



The EXPER Summer School in Gran Canaria!

Open Science and Writing Successful Projects for Excellent Research and Disruptive Innovation: Horizon Europe 2021-2027, ERC (European Research Council) & EIC (European Innovation Council).

Save the date! July 17th – 19th 2024



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JOIN THE EXPER SUMMER SCHOOL IN GRAN CANARIA!

Join us for the EXPER Summer School in Gran Canaria from July 17 to July 19, 2024, at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC). This immersive experience, part of the Excellent Peripheries for a Strong European Research Area (EXPER) project, focuses on promoting excellent and responsible research at ULPGC and the University of the Azores (UAc).

WHAT TO EXPECT?

The summer school programme aims to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of research management, encompassing essential cross-cutting competencies. The curriculum delves into open science practices, fostering a collaborative environment that empowers participants to strategically leverage funding opportunities offered by the Horizon Europe (HE) programme, European Research Council (ERC), and European Innovation Council (EIC).

AREAS OF TRAINING: BOOSTING PROPOSAL WRITING SKILLS

Designed to cultivate project development through group work, the programme will enable participants to collaboratively refine initial project ideas and explore avenues for further development. Three crucial areas of training and expertise will be addressed during the summer school:

1st Training Area (Day 1): Focus will be on writing **successful proposals for the HE 2021-2027 Programme**, aligning proposals with European Commission priorities, and developing writing skills to define objectives and outcomes. Additionally, it will teach participants to understand the European Commission's evaluation criteria to create a solid business plan, thereby maximizing the chances of securing funding and promoting Excellent Research at Widening Universities like ULPGC and UAc.

2nd Training Area (Day 2): The ERC provides funding to outstanding researchers for high-risk projects, assessing them based on scientific excellence. We will focus on **ERC Grants** to enhance our researchers' chances in these calls by identifying winning projects, setting ambitious objectives, and presenting innovative scientific approaches. Additionally, the concept of **Open Science** will be explored, where attendees will learn about **Curriculum Evaluation** for their research activities, crucial for their accreditation and promotion as university professors, with a specific focus on the ANECA programme, including the **evaluation of research and transfer six-year periods**.

3rd Training Area (Day 3): Are you leading a Startup or a Spin-off? If this is your case, this will undoubtedly be your day. We will focus on the **EIC**, highlighting its relevance for Startups and Spin-offs. This program promotes disruptive and deeptech innovation, with global scaling potential through its **funding instruments: EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition and EIC Accelerator**. Additionally, the **EU Widening Programme** will be

presented, aimed at reducing the gap in research and innovation between different European countries, including the outermost regions.

BEYOND PROPOSAL WRITING

Participants will actively engage in a practical proposal writing workshop, focusing on Horizon Europe projects such as Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) and Innovation Actions (IA). The workshop will involve international and multidisciplinary stakeholders, fostering collaboration between academia and local industries to address global challenges like climate change adaptation, ocean and water restoration (EU Missions), resilience in ultraperipheral regions, and leveraging EU funds for economic growth.

Ultimately, participants will benefit from expert presentations, interactive workshops, and the participation of representatives from local companies, providing comprehensive insights into research management and effective knowledge transfer to society.

WHAT IS IN THE HORIZON OF THIS EVENT?

Day 1—17th July: Short introductory presentations. Working Groups for Successful proposals under HE Calls

On the first day, participants will engage in short talks covering institutional presentations, transformation strategies, action plans, and EXPER Societal Challenge Working Groups focused on EU missions. Additionally, the day will feature sessions on Horizon Europe project development methodologies, impact assessment, and practical exercises in outlining project proposals based on open calls. Participants will work collaboratively in groups aligned with their areas of interest, ensuring networking among participants.

OUR SPEAKERS:



Sebastián López Suárez - ULPGC

Sebastián López is Vice-rector for Research & Transfer of the ULPGC, and previously held the position of Director of Innovation & Transfer of the ULPGC.

Lucía Dobarro – Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias



Mrs. Lucía Dobarro holds a degree in Electronics' Engineering and an MBA. She is head of section at ITC Innovation Department. She has experience in leading and participating in more than 30 EU projects in innovation, entrepreneurship, sharing economy, clusters, tourism sustainability and support to R&i. She supports Research and technology transfer services for SME in the Canary Islands, with an active role in the Enterprise Europe Network. She also works as intermediary organisation of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.

Leví Aday García - ULPGC



Dr. Leví Aday García Romero (Institute of Oceanography and Global Change, IOGAG, ULPGC) has a degree in Geography, an Expert in Geographic Information Systems (La Rábida Campus, International University of Andalusia) and a Master in Coastal Management (Faculty of Marine Sciences, ULPGC). Finally, he has a Doctorate in Oceanography and Global Change after completing his thesis titled "Biogeomorphological processes altered by anthropogenic activities in arid coastal aeolian sedimentary systems".

