NCP EXPERIENCE REPORT

Meet and Exchange for NCP Coordinators on the future role of the NCP Network

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Background

The system of National Contact Points (NCP) is a key element for implementing Horizon Europe. Potentially, a new European Research and Innovation Programme needs an adapted NCP system. This might lead the European commission to reflect on the current Minimum Standards and Guiding Principles for setting up NCP systems under Horizon Europe.

On 14 of May 2019 the NCP Academy organized a Meet & Exchange Workshop for NCP Coordinators (coordinators of national NCP systems).

Final Version: This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 831752
Aim of the workshop was to provide reflections of NCP Coordinators on the NCP role and develop proposals for the structure of an NCP system for Horizon Europe. The ambition of this Meet & Exchange was to provide recommendations that feed into the discussion of a NCP system for Horizon Europe.

The Meet and Exchange Workshop focused on the exchange of information and views on NCP support structures for Horizon Europe. Also opinions of the NCP project network coordinators were taken into account.

This paper is summary of the main discussions and conclusions.

NCP survey - The pre-work

In advance to this workshop and as a basis for the discussion a survey on the needs analysis of NCP systems in the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe was carried out. Aim of this survey was to collect as initial step reflections on the NCP role with regards to key principles, its core functions, the cooperation between NCPs and Commission services and the NCP structure.

The survey included questions focusing on the NCP role in FP9 with regard to key principles, its core functions, cooperation between NCPs and EC services and the NCP structure.

Target group were NCP Coordinators.

The following 29 countries from member and associated states have answered the survey:
Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.

Relevant questions of this survey were also provided to NCP Project Network Coordinators. For this, the platform for NCP Project Network Coordinators was addressed to collect this additional feedback.

The identified key topics from the survey

The feedback of the survey showed 8 focal points that seemed most relevant to the stakeholders. Those topics set the discussion for the Meet and Exchange.

These key topics identified were:

1. Future Role of NCPs
2. Support of NCP Coordinators
3. Meeting the major challenges of Horizon Europe
4. Improvement of cooperation with EC
5. Supporting international cooperation
6. Dealing with the European innovation Council (EIC)

7. Meeting the cross-thematic and interdisciplinary approaches (cluster and missions)

8. Future of NCP Networking projects

The main statements – problem areas - behind these topics have been briefly outlined. In addition, the following in depth discussion at the Meet and Exchange questions were formulated, that should lead into a series of possible solutions or suggestions.

The following problem areas and follow-up questions were formulated for the key topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future Role of NCPs:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The structures of NCP systems throughout Europe are diverse. Difficulties exist in handling turnover and limitation of resources. In some cases even potential conflict of interest might appear for NCPs who are also active as researchers. Aim of the working group is to discuss how we can address these issues in a proper way through clear statements in the guiding principles and other activities.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Support of NCP Coordinators:</th>
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<tr>
<td>There are a substantial number of NCP coordinators less than 5 years in this function. The aim of the working group is to discuss possibilities and ways to support NCP coordinators through specific mentoring activities and the provision of specific information/training based on a needs analysis carried out by the COM (e.g. cross-cutting issues).</td>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting the major challenges of Horizon Europe:</th>
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<tr>
<td>The main challenges of Horizon Europe are cross-cutting issues, externalized measures, connection to other programmes, new funding instruments, innovation approach, complexity of the programme, reaching new target groups. Aim of this working group is to select the three most important challenges and discuss ways of meeting these challenges with an efficient counselling system.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Improvement of cooperation with EC:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Good cooperation and an adequate flow of information between the EU Commission and the national contact points are the basis for high-quality advice. Aim of the working group is to develop ideas for establishing efficient communication channels, provide recommendations for training activities, involving the integration of newcomers and providing the basis for capacity building.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Supporting international cooperation:</th>
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<tr>
<td>The approach of targeting international cooperation activities will be more strategic in Horizon Europe. Aim of the working group is to discuss potential challenges in the field of international cooperation (e.g. finding partners, tackling the partial association approach etc.) and develop solutions.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dealing with the European innovation Council (EIC):</th>
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<tr>
<td>To meet the demand for innovation, NCPs are facing particular challenges. The specific funding instruments of the EIC require specific forms of support and special co-operations, e.g. with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). The aim of the working group is to develop proposals on how EIC can be best advised in the Horizon Europe and what role the different NCPs play here.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting the cross-thematic and interdisciplinary approaches (cluster and missions):</th>
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<td>(Continued...</td>
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The grouping of scientific disciplines into clusters and missions requires the NCPs to cooperate more closely within the network. The aim of the working group is to consider how the NCP system can meet these demands, which measures should be taken to support the NCPs, so that the clusters and missions can be optimally advised.

Future of NCP Networking projects:
In the past, the NCP network projects have made an important contribution to the exchange of NCPs and thus substantially contributed to the professionalization of the NCP advisory services. The working group is asked to consider how NCP network projects should be set up in the future and what role the NCP Academy should play.

Set-up of the Meet and Exchange

The Event in Paris consisted of a one day meeting focused on the outcome of the survey and was built with presentations, brainstorming sessions, working group and plenary discussions.

All NCP Coordinators, in particular the ones that contributed to the survey, were invited to participate. Additionally, a representative of the NCP Project Network Coordinators was invited to present the relevant points.

The workshop started with a presentation of the feedback of the survey and was followed by a summary of the response received from the NCP Project Network Coordinators. The overall feedback emphasize very clearly 8 key topics that were of major importance for the Coordinators and Project Network Coordinators. All 8 key topics were outlined and proposed for discussion at the workshop.

First, the participants were asked to select the 4 most relevant ones to start with in parallel morning sessions. The participants split up in 4 different groups in order to discuss in depth one of the 4 topics. Second, the afternoon sessions were used to discuss the next 4 topics left.

To structure the group work the participants were asked to formulate replies in particular to 4 main questions:

- What changes do we expect in the future?
- How can we prepare to comply with these changes?
- What are the needs in terms of competencies and methods/instruments?
- How can the existing NCP structures be adapted to the next programme?

The outcome of each group discussion was shared and discussed within the whole group after each session.

The last part of the workshop was dedicated to formulate the key findings and recommendations. Together, the results of the individual topics were condensed and formulated as core points and statements.
These findings led into the final paper (Annex 1) that was presented to the COM on 24.05.2019 during a workshop with Member States Representatives on future NCP networks.

Main findings of the working groups

Observations of the participants regarding the most relevant points for each key topic reflecting the 4 guiding questions:

- Changes to expect in the future?
- How to prepare to comply with these changes?
- Needs in terms of competencies and methods/instruments?
- How to adapt NCP structures to the next programme?

