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**The ReMaT project finished
in December 2008 - but lives
on as a popular workshop
for early career researchers**

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Development

ReMaT is the product of the observation that early stage researchers need to develop complementary skills aside from their specialist knowledge. With funding support from the European Commission's Framework 6 Programme, a carefully crafted workshop was developed in consultation with focus groups comprising of experienced as well as early-stage researchers, senior industrial research managers, entrepreneurs and PhD programme directors. The project to develop the ReMaT workshop provided an opportunity to pilot the concept at various locations in Europe with both participants and external observers providing feedback. The success of ReMaT can be attributed to intensive stakeholder consultation across Europe and the willingness of faculty and students to participate in this process in the formation of the package.

The overarching goal of the project was to encourage demand for integrating research management training measures as an essential part of doctoral education by showing how this can be done in an effective pragmatic manner, without taking too much time away from research itself. This need has been identified by the [European Universities Association](#) in their study on European Doctoral Education [DOC-CAREERS](#).

ReMaT was piloted in:

- Rudger Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia – November 2007
- Université Sabatier Faculty of Medicine, Toulouse, France – February 2008
- Central European University, Budapest, Hungary – April 2008
- Karolinska Institute Stockholm, Sweden – June 2008
- Tutech Innovation Hamburg, Germany - December 2008

As a culmination of the project a conference to share experiences was held in December 2008. The conference "**Today's Research Training - does it meet tomorrow's needs?**" provided a forum to :

- discuss the concept of the knowledge triangle of education - research - innovation to develop novel approaches towards doctoral education
- examine the role that complementary skills training plays in enhancing the flexibility, open-mindedness and employability of young PhD graduates
- exchange best practice and develop new strategies for taking up complementary skills training as an integral part of doctoral education

Representatives of academia, business, the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders, all of whom have an interest in improving PhD education in Europe, participated.

Now a decade post completion of the project, ReMaT has established itself as a much sought after training opportunity booked by individuals and graduate schools showing that this goal was met. Many hundreds of participants to date from well over 40 institutions, and from a multitude of disciplines and nationalities have attended the workshop. ReMaT is offered on a cost covering basis as an open course, or hosted by universities or research institutes to provide wider access to high quality complementary skills training for all early stage researchers. It is marketed through Tutech Academy.

Original Partners:



Brussels Office of the Hermann von Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres. The Helmholtz Association, with its 18 research centres, is Germany's largest research organisation. www.helmholtz.de



TUTECH INNOVATION GMBH is owned jointly by Hamburg University of Technology and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg with the mission of promoting effective transfer and exploitation of scientific and technical knowledge. tutech.de



Based at Oxford University's Saïd Business School, the Oxford Science Enterprise Centre [OxSEC] (now: Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation) encourages entrepreneurship in the University's science and technology communities.

www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/centres/entrepreneurship

Concept

The aim of ReMaT was to deliver hands-on practical training in key topics relating to research management in an intensive, yet effective workshop without it being too time consuming. It is delivered over two days. ReMaT is tailored to meet the needs of early career researchers especially from the 2nd year of PhD studies onwards, but is also suitable for others involved in research, or in directing research. There is a strong emphasis on European networking: we encourage participation from many different countries and disciplines.

ReMaT aims to give participants:

- an understanding of the different contexts in which research operates - from academia to industry, from fundamental to applied research
- an awareness of the skills needed to manage international, multi-disciplinary research projects
- knowledge of how to apply for research funding, from European sources and from private-sector funding bodies
- a foundation in the specific skills needed to fund, manage, disseminate and commercially exploit scientific research as a researcher
- opportunities for international networking

ReMaT is designed as a package comprising of 5 modules of presentation and exercises, plus a networking event and career development advice. It delivers a high level of practical skills training and understanding of the context in which research funding operates with plenty of opportunity to ask questions and for discussion. The modules are:

- **Module I:** Contexts of modern research and careers open to researchers
How can I perform successfully in different research environments and enhance my employability?
 - Varying roles of the researcher in the knowledge-based economy
 - Identifying key transferable skills and knowledge beyond the scientific field
 - Identifying my own personal situation and career goals
- **Module II:** Managing interdisciplinary research projects
What does it mean to work on collaborative research projects with diverse types of organisations and goals?
 - Understanding the different perspectives of project partners
 - Key challenges in managing collaborative projects
- **Module III:** Invention, innovation and the law
How can I exploit the results of my research?
 - Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) definition and policies, publishing versus patenting
 - Identifying my own IPR interests and those of my partners
 - Making use of a patent exploitation office

- **Module IV:** Acquiring research grants in a European context
How and where can I apply for research funding in Europe?
 - Overview of funding systems in different EU countries
 - Grant funding processes
 - Building a consortium of project partners
- **Module V:** Realising potential – exploiting research and technology
What is technology transfer and how can I use it to commercialise my research?
 - What are the options?
 - Entrepreneurial academics
 - Raising funds to commercialise research

The ability to network is also seen as being a fundamental skill in today's competitive world, particularly the ability to quickly establish relationships with people coming from different disciplines and countries. A networking evening is organised between the first and second day. Important too is the chance to reflect on career options. The format also includes a speaker giving their career path starting from a PhD to show how an alternative career to one in research may develop.

ReMaT today

ReMaT has stood the test of time. The workshops are conducted in a way very similar to the original concept because the feedback continues to be exceptionally good. Today, ReMaT is presented by two internationally experienced trainers from very varied backgrounds. ReMaT is given in English.

Institutions interested in hosting a ReMaT workshop are invited to email their interest to [Tutech Academy](#).

The recommended approach for a hosted workshop is to offer half the 25 places internally and the other half externally to get a broad range of participants. It can also be offered in-house as part of a PhD complementary skills programme.

Download

[ReMaT Final Report 2009 \(PDF\)](#)

[ReMaT Evaluation Feedback 2009 \(PDF\)](#)