Joana Barcelos e Ramos – University of the Azores



Dra. Joana Barcelos e Ramos is an assistant investigator and sub-director of IITAA, UAc. Since 2003, JBR has been developing research about phytoplankton, completing her PhD in 2009 in natural sciences awarded by the Christian-Albrechts University of Kiel (Germany). She has published a total of 19 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, 2 book chapters, PI of 2 national and coordinator of an international project, and co-oriented with the PI a total of 4 students (total 20 students, 2 PhDs, 5 Masters). JBR has a current h-index of 12, and a total of 734+ citations (Scopus).

Manuel Amorim – Sustain Azores



Born and raised in São Miguel Island (Azores), Manuel is a landscape architect, graduated from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto and with a Permaculture Design Course. His master's thesis focused on the contribution to the defence and valorisation of a terraced vineyard landscape on the island of Santa Maria, highlighting its historical, social, economic, ecological, aesthetic and cultural values. His interest in systemic thinking led him to choose a career linked to sustainability, where in addition to designing green spaces based on aesthetics, functionality and nature-based solutions, he works with consultancy, is a trainer, and demonstrates compliance with the Do No Significant Harm Principle in projects financed by the European Union.

Rodrigo Riera – ULPGC



Dr. Rodrigo Riera holds a PhD in Biological Sciences specialized in Marine Biology, with an academic and professional trajectory forged in various national and international universities. He has worked in the private sector (marine environmental consultancy), from 2005 to 2018. He is an experienced researcher who has worked in 10 countries. His network of collaborators spans countries such as Australia, the USA, the Netherlands, Qatar, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal, and Chile, among others. He has been a Professor at the ULPGC since 2020.

Andrea Zita Costa – University of the Azores



Dra. Andrea Z. Botelho has a Degree in Biology, a Master in Nature Conservation and Management and a PhD in Marine Sciences – marine ecology (UAc). Her main research focus is Marine Sciences, Marine Ecology, and in particular Biodiversity and Conservation, Planning and Management. She has participated in international and national projects, with highlight for HORIZON projects.

Beatrice Avagnina – Consulta Europa



Beatrice Avagnina brings a strong combination of international relations and project management expertise. With a Master's degree in both international relations and European funding and project development, she has a proven track record of guiding innovation projects. Beatrice has proven experience in supporting deep-tech startups in bringing their technologies to market and has managed teams of project consultants. Her experience spans across various EU funding programmes, including Horizon, Erasmus+, Interreg, and the EIC Accelerator. At Consulta Europa, she works alongside CEO Michelle Perello to oversee strategic operations and manage the company's EU-funded projects.

Jelena H. Pantel – University of Franche-Comté (France)



Dr. Jelena H. Pantel is currently a Professor of Ecology at the University of Franche-Comté (France). Her research focuses on the impacts of rapid evolution and genetic variation for community and food web ecological processes, with a primary focus on theoretical and statistical modelling applied to the study of freshwater invertebrates. She has previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology in Montpellier (France), University of Leuven (Belgium), and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (United States) and received her graduate training at the University of Texas at Austin (United States).

Michelle Perello – Consulta Europa



Dr. Michelle Perello brings a unique blend of experience in international relations and social impact. After working with EU funds in Brussels, she founded Consulta Europa to connect the Canary Islands with Europe through EU-funded development projects. Her passion for sustainable growth led her to pursue a PhD in innovation, where she discovered a focus on social innovation and the potential for women to lead such initiatives. Dr. Perello's ongoing research and participation in European projects showcase her commitment to bridging the gap between social good and business.

Day 2—18th July: Capacity Building Training for Successful Proposals under ERC (European Research Council) Calls and Open Science Skills

The specialised day on ERC Grant Actions aims to train both established and emerging principal investigators to maximise their chances of success in ERC calls. Participants will learn the key elements of a winning ERC project, including the selection criteria and the specific focuses of different evaluation panels. The training will cover defining ambitious research objectives, ensuring the suitability of the scientific approach, and addressing high-risk and high-gain aspects. It will also provide essential guidance on proposal preparation, understanding the basic terminology, and aligning CVs with panel expectations. This practical session will examine concepts of novelty, innovation, and impact, offering a comprehensive approach to developing a competitive ERC proposal.

Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to learn about a success story regarding funding obtained through the European Research Council (ERC), thanks to the participation of a distinguished researcher from UPLGC as a speaker.

Lastly, but not least, during this session we will have a keynote presentation on Open Science. Attendees will learn about the Curriculum Assessment of their research activities, crucial for their accreditation and promotion as university professors. Special emphasis will be placed on cases from the ANECA programme and the evaluation of research and transfer six-year periods, key elements for analysing and assessing the merits and competences of professionals in academia and research.

OUR SPEAKERS:



David Alcántara Parra – SACSIS

Dr. David Alcántara, with over 19 years of research experience, is a strategic R&D and innovation consultant specializing in European funding programs such as FP7, Horizon 2020, and Horizon Europe. He has assisted over 200 researchers and companies, serves as an expert for the European Commission and the William Harvey International

Translational Research Academy, and has been a recipient of Fulbright and Marie Curie fellowships.