1. Future Role of NCPs:

- Skilled NCPs are important to reach the goals of Horizon Europe. They are the bridge to researchers, SMEs and public sector.
- Consultation regarding the results of projects will play a more important role.
- NCPs need information in a consistent– complete – timely (CIRCAB) manner.
- Information flow from PC to NCPs has to be secured – NCP expert role.
- Decentralized systems are difficult to implement – potential conflict of interest.
- NCPs need standardized services – need to be included in the discussion of guiding principles.
2. **Support of NCP Coordinators:**

- Regularly meetings with EC with meaningful content.
- There is a need of
  a. networking and peer learning,
  b. coordinating the coordinators.
  c. Examples of best practice in different countries, mutual learning
  d. reliable data – dashboard
- Expand and improve tasks in the NCP Academy for all NCP coordinators.
3. **Meeting the major challenges of Horizon Europe**

1. The challenge of partnerships (and the Synergy topic) and the complexity of landscapes and information flow.

   - It is unclear, complex, and intensified
   - It is a move away from the current system and will lead to change
   - The information for NCPs is not optimum
   - According to the Commission synergies between programmes should be intensified – NCPs must have knowledge of these programmes and cross cutting trainings will be required
   - Maybe an enhanced role of the National Coordinator to support the flow of information
   - ("Smart System")
   - The Programme Delegate and NCP relationship is critical and needs to be cooperative and free flowing particularly in the situation where there are greater cross-cutting themes.
   - The NCP should probably could be the expert on the Partnership Governance Committee
   - EC must improve information flow and encourage the appointment an NCP who is responsible for disseminating information
   - Dedicated training from EC

2. The Missions is a new approach and results in the same challenges

   - Much of the challenges identified for the partnerships will also be a challenge for the Missions.
   - More specifically the following needs to also be highlighted:
     - It is more unclear than the partnerships and we therefore need more training and information from the EC to design networks – we will likely dedicate it to the most appropriate NCP
     - Greater interchangeability of attendees but more replacements will be required
     - We need to be clear how the Missions will be implemented
     - Information flow from EC Secretariat of Mission Boards to NCPs to ensure a fare playing field
     - Special focus through the Mid Term Review process with regard to Missions and NCP appointments
     - For Missions there also maybe a need for the involvement of NCPs in promoting the Mission objectives and therefore alignment with national policy, ministries and communications will be important.

3. The Clusters and Societal themes will be more interdisciplinary, cross cutting and involving greater input from end users.

   - More information from the EC is needed and on a national level Coordinators will have to drive the creation and success of interdisciplinary teams.
   - Examples of ‘Best Practice’ Models
   - There will also be more communication to the public (end users) and this will have to be considered? (Science Communication).
- More background knowledge will be needed in areas like exploitation.

4. What does the impact orientation mean for NCPs, will topics be more descriptive?

- Unknown challenge
- Impact orientation versus simplification of funding so support clients to determine risk (lump sum).

4. **Improvement of cooperation with EC**

- Call training for NCPs regarding new work programmes—what is meant behind the call text of a topic?
- Meetings in Brussels for new WP and webinars for significant changes.
- Establish alerts for new information in GA or AGA.
- Briefing of evaluators to be shared with NCPs.
- Briefing of NCPs regarding cross-cutting issues, e.g. international cooperation dimension
- NCPs should be considered as ambassadors of the FP.
- Single EC policy for NCP management.
- Single feedback culture from EC to NCPs regarding results, calls, evaluators.
- Participation of EC at national infodays.
5. **Supporting international cooperation**

- Focus on SDGs will need international collaboration.
- Gap between strategic decision of stimulating and implementation rules.
- Decide whether NCPs should really stimulate international cooperation or just guide.
- Cooperation with EUREKA, JRC, COST, EEN, COSME.
- INCO NCP are needed – better integration of INCO NCPs in NCP networks.
- Relation SFIC – NCPs.
- Focus on cooperation with allies outside Europa.
6. Dealing with the European innovation Council (EIC)

- Pillar 3 has 3 parts – different NCPs for Pathfinder and Accelerator – synergies and information sharing.
- Improve cooperation with EEN.
- Need of information and training by the EC.
- Information sharing and exchange of experience.
7. **Meeting the cross-thematic and interdisciplinary approaches (cluster and missions)**

- NCPs need all relevant documents earlier.
- Improved brokerage events for interdisciplinary groups.
- Highlighting cross-cutting topics in WPs, e.g. SSH flagging.
- Collaboration with EEN, e.g. EIC, software, blended finance.
- Think about thematic profile of calls and flag the themes in WPs Start HEU networking projects as soon as possible.
- Provide clarity on how clusters, missions etc. work together.
- Specific NCP meetings on cross-cutting issues.
- Sufficient training for evaluators.

8. **Future of NCP Networking projects**

- All NCPs should have access to networking possibilities – funding for travel.
- Fewer NCP projects more information sharing – clear added value, no overlaps.
- Joint work across networks, e.g. missions.
- One stop portal for all NCPs.
- NCP training - strong NCP Academy.
- Good instruments for implementation; e.g. brokerage, proposal checks, guide for applicants.
- Use of H2020 existing tools.
Conclusions

The results of the working groups were discussed among all participants. Out of these main observations the group formulated their central findings and recommendations. General recommendations were given as a prefix, followed by several suggestions and ideas for each key topic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. General proposals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Establish a structured and standardized two-way channel of communication – regard</td>
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<td>NCPs as ambassadors for Horizon Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Provide timely, transparent and complete information (background, strategic</td>
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<tr>
<td>planning, political context of calls) through webinars / emails updates/streaming of</td>
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<tr>
<td>meetings</td>
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<td>✓ Establish a functional email for each NCP, provide up-to-date contact lists of NCPs,</td>
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<tr>
<td>first-hand information</td>
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<td>✓ Improve EC communication on projects feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Encourage networking, peer-learning and exchange of good practices between NCPs</td>
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<td>✓ Organize regular meetings between NCPs and the EC (one per trimester) and specific</td>
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<td>meetings early in process for missions, cross-cutting themes</td>
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<td>✓ Ensure regular training, in particular on cross-thematic and interdisciplinary topics</td>
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<td>✓ Systematically inform NCPs of portal content updates (new guidance documents, FAQ…)</td>
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<td>✓ Appoint a dedicated contact at the EC for each NCP</td>
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<th>2. Future role of NCPs:</th>
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<td>✓ Establish standard guidelines for PC delegates regarding information flow to NCPs</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Give NCPs a good overview of the programme, and overall programme (incl. Partnerships, strategic planning)</td>
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<td>✓ Include NCPs feedback as part of the programme’s midterm review</td>
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<th>3. Support of NCP Coordinators</th>
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<td>✓ Propose regular meetings with content matching NCPs needs</td>
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<td>✓ Create space for pre-meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Provide information through different information channels (meetings, mailing lists,</td>
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<tr>
<td>newsletters, webinars, alerts, newsfeed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ EC NCP correspondent should be aware of the value of the NCP system and its specific role</td>
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<th>4. Meeting the major challenges of Horizon Europe</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Provide regular updates on the overall portfolio of missions</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Promote the projects in a transparent way through a precise and clear communication to the NCPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Inform NCPs of specific criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Develop cross-cutting trainings related to synergies between programmes</td>
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</table>
5. **Improvement of cooperation with EC**

