



SRA INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
SEATTLE 2023
OCTOBER 14-18

Collaborating Across Borders

Research Administration & Compliance in Denmark vs. US

Annedorte Vad, University of Copenhagen
Farida Lada, University of California San Francisco

Objectives

1. Compare research administration and compliance organizations in Denmark vs. US using a structured framework
2. Be able to apply the comparison framework used to other international collaborations
3. Be able to analyze differences in research organizations across borders in order to identify mechanisms for overcoming any perceived or actual barriers

Framework



Governance


	Denmark	US
Institutional Governance	Emphasis on decentralized decision-making and academic consensus	Shared governance between administrative leadership & academic senate.
Decision Making Approach	Collaborative approach with a focus on consultation and dialogue	Collaborative approach with a focus on consultation and dialogue
Shaping Research Agenda	Researchers play an active role either in appointed roles, in committees and advisory boards or by voicing their opinion (also without being asked)	3 levels of setting research agenda: i) institutional priorities; ii) school/departmental priorities; iii) researcher priorities

Research Leadership

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Leadership structure	Flat structure + Dean Vice-Dean Committees Researchers Strong administration	Chief Research Officer + leaders with subject matter expertise for each area of oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How best to balance the numerous areas of responsibilities? - How best to ensure communication across areas of oversight? 	Knowing who is your peer & building trust.

Research Leadership

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Chief Research Officer	<p>Always academic</p> <p>Collaborating closely with the administration</p>	Typically, academic	Academic in an administration role: how to ensure effective leadership and management skills of research leaders, while recognizing importance of having academic in the role who maintains faculty trust?	Less so given that both are academics; however, some institutions in the US are moving toward non-academic leadership, which may establish another change and possible barrier.



How does the
structure at your
institution differ?

Opportunities for Engagement

- Exchange insights on effective strategies for fostering collaborative leadership and academic involvement.
- Discuss opportunities for cross-border knowledge sharing and leadership development programs.

External Environment

	Denmark	US
Research Collaborations	Cross-border research partnerships, often within EU networks	Extensive international collaborations with universities, industries & research centers
Professional Development & Networking	Active participation in international conferences, workshops & knowledge exchange	Hosts & participates in major international conferences, enhancing networking
Global Engagements	EU connections: Strong involvement in European research initiatives & collaborations	Global Scale: Participates in international research consortia & agreements
Cultural Diplomacy	Leverage cultural ties for international relations	Cultural diplomacy strengthens international relations

External Relations

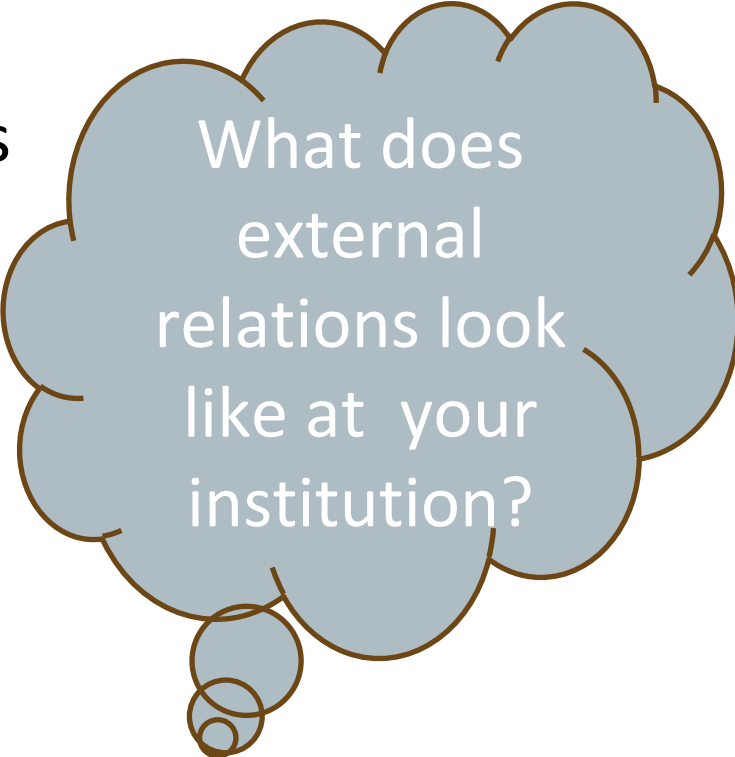
	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Reputation building & maintaining: managing & issuing press releases, interviews, speeches, representing the institution at meetings	Press office - institutional leaders - individual researchers - administrators Subject matter experts	Chief Research Officer + - media relations - institutional leaders - general counsel - ethics & compliance - subject matter experts	Consistent messaging; risk management; availability of support & resources; ensuring compliance with bargaining agreements	Agreeing on messaging & priorities Perceived reputational risk Possible legal or compliance risks Financial & non-financial resource sharing