Jonathan Alberto Santana Cabrera – ULPGC

Dr. Jonathan Santana is a Permanent Labor Professor of the Research Group on Archaeology and Heritage (TARHA), Department of Historical Sciences, of the ULPGC. He is an archaeologist specialising in biological anthropology, biomolecular analysis in archaeology (stable isotopes), and island archaeology.



Ignacio Gárate Alarcón – ULPGC

Mr. Ignacio Gárate Alarcón is the Chief Librarian of the Research Support Unit at ULPGC University Library. He oversees functions including managing accedaCRIS, the institutional repository and Current Research Information System (CRIS) and contributes to training plans for academic staff and researchers. Additionally, he is part of the REBUIN (Nextwork of Spanish University Libraries) Work Group on Repositories, which is associated with the Crue I+D+I Sectorial Commission, as well as the Bibliometrics Unit of the ULPGC.

Day 3—19th July: EIC (European Innovation Council), new skills for an Excellent Innovation and Technology Transfer framework in Outermost regions & Widening Pillar

This training session will focus on the European Innovation Council (EIC), the EU flagship programme for SMEs, start-ups, and spin-offs, which promotes breakthrough innovation with scale-up potential at the global level. In detail, the EIC mainly focuses on breakthrough, deeptech, and disruptive innovation, targeting especially market-creating innovation. To learn more about the funding opportunities the programme offers, this session will address the three main funding instruments: EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition, and EIC Accelerator.

Wooptix is a technology-based company born in the heart of the University of La Laguna (Tenerife), being a leader in imaging technology with a unique patent that measures and is able to process the entire light spectrum. Within the framework of the European Union's EIC Accelerator programme, it will be presented as a success story having passed the evaluation process of this programme, through which it has received a grant of 2.5 M€. During our summer school, the company's project manager, Roberto Pangallo, will present the company and its project, as well as its experience in obtaining funding through high competitive EU calls, such as the EIC Accelerator programme.

Finally, the Widening Programme will also be addressed, an EU initiative that aims to reduce the research and innovation (R&I) gap among lower-performing countries. It seeks to harmonise R&I capacities across Europe. Besides funding, it focuses on improving infrastructure, fostering a high-quality research environment, and promoting researcher mobility to counteract brain drain and distribute knowledge more equitably across Europe.

OUR SPEAKERS:

Isabel Vinagre – SILO Science & Innovation Link



Mrs. Isabel Vinagre is a Senior Manager at the Science Innovation Link Office (SILO) with over 15 years of expertise in public fundraising. She specializes in developing R&D projects for the European Framework Programme, focusing on Information and Communication Technologies, space, energy, security, and the environment, having managed over 40 funded projects. Isabel also serves as an expert evaluator for the European Commission (Horizon Europe), leveraging a strategic vision from her extensive consultancy

and multinational experience in telecommunications and digital transformation.

Roberto Pangallo – WOOPTIX Project Manager



Mr. Roberto Pangallo holds an Executive MBA. Experienced Research & Development Team Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the information technology and services industry related to Automotive and Aerospace fields. Strong program and project management professional skilled. Coordinator of interdisciplinary mechatronics areas (70+ engineers) from procurement to technical R&D to manufacturing in order to meet goals in terms of cost, quality, timing and team commitment. In December 2020 he starts his career as WOOPTIX Project manager.

Anselmo Sosa – Widening NCP



Mr. Anselmo Sosa Méndez is the Head of the Technology Transfer and Institutional Actions Office at the Canary Islands Institute of Astrophysics (IAC). He is currently an NCP and WIDENING expert for Horizon Europe and participates in the working groups of the 'R&I and Cohesion Managing Authorities (RIMA) Network within the framework of the ERA Forum. He has over 20 years of experience in securing funding and managing European projects, and currently supervise four widening projects granted to the IAC.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Researchers, companies, and entities experienced in or interested in European projects' calls
- R&I promotion agents

VENUE AND REGISTRATION

The venue of the EXPER Summer School is at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) campus at the premises of the Edificio NEXO, Campus de Tafira, 35017, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. The language of the event will be English.

Throughout the event, coffee and lunch breaks will facilitate networking opportunities, foster connections among participants, and encourage informal discussions that complement the structured agenda.

[**Check the agenda**](#)

[**Register here**](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to advance your knowledge and skills in research and innovation proposal writing while networking with peers and industry experts.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Attendees with 75% participation in the summer school sessions will receive a certificate.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Excellent Peripheries for a Strong European Research Area

www.exper-project.eu



EXPER is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) financed by Horizon Europe. It aims to transform two universities from the EU's Outermost Regions: the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain) and the University of the Azores (Azores, Portugal). Both universities will learn through capacity building and international cooperation from the leading universities of Rostock (Germany) and Calabria (Italy).



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