- Improve training and information flow by:
  - Giving efficient and global training 6 months before the launch of a new work programme
  - Developing mix trainings (webinar and physical meeting)
  - Facilitate cooperation between executive agencies (REA, EASME) and NCPs

- Associate NCPs when drafting agenda meetings
- Facilitate exchange between NCPs networks through NCP Academy

6. **Supporting international cooperation**

- Decide whether NCPs should stimulate or guide international cooperation
- Encourage closer cooperation with Eureka
- Define easier and clearer rules for Third Country participation + contact list
- Flag the calls for International Cooperation on the Tender and Funding Portal

7. **Dealing with the European Innovation Council (EIC)**

- Create 2 separates NCP roles for EIC (1 for the accelerator, 1 for the pathfinder)
- Organize common meetings and encourage strong collaboration between the 2 NCPs
- Provide regular information about the EIT/KICs to thematic NCP
- Create one NCP network for pillar III
- Define and propose a clear articulation of roles between EEN and NCP
- Improve communication for SMEs
- Precise the intention of the EC regarding the training on invest EU

8. **Meeting the cross-thematic and interdisciplinary approaches**

- Consider extending flagging for missions (such as SSH)
- Mention in the EC guidelines the need to insure good information between PC and NCP at the national level
- Give access to briefing evaluators on cross thematic issues
- Develop the Funding & Tenders portal to improve the partner search function
- Support the organization of increasing number of brokerage events

9. **Future of NCP Networking projects**

- Maintain thematic networks
- Urgent need for the preparation of first call of HEU : provide goods instruments for implementation of brokerage events; preparation guide for applicants
Annexe:

Annex 1: Proposals to the EC for the structure of NCP systems for Horizon Europe (final paper)
2-step-approach

1. Survey, March 2019
   * Questions focusing on the NCP role in FP9 with regard to key principles, its core functions, cooperation between NCPs and EC services and the NCP structure
   * Target group: NCP Coordinators and NCP Project Network Coordinators

2. Meet and Exchange, May 2019 in Paris:
   a) Identification of main questions and
   b) Key topics
   c) Formulation of proposals

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a) Identified eight key topics

1. Future role of NCPs

2. Support of NCP Coordinators

3. Meeting the major challenges of Horizon Europe

4. Improvement of cooperation with EC

5. Supporting international cooperation

6. Dealing with the EIC

7. Meeting the cross- thematic and interdisciplinary approaches

8. Future of NCP Networking projects
b) Questions towards the key topics

- Why is this topic a challenge?
- How do you plan to address this challenge in your country?
- What are the needs in terms of competencies and methods/instruments?
- How to adapt the existing NCP structures to the next programme?

\[ NCP \]

\[ NCP \]

c) Proposals

- General proposals
- Specific proposals regarding the topics identified
General proposals (1/2)

- Establish a structured and standardized two-way channel of communication – regard NCPs as facilitators and ambassadors for Horizon Europe.
- Provide timely, transparent and complete information (background, strategic planning, political context of calls) through webinars, emails, updates/streaming of meetings.
- Establish a functional email for each NCP, provide up-to-date contact lists of NCPs, first-hand information.
- Improve EC communication on projects feedback.

General proposals (2/2)

- Encourage networking, peer-learning and exchange of good practices between NCPs.
- Organize regular meetings between NCPs and the EC (one per trimester) and specific meetings early in process for missions, cross-cutting themes.
- Ensure regular training, in particular on cross-thematic and interdisciplinary topics.
- Systematically inform NCPs of portal content updates (new guidance documents, FAQs...).
- Appoint a dedicated contact at the EC for each NCP.
1) Future role of NCPs

Proposals to the EC:

- Establish standard guidelines at EC level for PC delegates regarding information flow to NCPs.
- Give NCPs a good overview of the programme, incl. Partnerships, missions, strategic planning.
- Include NCPs feedback as part of the programme’s midterm review.
- The role and duties of NCPs must be clearly regulated in binding guiding principles agreed by the Member States.
- Possible conflicts of interest must be clearly emphasized.

2) Support of NCP Coordinators

Proposals to the EC:

- Propose regular meetings with content matching NCPs needs.
- Create space for pre-meeting.
- Provide information through different communication channels (meetings, mailing lists, newsletters, webinars, alerts, newsfeed).
- EC NCP correspondent should be aware of the value of the NCP system, and its specific role.
3) Meeting the major challenges of Horizon Europe

Proposals to the EC:

- Provide regular updates on the overall portfolio of missions.
- Promote the projects in a transparent way through a precise and clear communication to the NCPs.
- Inform NCPs of specific criteria.
- Develop cross-cutting trainings related to synergies between programmes.

4) Improvement of cooperation with EC

Proposals to the EC:

- Improve training and information flow by:
  - Giving efficient and global training 6 months before the launch of a new work programme.
  - Developing mixed trainings (webinar and physical meeting).
  - Facilitate cooperation between executive agencies (RSA, EASME, and NCPs).
- Associate NCPs when drafting agenda meetings.
- Facilitate exchange between NCPs networks through NCP Academy.
5) Supporting international cooperation

Proposals to the ECI:

→ Decide whether NCPs should stimulate or guide international cooperation.
→ Encourage closer cooperation with Eureka.
→ Define easier and clearer rules for Third Country participation + contact lists.
→ Flag the calls for International Co-operation on the Tender and Funding Portal.

6) Dealing with the European Innovation Council (EIC) 1/2

Proposals to the EC:

→ Create 2 separate NCP roles for EIC: 1 for the accelerator, 1 for the pathfinder.
→ Organise common meetings and encourage strong collaboration between the 2 NCPs.
→ Provide regular information about the EIT/ICCs to thematic NCPs.
7) Meeting the cross-thematic and interdisciplinary approaches

Proposals to the EC:

- Consider extending flagging for missions (such as JPI).
- Mention in the EC guidelines the need to ensure good information flow between PC and NCP at the national level.
- Give access to briefing evaluators on cross thematic issues.
- Develop the Funding & Tenders portal to improve the partner search function.
- Support the organisation of increasing number of brokerage events.

