchmanagement.org.au
CARA-ACAAR (Canada)	Provides a critical interface between all stakeholders in the management of the research enterprise. Has more than 1,000 members.	Not Formally defined.	Not Formally defined.	Two programmes (fellowship and mentorship) and one certificate in Research Administration in partnership with Mohawk College. Another certificate in progress https://cara-acaar.ca/Programs/ProfessionalCertification	www.cara-acaar.ca
DARMA (Denmark)	Open to individuals working as research and development (R&D) managers or administrators, from all kinds of employers—universities, colleges, research institutes, hospitals, museums, companies, funders, agencies or any organisation engaged in scientific research.	Not formally defined.	Not formally defined.	DARMA organizes workshops, webinars, and courses.	www.darma.dk

- ✓NAME AND COUNTRY
- ✓SCOPE
- ✓PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
- ✓PROFESSIONAL LEVEL
- ✓TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION
- ✓WEB SITE

PHASE 1: OUTPUT

Three professional levels

Associations organise **training courses for their members**

4 professional development frameworks

Courses open to RMAs in **different institutions**

1 European professional framework

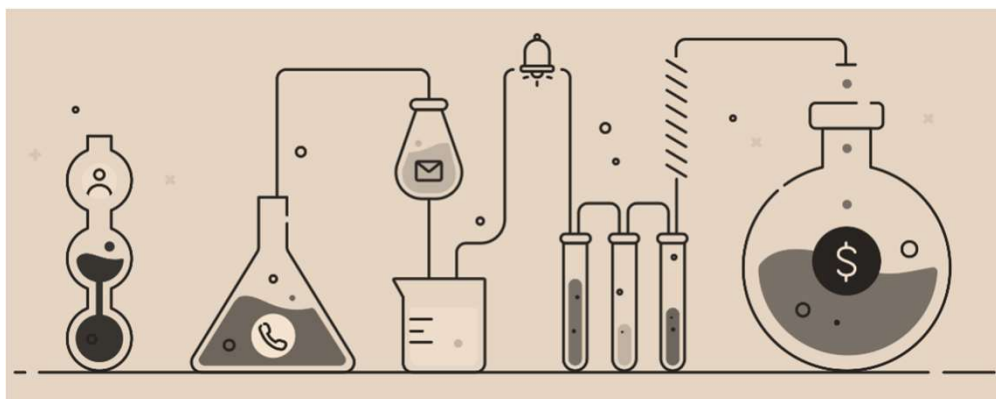
Training courses on **national funding opportunities**

Different level of Accreditation/ Recognition in each country

Trainers **selected through calls**

PHASE 2

Survey among Italian RMAs



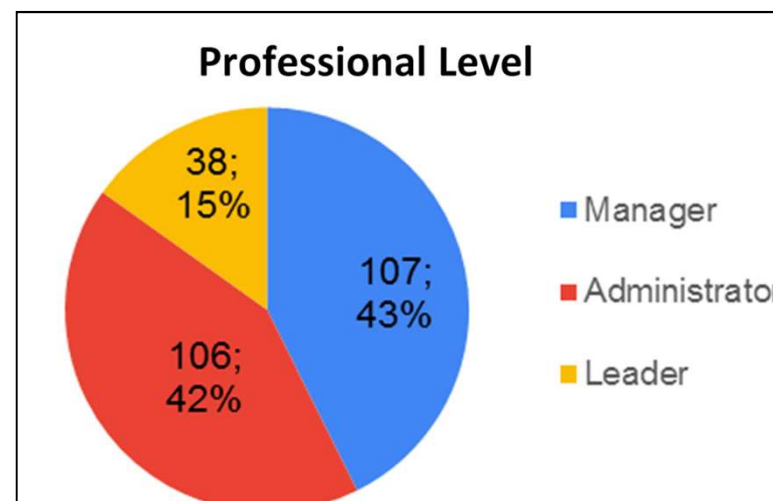
- ✓RMAs Activities
- ✓Training experience
- ✓Training needs

➤ **OUTPUT:** Analysis of 259 responses

PHASE 2: OUTPUT

PART A: RMA ACTIVITIES

- up to **15 years' experience** as RMA
- focus on the **Pre-award and Post-award** phase
- networking, lobbying, negotiation, training, IT, RRI **not evenly distributed** and related to 15% - 50% of the sample



PHASE 2: OUTPUT

PART B: TRAINING EXPERIENCE



- **not particularly involved** in training activities **as trainers** (30%)
- **85% attended PCM training** courses in the last 5 years
- over 90% did receive a certificate of participation, **without formal recognition** by the Italian authorities and **without professional accreditation**

PART C: TRAINING NEEDS

Hard Skills

- project management
- update on national and international context and new legislation
- scientific background not needed

