

ERC and national support measures for researchers in Poland

How do academic institutions support ERC
applicants and grantees? Best practices
from the University of Warsaw

Diana Pustuła
Head
Office for International Research and Liaison
4EU+ Local Office

Warsaw, 28.09.2023





UW – FACTS AND FIGURES



- The University of Warsaw was founded in 1816 – comprehensive, research-intensive, European University – member of  **EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE**
- 36.3 thousand students and 1.9 thousand PhD students + 1.2 thousand post-graduate students
- 8 thousand employees of whom over 4 thousand academic staff
- 25 departments, 30 extra-departmental academic and research units
- Research stations abroad, e.g. archeological station in Cairo
- 800 international partners
- University graduates have won 6 Nobel Prize awards:
 - Nobel Prize in Literature: Henryk Sienkiewicz, Czesław Miłosz, Olga Tokarczuk,
 - Nobel Peace Prize: Menachem Begin, Joseph Rotblat
 - Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences: Leonid Hurwicz

UW – UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH

- 3 500 research topics
in the fields of the humanities, social, exact and natural sciences, as well as numerous interdisciplinary studies, including subjects in medical or technical sciences
- 1 600 projects
financed by national or international research programmes, funds and organisations
- over 7000 publications/year
- over 400 international conferences/year



UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH IN THE ERA



- **Active participation in EU-funded research programmes** since FP5:
 - Over 120 H2020 projects and joint undertakings (over 40 mln euro, **12 ERC grants**)
 - Over 80 projects (co)financed from H2020 plus 19 COST actions
 - Over 90 projects in Horizon Europe so far, including **9 ERC grants** and 33 EIT projects in 4 KICs: Food, Climate, Health and Raw Materials (30 mln euro) – ca. **65% of H2020 budget in 2 years**



- **Strategic partnerships** with:



(Sorbonne, Heidelberg, Charles, Copenhagen, Milan, Geneva, Paris-Panthéon-Assas)

- **LERU - CE7 Platform** (Warsaw, Belgrade, ELTE, Ljubljana, Prague, Tartu, Zagreb)
- **CELSA Research Fund** (Leuven, Warsaw, Cracow, Ljubljana, Budapest, Prague, Tartu)
- The University of Cambridge (Polish Studies Programme and research collaboration)
- The University of Oxford - Center of Excellence in quantum physics under International Research Agenda Programme (Centre of New Technologies of UW)
- **Eastern partnership University cLustER** (EULER FUND) with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia

Contributing to the ERA

- Support of excellent research at UW

Top-down:

- Building an **effective organizational and administrative base supporting researchers**
- **Synergic strategic programmes**
- Investment in research **infrastructure**
- Creation of new innovative and **interdisciplinary research units**, e.g. at **Campus OCHOTA** (Centre of New Technologies, Centre of Biological and Chemical Sciences), **DeLab**
- **Strategic partnerships**
- Strategy for implementation of the principles of the **European Charter and Code (HR Excellence in Research Award)**
- **Enhancement of international mobility**
- **Special internal Rector's/Vice Rector's grants and awards** for excellent researchers
- Other research **incentives and career opportunities incl. SoE**

Bottom-up:

- Pro-active, extensive and intensive, international research collaborations
- Finding excellent research niche, e.g. EIT Food
- Taking up the role of project coordinators



Digital Economy Lab



EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ALLIANCE



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



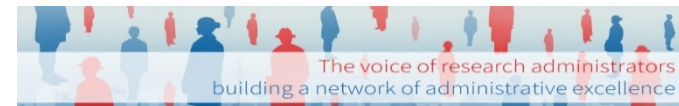
EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE
**RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY**





Support of excellent research at UW in phocus at Central level:

