Summary of the Fourth Project Academy Session 28.03.2025

During today's Project Academy, Janika explained what to pay attention to when planning to form a consortium for a Horizon Europe proposal. She mentioned that all leaked work program documents are available at Science|Business Horizon Papers.

Janika also noted that although most calls seek positive, forward-looking solutions, it is important to review literature that presents alternative perspectives. As an example, she highlighted an article discussing the negative effects of digital technology on children's development and health, which can be found on ResearchGate.

Next, she emphasized that the majority of the funding usually goes toward salaries, making it crucial to understand the person-month (PM) rate. For instance, a PM rate of 5000 refers not only to the gross salary but also includes additional local taxes. The European Commission has prepared a dashboard displaying average PM rates—check it out here by clicking the "Access the dashboard" button. Janika advised that you should not pay above the 80th percentile without a convincing reason, and you should avoid agreeing to PM rates that are significantly lower than your institution's standard salary scale. If in doubt, consult your Grant Office to determine the "official PM rate for Lump Sum projects." Accepting a low PM rate means you will be doing more work for less money.
Last but not least, Janika presented a concise template she had recently compiled for contacting potential project partners. This template is designed to assess whether they have the capacity to contribute both to the project writing and the later implementation stages. She stressed that you should immediately request the names of 1-2 experts (along with their scholarly profiles and social media links) and ask for 1-3 topic-related articles or projects. Additionally, it is important to inquire about the institution's relevant infrastructure—such as laboratories, networks, and data sets.
Janika concluded the session by teasing the next Project Academy, where she will introduce essential concepts for project writing, such as deliverables, work packages, and milestones. Participants left feeling more confident and better prepared to navigate the complexities of forming a consortium for European research projects.

Consortium Partner Contribution Form

A. Expert Profile

Field	Details/Instructions
Expert Name(s)	Provide the name(s) of 1–2 experts.
Scholarly Profile(s)	Provide link(s) to the expert's scholarly profile (e.g., Google Scholar, ResearchGate, ORCID).
LinkedIn Profile(s)	Provide link(s) to the expert's LinkedIn account.
Relevant Projects	List 1–3 projects. Include project title, role, and a link (if available).
Relevant Articles/Publications	List 1–3 publications. Include title, publication/journal name, and link.
Person-Month Rate	Specify the rate for each expert (in EUR/person-month).

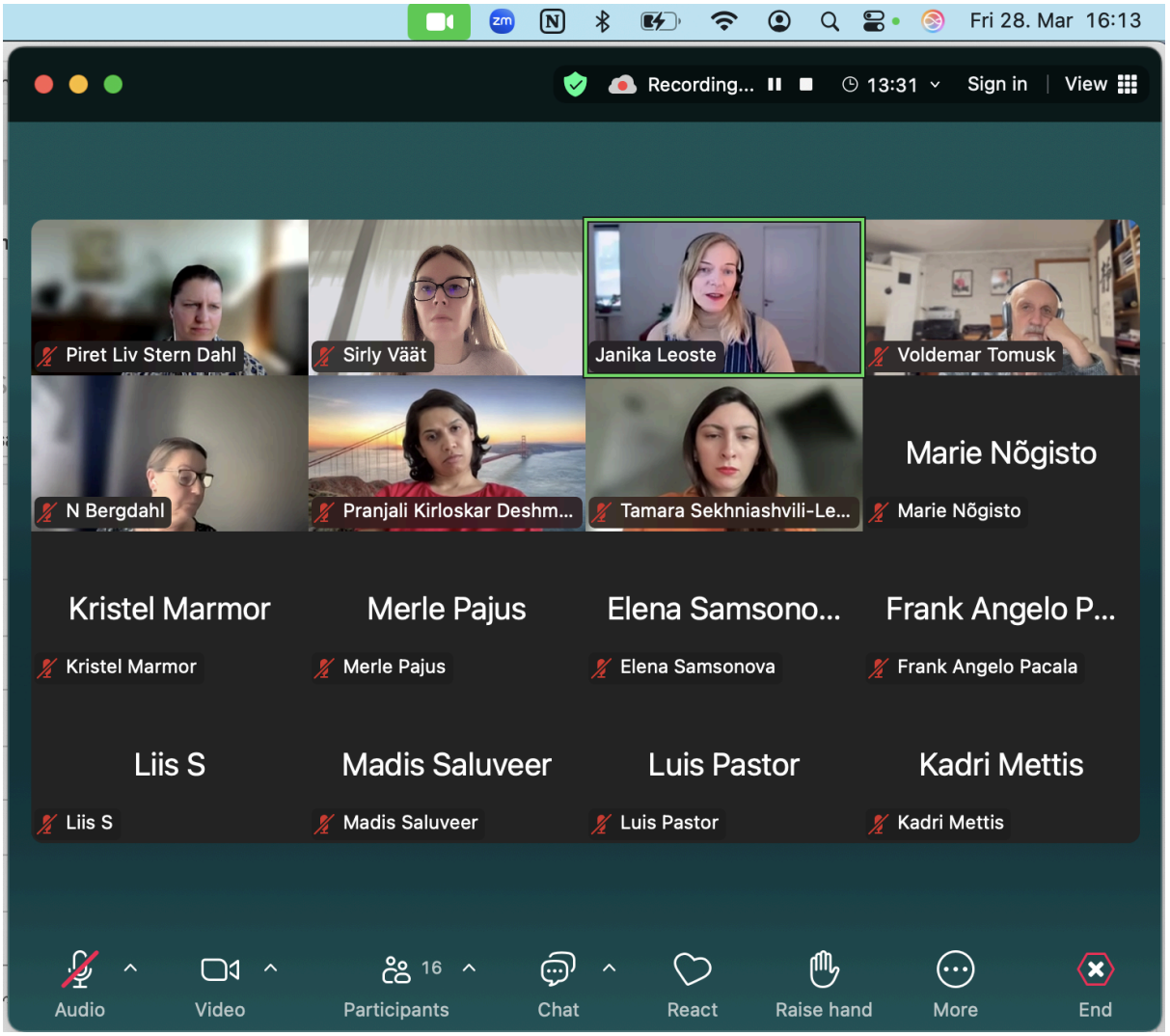
B. Institutional Infrastructure Contribution

Field	Details/Instructions
Infrastructure Unit	List the name or identifier of the infrastructure unit (e.g., "Digital Learning Lab").
Description/Capabilities	Provide a brief description of the unit and its relevance to the project.
Reference/Link	If available, provide a link or reference to further information on this unit.

C. Expected Outcome Contribution

Please indicate which of the following outcomes your institution can contribute to by checking the appropriate box(es):

- **Outcome 1:** Provide analyses of the impact of digital tools in everyday life on wellbeing and how children learn.
- **Outcome 2:** Provide analyses and evidence-based recommendations on how to provide opportunities for high quality education that uses digital technologies in ways that support the wellbeing of the school community (students, teachers, and school leaders).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