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## **Report on the “2025 APRE Joint Training” Initiative**

As part of the annual services provided by **APRE (Agency for the Promotion of European Research)** included in the membership fee paid by its affiliates, there are **2 training courses** aimed at initiating or consolidating knowledge of funding opportunities, as well as skills related to the drafting and management of research projects within the European Commission's Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

The courses are reserved for teaching staff, researchers, post-docs, PhD students and technical-administrative staff involved in research support activities belonging to the member institution.

At the beginning of 2025, the research offices of the five Tuscan Universities affiliated with APRE (University of Siena, University of Pisa, University of Florence, Scuola Normale Superiore, and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna) have launched a **pilot initiative** aimed at **systematizing** this opportunity. This was achieved by negotiating the possibility with APRE and jointly agreeing on a **single calendar of 10 training courses** open to their respective academic communities.

The choice of topics to be addressed and their scheduling took into account the identified training needs, the broad coverage of diverse and complementary aspects and the timelines of the funding calls under review. In practice, the activities have begun as early as late March, on average one course per month until December, with a break only during the month of August.

A predominantly online delivery mode was chosen. In only one instance—specifically at the request of our University and thanks to the availability of the APRE trainer—a hybrid format was adopted: 3 hours of the course held both in-person and online, followed by 2 hours of an in-person workshop.



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Here follows the courses program delivered during 2025:

27-Mar	<a href="#">How to maximize the impact of a collaborative proposal in Horizon Europe</a>	UNIPI	ONLINE
02-Apr	<a href="#">Project Management: how to manage an Horizon Europe project</a>	UNISI	IN PERSON/ online
09-Apr	<a href="#">How to write a Marie-Sklodowska Curie proposal Actions: Postdoctoral Fellowships</a>	SNS	ONLINE
19-May	<a href="#">Funding opportunities in the Health sector: CL1, Mission Cancer, European Partnership</a>	UNIFI	ONLINE
11-Jun	<a href="#">How to write an ERC Starting proposal</a>	SNS	ONLINE
25-Jun	<a href="#">How to write a Marie-Sklodowska Curie proposal Actions Doctoral Networks</a>	SSSA	ONLINE
15-Jul	<a href="#">How to write an ERC Consolidator proposal</a>	SSSA	ONLINE
11-Sept	<a href="#">Open Science and Data Management in Horizon Europe</a>	UNIFI	ONLINE
14-Oct	<a href="#">The Consortium Agreement and overview on Intellectual Property</a>	UNISI	ONLINE
03-Dec	<a href="#">The Pillar 2 in Horizon Europe</a>	UNIPI	ONLINE

All courses have been disseminated within the five Universities through the usual channels and tools:



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- mailing lists with targeted information for both the initial launch campaign and in conjunction with single events
- websites (for Unisi, see <https://research.unisi.it/corsi-apre-2025/>)
- Intranet, if available
- use of an ad-hoc bill created by the communication department of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
- involvement of the respective Committees and research representatives
- involvement of the training support structures



Besides, within our University, regarding the technical and administrative staff targeted by these interventions, an additional step was taken to integrate and enhance these training paths: thanks to the support of governance and synergies among the offices involved, the two courses selected by the University of Siena were included in the PAF (Annual Training Plan) list. About the remaining eight courses in the catalogue, employees were given the opportunity to individually request attendance as "external courses," effectively granting them full recognition and including them in the annual count of mandatory training requirements.



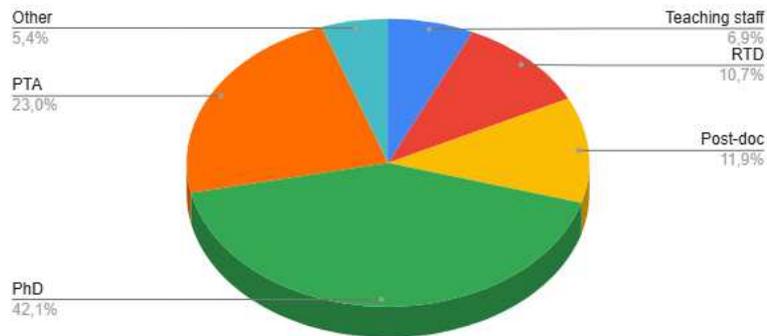
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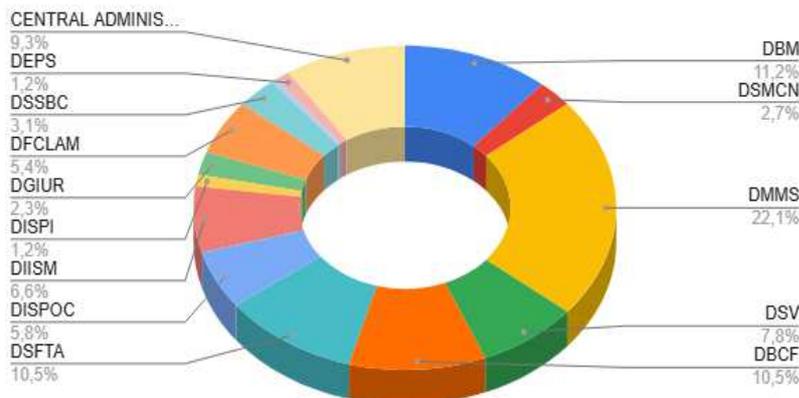
All of this has made it possible to expand both the training offer related to European fundings and the participants' number and type compared to previous initiatives<sup>1</sup>. No fewer than 261 UNISI participants, including teaching staff, administrative personnel, research fellows, and PhD students were able to benefit from this opportunity.

The challenge for next year is certainly to continue increasing these numbers, focusing on the diversification of the topics covered and on the ability to engage those members of the academic community who are traditionally less inclined toward this type of technical training.

UNISI participants' profile



UNISI participants' affiliation



<sup>1</sup> In 2023 UNISI participants in the two annual APRE courses were in total 104, in 2024 they were 89.



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### **Participants in the APRE-TUSCAN UNIVERSITIES JOINT TRAINING courses - year 2025**