- Office for International Research and Liaison (OIRL)
 - Employs 10 persons (3 sections: 2+4+4)
 - Since 2000 till June 2018 operated as Section of RSO
 - Strategic research partnerships
 - Research policy and project management support (full project life-cycle)
 - Close cooperation with other University central offices and departments
 - Status of RCP „CENTRUM” EU RP since 2014 r. (**NCP Network**)
 - Participation in **COST** Programme, BESTRPRAC TN – **The Voice of Research Administrators. Building a Network of Administrative Excellence** (2013-2018), WG LEGAL Leader
 - Cooperation with **UNICA** (Chair of EURLO WG) and **EUA** (member of two WG)
 - On-line courses on applying for research grants for PhD students (3 editions); recognition under „PhD students-friendly University” programme
 - Development of principles of an on-line application supporting management of FP7 projects („PROBAD”)



Office for International Research and Liaison – scope of support

Scope of support

- Research policy and project management support (full project life-cycle)
- Close cooperation with other University central offices and departments

Project pre-award stage

- Active search for potential prestigious research grant applicants at UW
- Proposal writing support, training events and workshops,
- Individual consultations of proposals,
- Lol, NDA, pre-proposal agreements

Project award stage

- GA negotiations
- CA, PA negotiations
 - Financial, IPR, governance issues etc.

Project post-award stage

Grant management support at central administration level

- Rules for international research project implementation at UW
 - including rules of recruitment and employment, financial management, IPR issues
- Training services for proposal preparation & project management (PIs and faculty research administration)
- Liaison between PI and other University research supporting offices,
- Grant officer for each project – standing contact point for the PI & faculty administration (help-desk) etc.
- Monitoring of periodic reports, contracts amendments, support during financial audit



**ARE YOU
A RESEARCHER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW?**

**Are you looking for assistance in applying
for grants of the European Research Council
Research (ERC)?**

UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH

Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants



THE MISSION OF ERC

The Mission of ERC is to encourage the **highest quality research in Europe** through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, based on scientific excellence.



THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

The University of Warsaw - the host of **28 ERC grants** so far - is to **support its excellent scientists** to prepare and submit a high quality research proposals for **ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, Synergy and Proof of Concept Grants**, as a stepping stone to development of their successful research careers.

MULTILEVEL SUPPORT FOR ERC APPLICANTS

UW offers a multistep and multilevel support to its ERC grants applicants co-funded by the **Excellence Initiative-Research University programme (IDUB)**.





SUPPORT PROCESS FOR ERC APPLICANTS

1ST STEP OF THE CALL

PREPARATION OF A WRITTEN
PROPOSAL



2ND STEP OF THE CALL

PREPARATION TO INTERVIEW
WITH ERC PANEL MEMBERS



1ST STEP OF THE CALL

PREPARATION OF A WRITTEN PROPOSAL



- 1 Training events on ERC proposal preparation
- 2 Individual consultations of proposals
- 3 Peer-reviews by ERC panel members and ERC grant-holders from UW
- 4 Services of a graphic designer (infographics for part B1/B2 of the proposal), IDUB
- 5 Proofreading by a native speaker of English, IDUB
- 6 Administrative support, including budget calculation

2ND STEP OF THE CALL

PREPARATION TO INTERVIEW
WITH ERC PANEL MEMBERS



- 1 Meetings with ERC grant-holders sharing their experience and best practices
- 2 Consultations with an expert in scientific presentations
- 3 Services of communication experts in aesthetic/graphical features of presentations
- 4 Services of a graphic designer (project logo), IDUB
- 5 International mock-interviews with an access to the post-interview recording along with feedback from an expert on scientific presentations and a native speaker of English, IDUB
- 6 Consultations of oral presentations with a native speaker of English, IDUB
- 7 Professional recording studio to be used during the interview

**IF YOU ARE
NOT SURE...**



whether or not it is the best moment in your career to apply for ERC grant, **please contact us** first sharing your CV and scientific track-record for individual consultation.

We will clear up your doubts!

WHOM TO CONTACT?

