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I had been working for a while in the academic sector as a political science researcher in France and Belgium when I decided to attend the International Master on European Project Planning and Management. I had participated in a research project funded by the 7th Framework Programme and I wanted to improve my skills to find a full-time position in the field of European project management. The Master organized by Pixel was the most attractive training opportunity in that regard, as it provides for a general overview of the functioning of European funding programme and offers internship opportunities.

I appreciated greatly the classes in Florence. The instructors were experienced in a variety of funding programmes and the teaching approach was practical and comprehensive. The diversity of the students' background and the cultural resources of Florence were a plus.

During my internship at Inova+, I was given the chance to monitor the design of an application for a Horizon 2020 call. I had the opportunity to put the skills learned in the Master into practice and the writing of the application was finalized in less than two months! I also met interesting colleagues (including a former Pixel student) with whom I keep regular contacts.

Shortly after the end of the internship, I was able to obtain a position as "Research project coordinator" in charge of supporting the development of European research consortia and projects in the field of humanities at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium). The Master diploma and the internship experience were crucial to convince my new employers of the relevance of my candidacy. I was even able to describe during the job interview funding opportunities which they had not heard about before!

Attending the Master has really helped me, not only to build a compelling resume, but to understand all the procedures and subtleties of European funding programmes and project management. In the longer term, I intend to apply to work in European agencies such as the REA or the EACA; I have no doubt the Master will also be an asset then.

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, January 2019