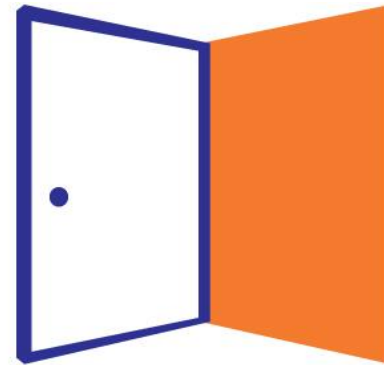


# NCP

# ACADEMY



## Training National Contact Points

## Paper on the NCP role now and in the future

Issued during the Meet & Exchange NCP Coordinators session  
held in Paris on May 14th

Deliverable 3.3. in WP 3, Task. 3.1.

# Aim

Aim is to provide reflections of NCP Coordinators on the NCP role and develop proposals for the structure of an NCP system for Horizon Europe.

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Deliverable 3.3. in WP 3, Task. 3.1. of the NCP Academy2 project

# 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

# 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?

## 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, FAQ...).
- 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 information 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 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.

# 5) Supporting international cooperation

Proposals to the EC:

- 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.

# 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).
- Organize common meetings and encourage strong collaboration between the 2 NCPs.
- Provide regular information about the EIT/KICs to thematic NCP.

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

Proposals to the EC:

- 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.

# 7) Meeting the cross-thematic and interdisciplinary approaches

Proposals to the EC:

- Consider extending flagging for missions (such as SSH).
- Mention in the EC guidelines the need to insure 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 organization 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).