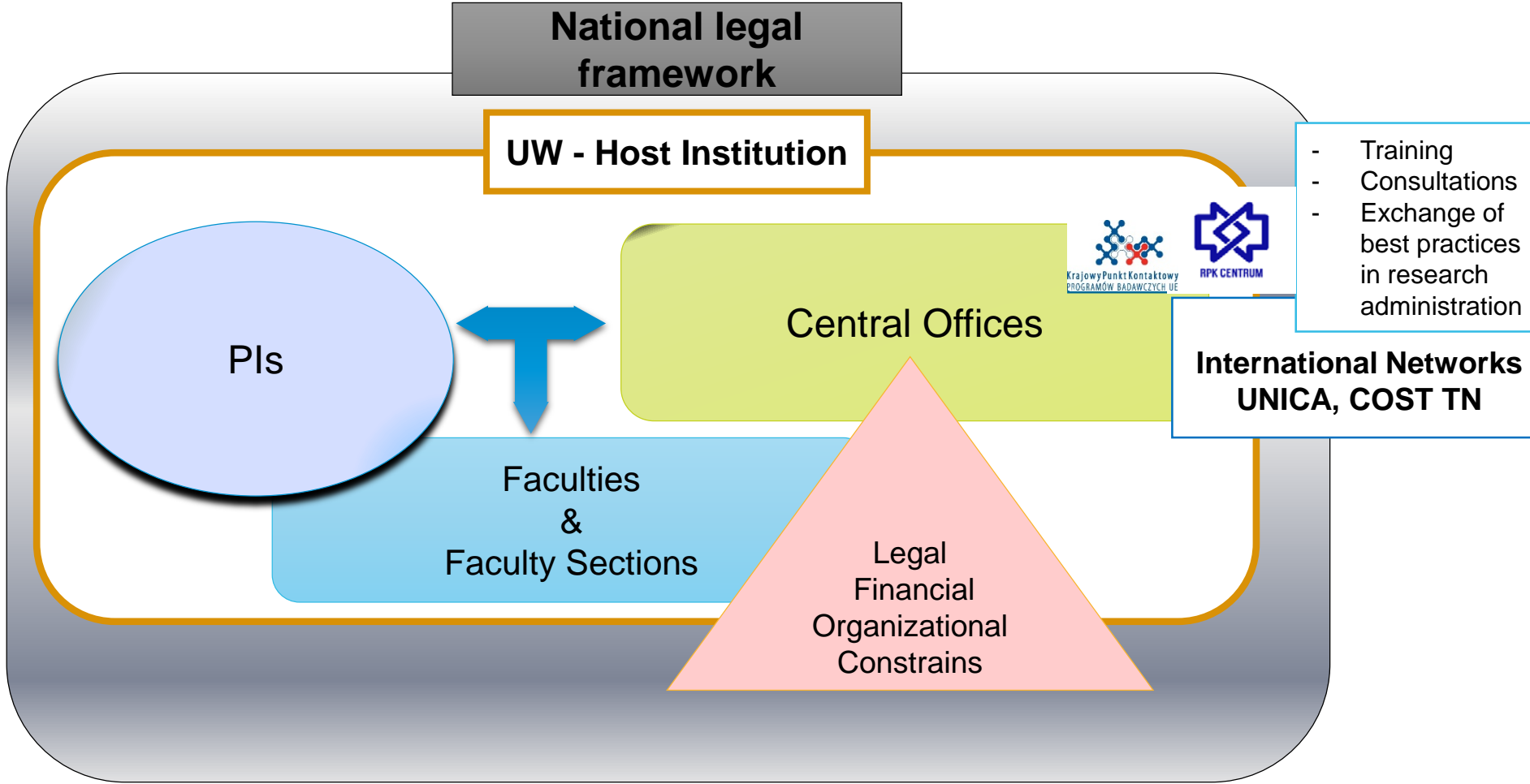
If you plan to submit an ERC proposal and would like to use any forms of the support offered by UW please contact the **UW's Office for International Research and Liaison** directly:

- **Diana Pustuła, M.A., LL.M.** – Head of the Office (Diana.Pustula@adm.uw.edu.pl, phone: 22-5524214),
- **Dr. Eng. Izabela Dranka** – Senior Specialist (Izabela.Dranka@adm.uw.edu.pl, phone: 22-5520743),
- **Anna Balcerzak, M.A.** – Senior Specialist (Anna.Balcerzak@adm.uw.edu.pl, phone: 22-5524210),