External Relations

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Government Relations: representing institution to government (federal relations, state & local relations; legislative testimonies, etc.)	Subject matter experts - institutional leaders - individual researchers - administrators	Chief Research Officer + - government relations - institutional leadership - subject matter experts	Consistent messaging; risk management; availability of support & resources; ensuring compliance with bargaining agreements	Agreeing on messaging & priorities Perceived reputational risk Possible legal or compliance risks Financial & non-financial resource sharing

Other External Relations

- Industry relations
- Union relations / bargaining agreements



What does external relations look like at your institution?

Opportunities for Engagement


- Explore opportunities for joint participation in international research initiatives.
- Discuss strategies to enhance cultural diplomacy for research-related international relations

Sponsored Research Services

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Sponsored Research	<p>Historically, more service - based approach</p> <p>Now evolving into more compliance focus</p>	<p>Historically, administrative & regulatory compliance-based approach</p> <p>Now evolving into more service based</p>	<p>Increasing regulations & sponsor requirements but resources are not keeping up</p>	<p>Lack of consistency in regulatory and sponsor requirements</p> <p>Inconsistent approach and philosophy re: global collaborations</p>

Sponsored Research Services

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Structure	<p>Centralized services collaborating with departmental services:</p> <p>Strong collaborative approach among universities for exchange of best practice on proposal submission & grant management</p>	<p>Specialized offices within institution for pre-award, post-award, compliance, development</p>	<p>Communication across offices; record keeping; shared resources</p>	<p>Identifying who is who</p> <p>Ensuring all relevant parties are involved in discussions</p>



What other challenges
or barriers have you
experienced with
sponsored research?

Opportunities for Engagement

- Exchange insights on successful grant management and collaboration models.
- Discuss strategies to streamline proposal submission and enhance cross-border funding access.
- Explore avenues for joint research initiatives, leveraging respective strengths.

Research Ethics & Compliance

	Denmark	US
Guiding Principles & Regulations	<p>National guidelines + international ethical standards</p> <p>Focus: Research subjects' rights, informed consent, data protection</p>	<p>Federal regulations + state laws + ethical standards + codes of conduct</p> <p>Focus: Protecting research subjects, responsible conduct of research, research security / export controls, managing conflicts of interest, IP and data protection, biosafety</p>

Research Ethics & Compliance

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
Oversight	National Research Ethics Committee (DNVK)	Various federal agencies depending on type of research & funding source + sponsors	Knowing which regulations and standards apply	Understanding national oversight structures
Research Review & Approval	Collaborative ethical assessment across institutions	Institutional committees registered to government agencies: IRB, IACUC, IBC, etc.	Ensuring all appropriate approvals have been obtained	Understanding & aligning ethical review procedures across borders



What other challenges
or barriers have you
experienced with
research ethics &
compliance?

Opportunities for Engagement


- Explore ways to align ethical review procedures for smoother cross-border research.
- Discuss strategies to address cultural and regulatory differences in international research.

Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
IP Regulations	EU & National laws & international agreements	National laws	Researchers moving across institutions &/or borders	Differences in policies regarding IP ownership
University Role	Foster innovation through tech transfer	Foster innovation through tech transfer, patents, licensing & spinoffs	Disclosing / tracking innovations Managing conflicts of interest	

Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer

	Denmark	US	Possible Challenges for all	Related Barriers for collaboration
IP Ownership	Generally shared between researchers & institutions, promoting collaboration	Typically rests with institution, enabling comprehensive commercialization		Differences in ownership
Licensing	Focus on agreements that balance commercialization & public benefit	Diverse agreements, from exclusive licenses to open-source approaches		Agreeing on terms of licensing



What has been your
tech transfer
experience when
working across
borders?

Opportunities for Engagement

- Share strategies for IP management and licensing to optimize benefit and innovation.
- Explore possibilities for joint ventures and cross-border tech transfer initiatives.
- Discuss approaches to balance commercial interests and public good.



Any other questions or
comments?