8) Future of NCP Networking projects

Proposals to the EC:

- Maintain thematic networks.
- Launch HEU NCP Networks as soon as possible (at least during the first quarter of 2021).
- Urgent need for the preparation of first call of HEU: provide good instruments for implementation of brokerage events: preparation guide for applicants.
- Develop the role of NCP Academy to act as the network of National Coordinators.
- Address NCP horizontal issues (e.g. common software, studies, crosscutting formation, etc.).
Annex 2: Report on the survey about the needs analysis of NCP systems in the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe.

Report on the survey about the needs analysis of NCP systems in the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe.

This survey has been prepared by the NCP Academy. The results will be sent to the European Commission and will feed into upcoming discussions on the future of support networks under Horizon Europe.

Target Group were NCP Coordinators.

The following 29 countries from member and associated states have answered the survey: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.
Section A: Profile

Structure of NCP system in your country:

- Centralized (NCPs are all employed by a single entity) 44%
- Decentralised (NCPs are employed by different entities) 34%
- Other (mix of both systems) 22%

Please indicate how many FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) are working for the NCP system in your country?

- Less than 10 41%
- More than 10 47%
- More than 30 9%
- More than 50 3%
Please describe which type of organisation you – in your capacity as NCP Coordinator- belong to:

- Ministry: 13%
- Funding Agency: 44%
- Research centre: 3%
- Private non-profit organization: 41%

Please indicate the number of years you have been acting as NCP coordinator:

- < five years: 22%
- > five years: 13%
- > ten years: 66%
Section B: Horizon Europe - Challenges

Other:
1. Impact of the Horizon Europe at national as well as at European level
2. Alignment between national and EU Programmes
3. Mission orientation
4. Cooperation with the EC - value of NCPs for the EC; getting first hand information, etc
5. Impact of NCP-work
6. Role and value of NCPs in the Governance of EU Programmes (EC, PC, JTIs etc...)
7. Making different applicants groups work together
8. Remuneration policy (project based approach)
9. more strategic and impact oriented approach of the HEU will influence NCP work
10. adapting the system to the new clusters and EIC
11. strategic orientation of the Programme, missions
Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

12. Exploitation issues in HE/ impact; Missions and how to approach them
13. Using the whole potential of excellence of ERA, including new MSs
14. A big challenge we are facing in Romania: explain and convince the newcomers that framework programme funds are not structural funds.
15. The majority of these areas are important also in H2020, but we believe they will be even more so.
16. Dealing with the insecurity we face towards countries that want to associate (e.g., UK, or my own case, Switzerland)
Section C: Horizon Europe – Structure of an NCP system

What fraction of the NCP system has to change to meet these challenges?

- Minor changes: 3%
- Evolution to cope with the updated architecture: 6%
- Major changes / reshuffle: 91%

What should be the future structure of NCPs according to the currently discussed structure of Horizon Europe:

[Bar chart showing various sectors and their percentages]
What additional officially nominated NCPs are necessary?

1. EU-Invest, Digital Europe Programm, European Defence Programme
2. Partnerships - Missions - International cooperation
3. NCP focussing on specific instruments like public procurement or NCPs for missions
4. International cooperation, sub topics within the clusters, pathfinder
5. NCP for SME, INCO NCP
6. The cluster "Digital, Industry and Space" includes several distinct areas of intervention (i.e. such as Digital ICT, Circular Industry/low carbon clean industry, manufacturing technologies and advanced materials). One proposal is to have three NCPs (Digital-ICT-, manufacturing, circular industry) or have an ICT-Digital Horizon Europe single NCP and a different NCP for "Industry, including space industry".
7. ICT, NMBP, Space, Energy, Climate
8. Responsible research and innovation, or equivalent to current SwafS programme.
9. Missions
10. NCP for public sector
11. Missions
12. International cooperation
14. International cooperation (INCO), Partnership programmes,
15. SSH integration; ethics
16. Financial and Juridical issues

Do you see topics that require a particularly high number of FTEs?

1. EIC
2. L&F
3. No
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. EIC,
6. EIC and clusters would need several NCPs
7. L&F, cluster NCPs, ERC, MSCA
8. Clusters targeting several topics need to have several NCPs - the NCPs for a Cluster has to be organised in a kind of network
9. There are clusters/topics that address a big number of areas of intervention such as Digital Industry and Space, Bioeconomy, Food, Natural Resources and Environment.
10. EIC, Digital, industry and space; Climate and energy
11. Please clarify, this is an acronym.
12. Most topics
13. No
14. Digital and Industry; Climate, Energy and Mobility
15. EIC
16. Clusters in pillar 2
17. EIC, Digital industry
18. EIC
19. EIC, as a new approach will need a stronger NCP involvement as well as big clusters (i.e. Digital, Industry and Space; Bioeconomy, Food, Natural Resources and Environment, etc.)
Meeting the cluster approach: Do you think we need cooperation of several NCPs from different thematic areas or coordinated NCP structures to cover a cluster?

### Please specify:

1. Cooperation of several thematic NCPs
2. Structured cooperation of several NCPs is a must in order to provide good services to applicants and participants
3. Cooperation of several NCPs from different thematic areas is needed and seems the more relevant and sustainable approach.
4. The areas covered by the clusters are too broad more than one NCP is needed per cluster.
5. Coordination among different NCPs dealing with a certain areas have to be structured on permanent base
6. Digital and Industry; Climate, Energy and Mobility
7. The clusters cover several ministries - businesses - public sectors.
8. In particular in Digital industry and space as well as EIC
9. Even for H2020 it is necessary for the NCP to communicate with each other
10. Big clusters are very wide to have only one NCP per cluster
11. Collaboration is always needed regardless of structure
12. We need coordinated NCP structures. This is even more necessary for countries with less elaborated NCP systems, where the NCPs are not under one roof. The important point is that all NCPs have access to key information and training.
Please specify:

1. The Missions belong to clusters and the NCPs responsible for the Clusters should also be responsible for the mission. It needs an intensified cooperation between different NCPs to address the mission adequately.

2. If missions are cross-clusters then we need NCP for missions. If missions are located within 1 cluster only then the NCP for the cluster can be in charge of the mission.

3. This can be done via a task in the NCP networks

4. Each NCP responsible for a specific thematic area should follow the relevant missions.

5. Not specific NCPs for Missions but coordination of relevant thematic NCPs

6. When keeping the thematic NCP’s, depending on the mission area, the NCP’s within a thematic area will also cover the connected mission area.

7. Mission approach is a new big thing and it requires new ways of working and new practices in the EC as well as dedicated NCPs

8. "Cooperation of several NCPs from different thematic areas/clusters is needed and seems the most sustainable approach.

9. In Mission Oriented Research and Innovation we will need various competencies, stronger links between different Thematic NCPs and NCP networks should be established. Also in order to achieve long term sustainability of the projects and the project portfolios under a specific mission, private investments are needed. We recommend a strong collaboration with the local Enterprise Europe Network and specially with EEN members of the corresponding Sector Groups (NCP Digital collaboration with local EEN Sector Group ICT member; NCP Health with local EEN SG healthcare member etc..)