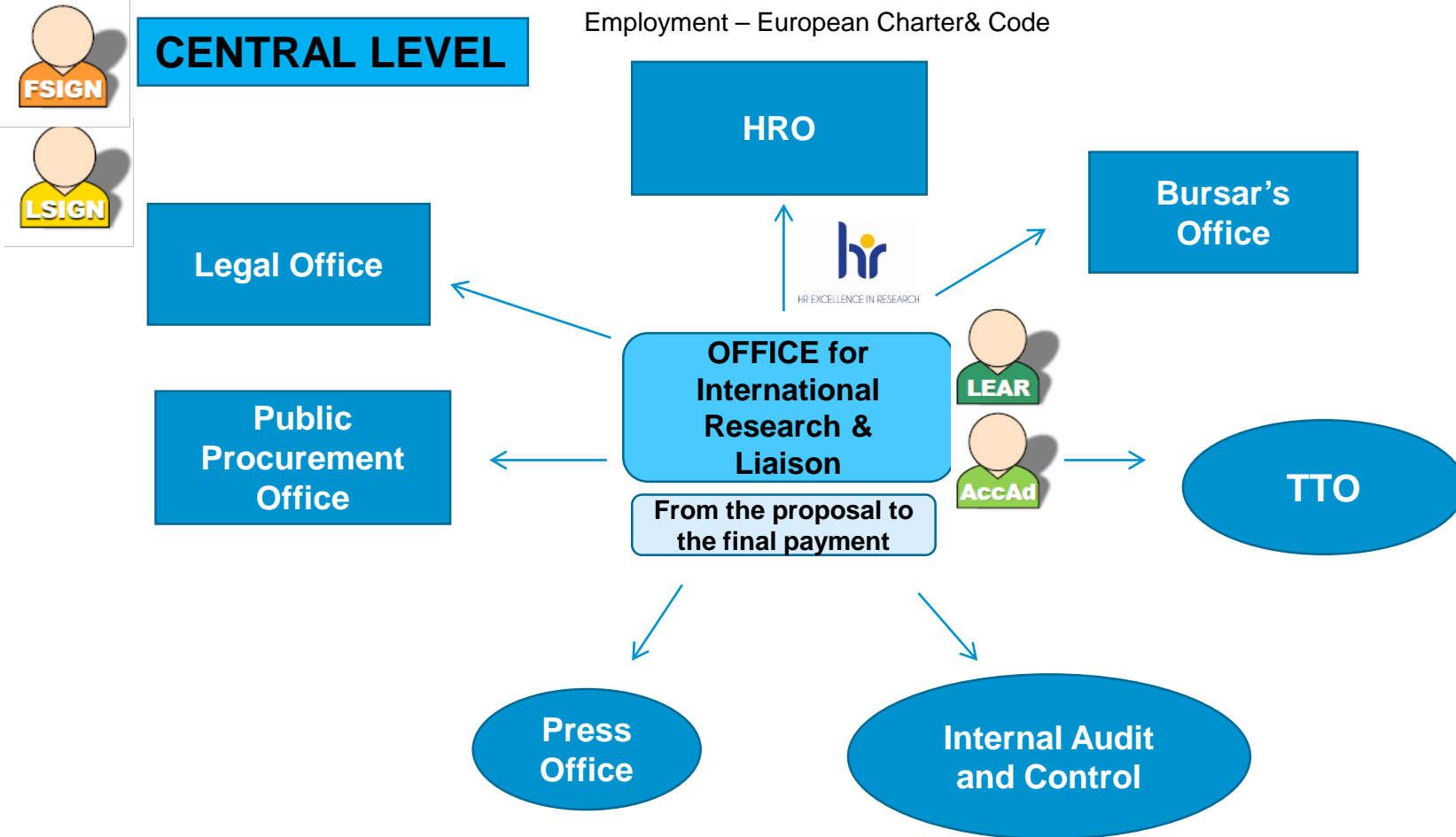
or **use an online form** for **1st** or **2nd** call step.