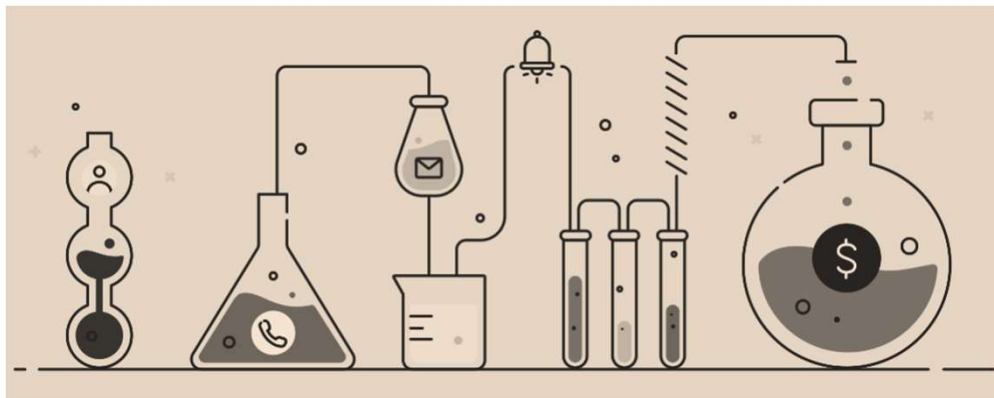
Soft Skills

- decision making
- problem solving
- communication skills
- flexibility and adaptability



PHASE 3

Creation of the Professional development framework



- ✓ Macro Areas
- ✓ Tasks
- ✓ Skills & competences

➤ **OUTPUT:** Professional development framework table

PHASE 3: OUTPUT

1. ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF THE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SERVICE

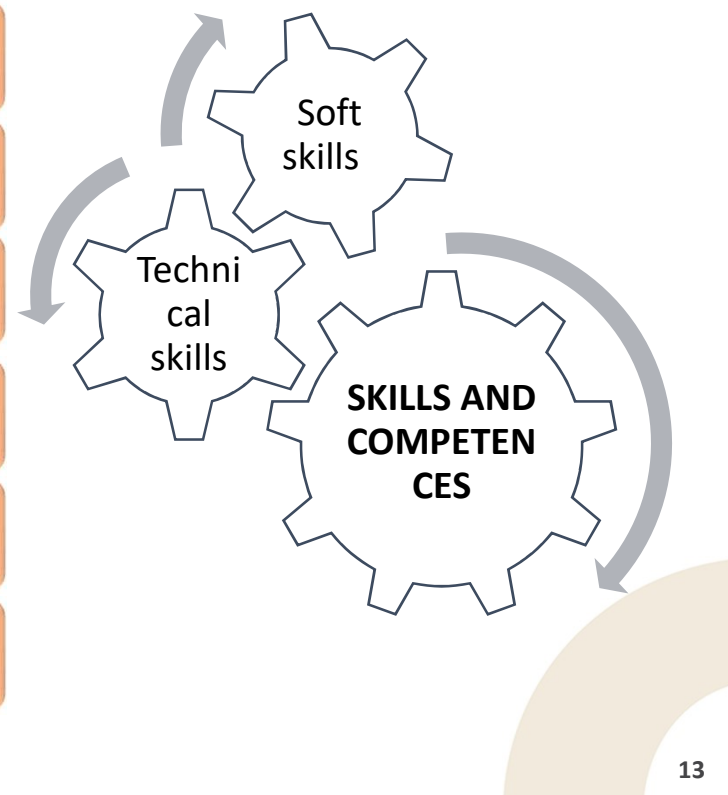
2. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

3. PRE-AWARD PHASE: PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATIONS, FUND RAISING, RESEARCH PLANNING

4. POST-AWARD PHASE: MANAGEMENT OF FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

5. OPEN AND CITIZENS SCIENCE

6. EVALUATION OF RESEARCH



WHAT'S NEXT?

The Italian working group is now permanent.



Since 2021 has new members.

Some of them are members of European University Alliances where the creation of networks of RMAs is foreseen.



University of Padua (ARQUS)
La Sapienza University of Rome (CIVIS)
University Bocconi (CIVICA)
University of Trento (ECIU)
Univeristy of Catania (EUNICE)
University of Florence (EUNIWELL)
University of Milano Statale(4EU+)
University of Turin (UNITA)
Politecnico di Torino (UNITE!)
University of Rome Tor Vergata (YUFE)

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Thank you

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WG members: University of Ferrara (Adele Del Bello), University of Firenze (Laura Moretti), University of Milano Statale (Bruno Zampaglione, Mariella D'Alessio), University of Padua (Francesca Mura), University of Pisa (Michele Padrone), La Sapienza University of Rome, (Fausta Zurlo), University of "Roma Tor Vergata" (Danilo Aceto Zumbo), University of Siena (Donata Franzì), University of Torino (Chiara Abrescia, Carmen Fiore, Bianca Gai), Politecnico di Torino (Silvia Infusino, Maria Crea), University of Verona (Daniela Grisi), University of Trento (Mirella Collini), Politecnica delle Marche (Marco Berzano), IULM (Stefano Florio), University Bocconi (Claudia Piccioni, Francesca Fazio), University of Catania (Teresa Caltabiano), INGV (Valentina Tegas)

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