10. Thematic NCP-s should cover the mission areas and cross-cutting issues should be addressed by more coordination between them.

11. It depends on how the missions will be managed - as a separate program or correlated with the various clusters

12. My answer is "Not sure" - mission are still broad

13. It depends on how able we are to well define the mission approach itself.

14. To coordinate support
Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

15. There is a need for someone to explain what a mission is and to provide guidance on how to approach it
16. Not now, may be in the future, depending on how missions are implemented
17. No, until clarification of Missions’ implementation
18. Each mission has its own NCP (eg Cancer has Health). The Missions should be included in the strategic configuration programme committee.
19. This would probably be important, but is difficult to judge now, as we don’t have much information on the missions and their complexity. Key is again that all involved NCPs are well trained to best inform and advise clients.

**Meeting the specifics of the EIC: Are the NCPs structures and activities as currently existing suitable to consult in regard to the EIC?**

- Yes: 36%
- No: 64%

**Please specify:**

1. Clearly a topic that require a particularly high number of FTEs
2. Currently FET & SME NCPs are covered by different organizations targeting different stakeholders. FET NCPs do not receive support in the form of an EC funded network project and do not meet the COM on a regular basis: this has to be improved.
3. I don’t see any specific difference on the role and activities of EIC NCPs - The EIC NCPs should have experience on innovation and market related issues and focus on relevant activities.
4. much better knowledge of NCPs on practical aspects of financial instruments is needed
5. Among others, there is a higher need for understanding the finance and Investment landscape.
6. Now that FET is moved to EIC.
7. only partially
8. we need more cooperation with other actors like EEN
9. Up tp date there was training support for FET NCPs and proposers that cover the Pathfinder part of the EIC. Regarding the Accelerator part of the EIC there were no structures able to provide comprehensive support, because the focus of the SME NCP networks was the SME Instrument and Fast Track to Innovation, but there was no specific focus on Equity funding. Therefore, more training is needed concerning equity funding.
10. In any case, NCPs for the EIC should collaborate closely with EEN advisors involved in KAM activities as well as EEN Innovation advisors in general.
11. We should create specific NCP functions for Pathfinder and Accelerator.
12. It needs a different approach, which could be developed from the existing structure.
13. Not really. Today we have FET NCP. Need av pathfinder NCP.
14. FET, SME, A2RF
15. The new EIC is more complex and requires people who know the market mechanisms
16. As the EIC is new the current related NCPs must be adapted.
17. The EIC approach is completely new
18. Needs to be complemented with equity knowledge.
Section D: Horizon Europe - NCP skills and needs

What are the skills / knowledge NCPs need to have to meet the challenges of Horizon Europe?

Frequency of answer

- Specific knowledge on work programme / calls / topics
- Information on political and strategic background of calls
- Knowledge on externalised programmes / large scale initiatives (partnerships...)
- Information about other European RTD-programmes
- Training skills (incl. virtual learning)
- IT skills (web, social media, analyse statistical data...)
- Project management
- Expertise and expert knowledge of the research field
- Overview of Horizon Europe whole programme structure
- Knowledge on administrative procedures / contractual issues
- Specific instruments and funding mechanisms (procurement...)
- What are the skills / knowledge NCPs need to have to meet the challenges of Horizon Europe?
My wishes for a new NCP system:
1. To be fully structured, trained, informed and prepared so as to get ready to start the programme on 1st January 2021
2. True support by the Commission, true involvement of the NCP liaison officers within the COM, training provided by the COM
3. Keep the NCP networks because they make exchanges and collaboration between new and advanced NCPs possible.
4. More FTE engaged staff
5. Continuation - based on existing experience & knowledge
6. Efficient and competent NCPs, good balance between horizontal and thematically relevant knowledge, continuation of NCP networks collaboration
7. Focus on training and knowledge sharing across countries
8. Whatever the new system will be the main issue is the support and cooperation with the EC, its different units and POs
9. Full time positions within a single team, with a good IT and logistics environment, and a through period of training by the EC before the launch of the programme and an EC contact point for each NCP.
10. It should be established very soon, NCPs should be well trained and informed by the COM
11. The NCP system should be adapted to the structure of the new FP and meet the challenges of the transition period.
12. The NCP system should be open, inclusive and adaptive. Well-designed internal training and capacity building activities should be initiated and provided by national/regional/local authorities. NCPs should be aware of both the EU and the national landscape.
13. Specific NCP functions per thematic area (more than 1 NCP per cluster). 2. Open and accessible NCP projects for all Member States and programmes/thematic areas. Higher budget to ensure participation and reimbursement of the travel expenses in NCP Academy trainings for all NCPs.
3. More direct and frequent contacts with the EC and Executive Agencies in the form of regular meetings and trainings including webinars. 4. No more gaps in FP-to-FP transition periods. Those are the most crucial points of learning and networking for both NCPs and the community. 5. Allowing NCP-s to take part in HE project evaluations if there is no conflict of interest (either as evaluation experts or observers). 6. Providing access to NCPs for the applicants’ contact details in accordance with existing GDPR regulations so that the NCP can support the applicants from the the early phase of project preparation. 6. Creating fake account for NCP-s to the Funding and Tenders portal to test application and reporting. 7. More information for NCPs on project implementation (reports, changes, problems, real costs and grant amounts) and results. 8. Access to information on project budget evaluation and on audit to receive firsthand and practical information on how H2020 rules are interpreted during the evaluation of proposals and during the audit process.
14. Well prepared, decentralized, NCP networks, enough funding, understanding from EC on role of NCPs.
15. I would like to learn and be exposed on how other countries plan to build their system towards HE.
16. Thanks to this survey, and future recommendation paper, to be able to co-design the NCP structure with EC.
17. More structured cooperation of NCPs teams, across the HEUrope programme.
18. Have 3-4 NCPs contributing together to the Healthy Planet;
19. Have 3-4 NCPs contributing together to Clean Planet; etc"
Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

20. More cooperation
21. Enhance the collaboration between the NCPs also between the NCP-coordinators.
22. Compatible with the HE structure, using the existing experience
23. In the case of Romania: to be outsourced as for the moment NCPs are not full time job
24. higher specialization in areas - NCP to have maximally 2 areas
25. A good support from Commission services, a good picture of the Work Programmes
26. Better support from Commission services; more information about the origin or work programmes
27. The NCPs must receive timely and relevant information about calls, results, administrative issues etc from the EC.
28. Centralized and full-time positions for NCPs

List 3 main achievements of your NCP system in H2020:

