The Research Administration Profession in Small Island States and Small Jurisdictions

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The Research Administration Profession originated from the concerns of a large sovereign state, the United States (US), in response to a rapid growth in research investments after World War II. Whereas in much larger and economically stronger countries, the network for the Profession developed in parallel, the same cannot be said for small island states and small jurisdictions. An assessment on whether there is room for the Profession in small island states and small jurisdictions is required on these aspects:

**Rationale for the Research Administration Profession in small island states and small jurisdictions**

The Research Administration Profession originated from the concerns of a large sovereign state, the United States (US), in response to a rapid growth in research investments after World War II. Whereas in much larger and economically stronger countries, the network for the Profession developed in parallel, the same cannot be said for small island states and small jurisdictions. An assessment on whether there is room for the Profession in small island states and small jurisdictions is required on these aspects:

1. **Universities in small island states - small jurisdictions**
   - **Scope of the Profession**
     - Multi-functional administrator
     - Breadth specialization
     - Needs for creative thinking in addressing the peculiar context
     - Support for researchers: how can the university's research environment be improved?
     - Engaging with foreign partners and consortia
     - External funding

2. **University research administration in small island states**
   - **Characteristics of small island states and jurisdictions**
     - lack of critical mass
     - specialized knowledge
     - cultural influence
     - limited resources

3. **Small island states / small jurisdictions**
   - **Characteristics of the Research Administration Profession**
     - Facilitate research
     - Facilitate multi-stakeholder relationships
     - Value-added by educational development in the small island states / small jurisdictions
     - **Need for creative thinking to address the peculiar context**
     - **Survival and effectiveness of the Profession in small contexts depend on a number of factors:**
       - Existence of at least one home university
       - Existence of different levels at which the Profession can be exercised
       - Functionalism
       - Perspectives and approaches
       - Objectives and approach

**Objective and approach**

- **Objectives**
  1. To integrate a discussion that brings together two seemingly unrelated concepts: the size of and that of research administration.
  2. To assess whether the Research Administration Profession can survive and be effective within small island states and small jurisdictions, where university research, especially of human capital, might be a significant part of society.

- **Approach**

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    - **Identifying potential ways to weave the role of research administration may be strengthened by the contextual realities of small island states and small jurisdictions**

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**Conclusions**

- Research administrators face a tough job in small island states and small jurisdictions. However, with the right conditions, the Profession can survive and prove its effectiveness.

- **Survival and effectiveness of the Profession in small contexts depend on a number of factors:**

  1. **Existence of different levels at which the Profession can be exercised**
     - The research environment of a small island state / small jurisdiction often contains the same or similar programs that one can find in larger universities. Yet, the research administration literature has almost been kept off the radar of the research administration literature.

  2. **Existence of at least one home university**
     - The research environment in small island states / small jurisdictions often contains the same or similar programs that one can find in larger universities.

  3. **Research administrators as multi-taskers**
     - Due to inherent constraints, these states / jurisdictions need to set up a university in a small island state / jurisdiction's context.

  4. **Research administrators as multi-taskers**
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