INTERACTIONS AMONG PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS – Internal & External Support



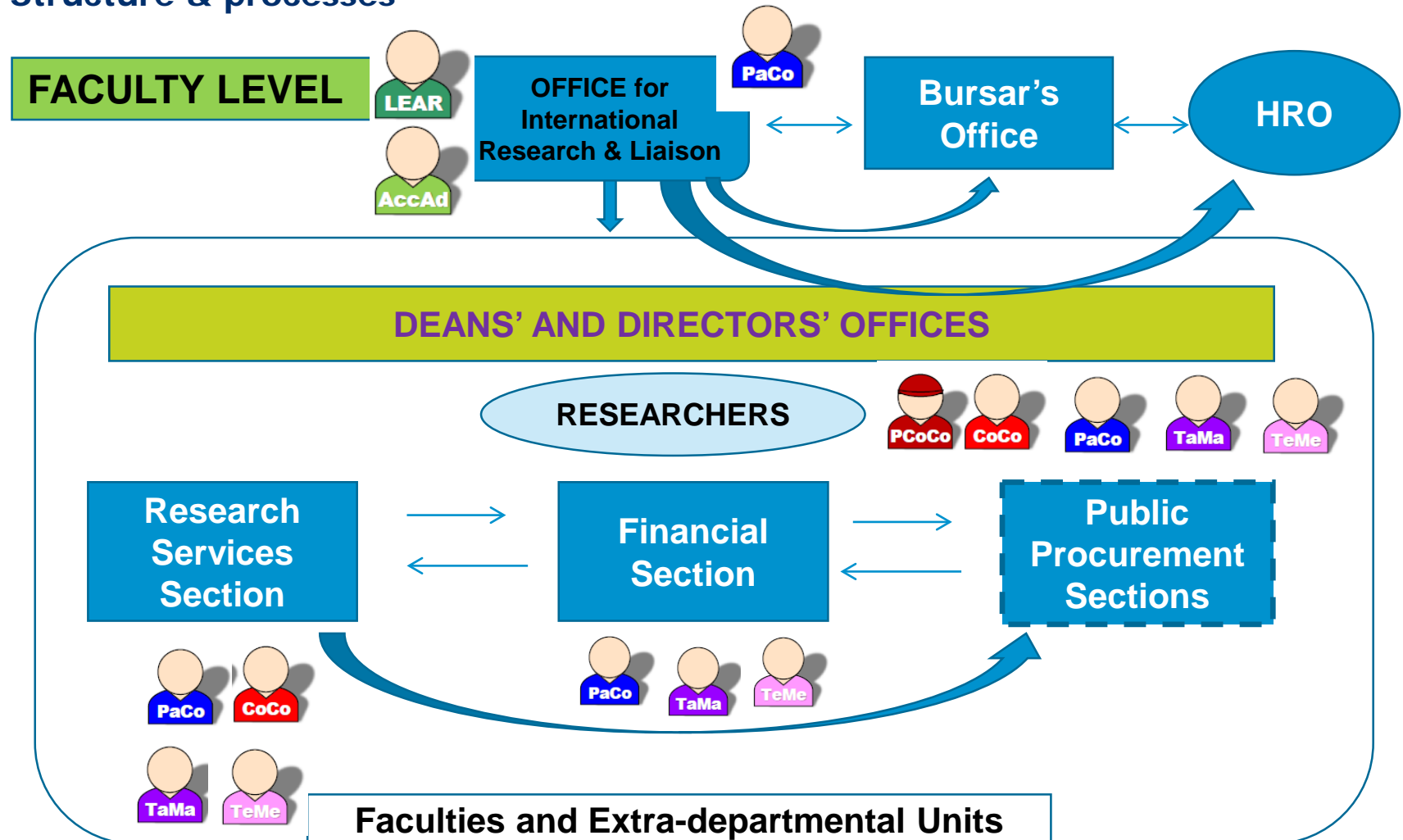
EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Structure & processes – Support of ERC grantees



ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Structure & processes





UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

**Thank you for
your attention!**