1. "- over the year 2018, supported applicants for 80 mio€ requested funding in a constituency of 1mio inhabitants
   - over the year 2018, supported participants to get 7 mio€ funding in a constituency of 1mio inhabitants
   - strengthened cooperation between NCP systems through the multiple networks, between the 5 Belgian NCP systems, and with EEN"
2. Cooperation at Belgian level to inform the Belgian participants - Collecting information about L&F procedures for the next FP and give input for Horizon Europe
3. Increased number of applications; good success rate and increased number of grants comparing to the FP7
4. setting up thematic groups of experts for most of the areas, synergy call with structural funds (for successful projects funded under the spreading excellence and widening participation); measures to increase the absorption capacity in H2020
5. personalized support to researchers - training workshops - team work
6. providing complex services and specialized trainings to applicants/participants - well evaluated by participants, detailed monitoring of participation in H2020 including development of new monitoring indicators - collaboration with STOA, organization of annual high-level conference Czech days for European research
7. Having both PC and NCP roles in the team, having set-up a Network of national advisors to focus on strengthen their competences in H2020 and other EU programmes, a plan with initiatives to support the national advisors
8. Website, regional coverage and vast network
9. establish a twitter channel, realize a network for FET, meet and exchange regularly
10. Awareness raising activities to newcomers
11. Effective handling of questions
12. Publishing annual reports with detailed statistics on the participation of National organizations in the different EU R&I programmes. These reports have been produced since FP7 and are available (open access).
13. Launching and operating a dedicated H2020 website, Stable national NCP structure, Successes in some areas of Horizon Europe in Widening Teaming and ERC.
14. Establishing multiplier contacts in institutions, high success rate, high participation from SMEs.
15. Enhancing Israel's success in SME I; opening a Brussels office and a closer engagement with the Commission ;
16. Assisting the community with a more integrated NCP structure.
Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

17. Supporting a huge community of NEW comers
18. Diversifying the services according to the” Clients”
19. Increased national participation, improved success rate
20. a centralized system works well for us by having all NCPs in one building helps in sharing experiences and knowledge
21. given our small research community, we are also able to meet researchers and organizations on a one-to-one basis
22. Meeting with successful participants and share their experiences.
23. Reached national goals on return. Enhanced the participation from businesses.
24. Good coordination and strategy, strategical cooperation with the main national actors, Ministry and Permanent representation, holistic approach in support
25. Romanian NCPs know very well national and EU opportunities so they give the right orientation for a project proposal. 2. Good communication with the Commission for national events. 3. Good contacts with the 8 regional offices of development.
26. more targeted information, slowly increasing success rate of the country in H2020, increasing interest of research community
27. Coordination between NCP hosting institutions, coordination of NCPs with Programme Committee members, coordination between all NCPs.
28. Coordination among NCP and representatives; coordination among institutions hosting NCP; excellent newcomers´ involvement
29. Trainings for participants and applicants (incl invitation of the EC), tours around our country, build a sound internal structure where we support each other across the structure.
30. Very good collaboration (e.g. events, fact sheets) among thematic NCPs that cover a topic that appears in different Work Programmes; (2) One NCP for SC6, covering also the integration of SSH in other programs, and ethics - he has a broad view on the topics and clients; (3) As an NCP organization we set up and updated our service and product portfolio.
31. Establishment of the NCP System, Covers territory of Ukraine, Regional Contact Points
List 3 main challenges your NCP system faced in H2020:

1. "- lack of funding from the national authorities/host organization: lack of FTE to deal with all requests for guidance
   (1) turnover of NCP staff
   (2) intra-Belgian coordination needed to cope with 5 different NCP systems"
2. Our system is organized by type of stakeholders and the COM instruments are open to all kind of actors
3. capacity building, lack of funding, political obstacles
4. high NCP staff fluctuation
5. covering all NCPs with limited human resources - networking with foreign NCPs - more advanced services to researchers
6. maintain high quality of NCP services provided, ensure continuous funding of NCP services at national level, efficient collaboration with national administration bodies responsible for research and innovation strategy and policy
7. Handling cross-cutting issues, handling an EIC pilot without much information from Commission,
8. Many meetings and few people to attend. And the content is often repeated because of our small size.
9. lack of involvement, turn over and lack of creativity
10. Innovation, decentralization, new media
11. A usual problem / challenge is the increased turnover of personnel. Frequent changes in the people acting as NCPs does not allow proper capitalization on the knowledge and experience obtained and limits the added value provided to the beneficiaries.
12. Encourage specific target groups to participate such as SMEs and public authorities.
13. Enhance participation of newcomers
14. Bottlenecks in NCP human resources: typically one person covers more than one NCP area. No NCP-s working full time on NCP tasks they all have other duties. 2. Lack of supporting regional network.
3. Weak motivation of the Hungarian applicants because of other programmes funded by national or EU Structural Funds which are more easily accessible.
15. Funding, human resources, finding balance between being active in NCP networks and supporting national research community.
16. Facilitate Israel's participation in collaborative calls; push Israeli participation in technological platforms;
17. Resources available to support the R&I System
18. Continuous learning needs for NCPs
19. "better communication between delegates of H2020 committee and NCP
20. more effective work between delegates of H2020 committee and advisory groups"
21. Availability to cover the whole thematics
22. "- lack of training (in some areas) from the Commission;
   (1) changes in NCPs (i.e. NCPs leaving their roles);
   (2) big learning curve for new NCPs."
23. To gather enough resources. To identify the right persons within the organization for help and guidance.
24. Coordination of synergy with national programmes, regional involvement, Human resources
25. Lack of national budget dedicated to NCP activities. 2. Advice based on demand. 3. Not full time job.
26. national strategies, synergies with ESIF, funding of NCP structure
27. Newcomers faced a challenge, a lot of potential participants, few NCPs in some functionalities
28. Coping with initial SME instrument uncertainty; providing service to a continuously growing potential participant group; understanding Commission’s externalization policy
29. Lack of/late information from the EC, enough time for each NCP area to inform applicants and help participants, synergies with national programmes are essential, but also time consuming.
30. The collaboration of NCPs from different thematic domains with regard to one topic appearing in different Work Programmes was challenging in the beginning; (2) To set up and adapt the structures for EIC was challenging, but we did it (3) The integration of SSH in other programs was and is still challenging, as more as the EC has difficulties too to really integrate SSH specialists and evaluators in the non-SSH calls.
31. Part time NCPs employment, 2. Low salary. 3. Newcomers NCPS with not enough developed skills

Measures to be taken by national NCP systems. Structural basics (target group NCPs)
Other:
1. NCP tasks, activities and indicators are specified and elaborated within the national project which results are regularly evaluated by 2 independent external evaluators.
2. The Networks provided targeted training within the thematic areas, and there is still a need for this in the Next framework programme.
3. No proper options to choose from: for the first 3 questions we have not implemented these actions yet.
4. Setting up of a service and product portfolio for all Horizon 2020 advisors (not only NCPs); definition of processes for this portfolio and yearly update; training of the advisors in these services; regular exchange among the NCPs on burning topics (e.g. What is transdisciplinarity); training in soft skills.

Other:
1. Developing of NCP network project brokerage events in particular in widening countries.
2. Contracts with all universities in CH, to best serve the clients in academia (our NCP organization is a network with one network office with all the NCPs, and regional offices at the universities); Set up of a partner management, in order to serve better clients in companies via partner organizations;
Other:
1. NCP live (short movies), contacts with media, English website and newsletter, Crystal Brussels Award
2. Only MSCA deliver paper products, the other areas don't work that way.

Other:
1. pre-screening, pre-checking applications
2. Mentoring activities, pre-proposal check

We do not actively assist in matchmaking.
Annex 3: Survey

Text for the Welcome Page

Welcome to the needs analysis of NCP systems in the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe. This survey is launched by the NCP Academy.

We have asked all NCP Coordinators to respond on behalf of their national NCP networks. Herewith, we would also invite all NCP project networks to give us their feedback.

The results of the survey will be sent to the European Commission and will feed into upcoming discussions on the future of support networks under Horizon Europe.

You have been invited to complete this survey on behalf of your NCP project network.

Please note that your NCP project network should fill in ONE survey only.

Deadline is: xx

For any questions, please Caterina Buonocore

Section A: Horizon Europe - Challenges
A.1. What are the main challenges we are facing in the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe? How do you assess the importance of the following challenges? *(Please assess the challenges given on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the extremely relevant, 1 not relevant at all)*

- Complexity of the programme
- Addressing new potential applicant groups
- Meeting the extended innovation approach
- Coping with the rising number of externalised instruments
- Connecting the program to other programs
- Cooperating with different actors in the field of consultancy
- Adapting to new funding instruments, funding mechanisms
- Meeting the increased importance of cross-cutting issues
- Other (please specify) -> open message box

Section B: Horizon Europe – Structure of an NCP system
B.1. What percentage of the NCP system has to change to meet these challenges? *(Change can be e.g. regarding structure of the network, way of approaching the clients, NCP roles, cooperation with national/regional players and diversification of services offered)* *(scroll down suggestion)*

- 0%
- 25%
- 50%
- 100%

B.2. What should be the future structure of NCPs according to the currently discussed structure of Horizon Europe (PGA 30/11/2018)? *(multiple choice)*

- ERC
- MSCA
- Research Infrastructures
- Health
- Culture and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate and Energy
Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

- Mobility
- Bioeconomy, Food, Natural Resources and Environment
- non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- European Innovation Council (EIC)
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- Widening participation and sharing excellence
- Reforming and enhancing the European R&I System
- L&F
- NCP Coordinator
- EURATOM

B.3. What additional officially nominated NCPs are necessary? (open message box)
B.4. Do you see topics that require a particularly high number of FTEs?
B.5. Meeting the cluster approach: Do you think we need cooperation of several NCPs from different thematic areas or coordinated NCP structures to cover a cluster (yes/no)
Please specify
B.6. Meeting the mission approach: Do you think we need NCPs for missions? (yes/no)
Please specify
B.7. Meeting the specifics of the EIC: Are the NCPs structures and activities as currently existing suitable to consult in regard to the EIC? (yes/no)
Please specify

Section C: Horizon Europe - NCP skills and needs

C.1. What are the skills / knowledge NCPs need to have to meet the challenges of Horizon Europe? (multiple choice – select the 3-5 most important ones)
- Information on political and strategic background of calls
- Expertise and expert knowledge of the research field
- Knowledge on the European research and innovation landscape
- Overview of Horizon Europe whole programme structure
- Specific knowledge on work programme / calls / topics
- Training skills (incl. virtual learning)
- Knowledge in administrative procedures and contractual issues
- Information about other European RTD-programmes
- IT skills (web, social media, analyse statistical data...)
- Project management
- Information on new / specific instruments and funding mechanisms (procurement, blended financing...)
- Information on externalised programmes / large scale initiatives (partnerships, flagships, KICs...)
- Other (please specify) -> open message box

D. My wishes for a new NCP system
-> open message box

Thank you
Annex 4: Providing a structured exchange interface for NCP networks (results from the NCP Project Coordinator Networks)
Section A: Horizon Europe - Challenges

What are the main challenges we are facing in the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe? How do you assess the importance of the following challenges?

Complexity of the programme

Addressing new potential applicant groups
Meeting the extended innovation approach

Coping with the rising number of externalised instruments

Connecting the program to other programs

Cooperating with different actors in the field of consultancy
Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

Adapting to new funding instruments, funding mechanisms

Meeting the increased importance of cross-cutting issues

Other suggestions

• BIOHORIZON:
  Using the whole potential of excellence of ERA, including new MSs
Section B: Horizon Europe – Structure of an NCP system

What fraction of the NCP system has to change to meet these challenges?

(Change can be e.g. regarding structure of the network, way of approaching the stakeholders, NCP roles, cooperation with national/regional players and diversification of services offered)
What should be the future structure of NCPs according to the currently discussed structure of Horizon Europe (PGA 30/11/2018)?

- Climate and Energy
- ESP
- Research Infrastructures
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Spaces
- Bioeconomy, Food, Natural Resources and Environment
- European Innovation Council (EIC)
- Health
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- Mobility
- Culture and Creative Industries
- Higher Education and Training
- Horizon Europe Direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Refocusing and strengthening the European R&I System

What additional officially nominated NCPs are necessary?

- NCPs on Missions
- Missions
- NCPs for each JU
- JU
- NCP for Open Science, NCP for Ethics
- hard to say at this point
- DEP, CEF and similar programmes
- NCPs for PPPs
- Space definitely needs a dedicated NCP. A cluster NCP could, by far not provide the same qualified service. I did not click the other topics since I don’t feel I should decide on them.
Do you see topics that require a particularly high number of FTEs?

- EIC, Digital industry
  - unable to answer at present
  - In general, FTEs seem to have been lacking in H2020. So an overall increase would be useful in the ever growing complexity of funding programmes.
  - Yes

Meeting the cluster approach: Do you think we need cooperation of several NCPs from different thematic areas or coordinated NCP structures to cover a cluster?

Suggestions:

- NODES.SEO: 2 areas for the moment: Energy, Health, and more currently we need coordinated, structured and stable cooperation among NCPs for different clusters, programmes.
- NODES.SEO: transport, energy, environment
- NODES.SEO: in particular Digital industry, space as well, etc.

FINALISATION: I believe there is cooperation better than a single NCP network per cluster since the themes make the clusters too many for efficient coordination.

NCPs CARE: Suggestions options will have to be decided at later time.

INTERACTIVE: This question is strange, as coordination and cooperation go together in existing NCP systems. Forcing cooperation and coordination has been an inhibitor for performing NCP systems already in the past.

COMMENTS: Can you answer questions with "Yes" or "No"? Always, at least for this cluster "Digital Industry and Space". Definitely think we need separate NCPs cooperating in areas of joint activities. So far don't even see a lot of these but it can all be developed in this direction.

Yes (depending on the content, but the H2020-15 MCP from the different thematic areas need to be already close together.)
Meeting the mission approach: Do you think we need NCPs for missions?

Suggestions:

- **VIA2025:** To give comprehensive overview to national stakeholders, highlighting the core of the mission.
- **Minster:** To contribute support, consistent with Asian values.
- **VIA2025:** Actually, I can’t see how there could be a clear implementation of the mission.

- **NCPs:** Mice: need international support.
- **VIA2025:** Missions should be covered by one or several NCPs, covering the entire mission topic.
- **VIA2025:** I’m not fully aware of the concept yet. From what I know, bilateral and other NCPs could be useful.

Next steps:
- **NCPs:** Possible, although it is still early to know. The IC should give enough flexibility to the Member States to make changes and adapt their NCP structure to the needs and complexity of the programme. I think it has started, as now it is difficult to foresee the exact profile in practice.
- **NCPs:** If there is no “NCP System” in which all NCPs cooperate well, there is no need for that.

Meeting the specifics of the EIC: Are the NCPs structures and activities as currently existing suitable to consult in regard to the EIC?

Suggestions:

- **NCPs:** Please consider the new EIC and ARTI NCP Network starting after the summer 2023, as included in the EIC WP 2019-2023.
- **Minster:** PET, SAFE, ARTI.
- **NCPs:** Might need adaptation.

Observations:
- **VIA2025:** A “nudge” could be helpful to get the EIC to the IC, as well as NCPs to the EIC system.
- **VIA2025:** I’m no expert here but have the feeling that the recent approach works.

Next steps:
- **NCPs:** There should be different NCPs for the different areas and for the different areas, as the instruments are very different and have a common objective target as well.
- **Minster:** I think they could be interesting on national level (at least countries).
Section C: Horizon Europe – NCP skills and needs

What are the skills / knowledge NCPs need to have to meet the challenges of Horizon Europe?

- Information on political and strategic background of calls – 12
- Information on new / specific instruments and funding mechanisms [procurement, blended financing...] – 51
- Specific knowledge on work programme / calls / topics – 45
- Information on international programmes / large scale initiatives (partnerships, flagship, RTD...) – 19
- Knowledge on the European research and innovation landscape – 9
- Overview of Horizon Europe: whole programme structure – 8
- Training skills [incl. virtual learning] – 4
- Project management – 3
- Expertise and expert knowledge of the research field – 1
- Knowledge in administrative procedures and contractual issues – 1
- Information about other European RTD-programmes – 3
- IT skills [web, social media, analyse statistical data...] – 0
My wishes for a new NCP system/1

Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

My wishes for a new NCP system/2
Section D: NCP networks for Horizon Europe

Which future role do you expect for the NCP network projects in Horizon Europe?

- To engage in activities in favor of stakeholders at international level: 5
- To ensure the creation of a common NCP network for NCPs: 6
- To extend their support in the Partnership area of the Programme (e.g., Contractual PPP, ITNs, IMI etc.): 3
- To extend their support to third countries NCPs: 6
Which activities you propose to implement for the future of NCP network projects?

- Thematic trainings for NCP: 12
- Thematic brokerage events: 21
- Workshop for NCPs (e.g., networking with thematic stakeholders): 8
- Public events for stakeholders: 20
- Guidelines/Template for users: 10
- Online-evaluation for NCP (only): 9
- EC-workshops: 4
- Staff exchange/surveys/other visits: 4
- Thematic training for stakeholders: 8
- EC Info days: 8
- NCP Infodays/Meetings: 4
- Contribution to public engagement in the area of competence: 4
- Studies: 3
- E-learning modules: 4
- Thematic partner search tools: 3

In which way you wish that the EC will rearrange the networks according to the new clusterization scheme of Horizon Europe?

- [Diagram showing the distribution of preferences]
What new NCP network projects are necessary from your point of view?

- 9 responses
- Address etc., at large
- Management, etc.
- Technical issues (new technologies e.g. IoT, etc.)
- NCPs: Thematic NCP network projects are more than ever necessary.
- Online tools (e.g., APD), linked to “Digital” in member states.
- Support networks, etc.
- Similarities: a joint legal and financial tool network, a technical tool coordinator, one and one which could be the essential point for the thematic ones.

Do you think there is a need of enhancing the coordination among the NCP network projects?

If yes, on what aspects:

- NCP common “Virtual Library”
- Common web portal
- Common training programmes
- Common branding
- Common communication plan

Other suggestions:
- Dual practice and experience exchange, Cross-cutting activities like action clusters, joint calls, etc., common use of tools developed by certain NCP networks, Thematic training within each network project, specific training programme for each country cluster, information exchange, monitoring of the activities of each network in order to avoid the risk of overlapping, 

Final Version
Final evaluations

- New funding schemes and instruments require new knowledge.
- Horizon Europe is perceived as an evolution. NCPs system will need a medium degree of changes.
- NCP majority thinks that we should have NCPs for missions, JU, EIT, open science and ethics.
- NCPs should be more focused on policies, WP, topics, FT, and less on NCP networks. Expression of preference on training skills or social media.
- NCPs wish more cooperation between NCPs networks, clusters and other European programmes.
- NCPs should work around thematic NCP networks to develop better quality services for thematic clients.
- 7 networks want to support the partnerships and 8 networks want to extend their support to third countries NCPs.
- Need of a dedicated J&T network.

Thank you!

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Marco Falzetti
APRE Director
NCP Coordinator

Meet and Exchange for NCP Coordinators on the future role of the NCP network

14. May 2019; 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Collège de France, 11 place Marcelin Berthelot, Paris 5, France

Agenda

9:00       Welcome Coffee & Tea

9:30 -9:45 Introduction to the Meet and Exchange today's aims and non-aims, organization, key concepts

9:45 -10:15 Presentation of the outcome of the survey

10:15 -10:45 Presentation of additional relevant aspects, incl. feedback from the NCP community or NCP project networks

10:45-12:30 Group discussion, identification of the most relevant points Presentation of the identified potential topics and explaining the group work

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 Sharing the outcome

2:30-3:00 Coffee

3:00-4:00 Brainwalk

4:00-5:00 Formulating the key findings and recommendations

5:00       End of Session
Annex: 6: List of participants and group picture

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<td>Anne</td>
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<td>Andrea</td>
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<td>Nina</td>
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Deliverable 3.2.; Partner: DLR and MESRI

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