

## NCP Networks and Linking Researchers



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### Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges



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# The Mission

- “Highly professional support services operating **nationally** will form an essential component of Horizon 2020 implementation. By spreading **awareness**, giving **specialist advice**, and providing on-the-ground **guidance**, they will ensure that the new programme becomes known and readily accessible to all **potential applicants**, irrespective of sector or discipline”.

# NCP services

- **The Basic Services**

- These should be available in accordance with the minimum standards and guiding principles:
  - Guidance on choosing thematic priorities and instruments
  - Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues
  - Training and assistance on proposal writing
  - Distribution of EC documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)
  - **Assistance in partner search and networking**

# The Role of the NCP

- **Operating Nationally**

- You need a national **network** to succeed. Then, extend into Europe.
- The country context and priorities should define the approach to networks for the NCP.
- You cannot reach everywhere geographically but it is possible to have sufficient presence where it matters – relevant institutions e.g. Universities, research institutes;
- Priorities must be drawn from the specific domain of expertise – ICT, health, SME, environment, etc.

# The Role of the NCP

- **NCP networks**

- There are a number of web-based networks that are useful to the NCP. E.g.
- INCONTACT [www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/index.php](http://www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/index.php) - *the official network for NCPs for scientific cooperation activities. A wiki, you can also contribute information, news, etc. on your activities. (5<sup>th</sup> INCO Conference in Athens, 2-3 June*
- *Biocircle is a network project funded by the EC bringing together researchers in “Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology”. Started in 2008 one primary aim was to strengthen capacity of 3<sup>rd</sup> country Bio-NCPs to support their researchers.* [http://www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/index.php?title=BIO\\_CIRCLE: a new global network of BIO-NCPs](http://www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/index.php?title=BIO_CIRCLE:_a_new_global_network_of_BIO-NCPs)
- *Ideal-ist is a worldwide support network for ICT.* <http://www.ideal-ist.eu/> *It is useful for researchers and companies in private sector to get information about project opportunities in Horizon 2020 and search for partners.*

# The Role of the NCP

- **Searching for partners:**
  - **General Partner Search Databases**
  - **CORDIS partner search:** [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners_en.html)
  - The largest database open to all Themes
  - Publish your organization profile or check project ideas
  - Currently problematic but to be updated soon with improved functionality and quality
- **NCP-SMEs:** <http://www.ncp-sme.net/partner-search>
- Focused on SMEs related activities
- Open to all Themes

# The Role of the NCP

- **Searching for partners**

- **To find a proposal, the most demanding process is :** identifying a proposal under preparation, and convincing the coordinator to join the consortium
- **2 methods: Passive and Proactive**
- **Passive:**
  - Publish your organization profile on on-line databases (e.g. CORDIS, Ideal IST)
  - Create an English webpage advertising your expertise and research experience (and international collaborations)
- **Proactive**
  - Identify and contact proposal Coordinators through on-line databases (e.g. CORDIS, Ideal-ist)
  - Participate in (official) brokerage events
  - Respond to partner searches disseminated or published by the local contact point

# The Role of the NCP

- **Spreading Awareness**
- The principle of awareness creation in country – we act on knowledge for good effect;
- The NCP must be aware of the channels for creating awareness – radio, TV, print media, workshops, seminars, conferences, the internet, handouts;
- Selective choice of awareness channels – seminars, workshops, brochures;
- Be guided by cost-effectiveness and practicality



# NCPs in Horizon 2020 & Specialisation

- National NCP Coordinator
- Legal and Financial aspects
- SMEs
- Access to Finance\*
- European Research Council
- 'Future and Emerging Technologies';
- 'Marie Curie actions on skills, training and career development';
- 'European research infrastructures;
- 'Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)';
- 'Nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing';

- 'Space';
- 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing';
- 'Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy'; & 'Biotechnology';
- 'Secure, clean and efficient energy';
- 'Smart, green and integrated transport';
- 'Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials';
- 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies';
- Security'
- Joint Research Centre

# The Role of the NCP

- **Specialist Guidance**
- Except for the NCP Coordinator all others are specialists in particular fields.
- Know your field – update your knowledge regularly especially on Horizon 2020 themes and activities.
- Know your specialist institutions in Europe for future networking;
- Current trends in Africa and your particular country.
- Sources of knowledge today are boundless – internet searches e.g. Research & Innovation portal of Horizon 2020, databases, newsletters, specialist publications,
- Draw on knowledge of your colleagues and mentors

# The Role of the NCP

- **Potential Applicants**

- Who are the potential applicants?

- (1) Those who may seek your assistance directly knowing about Horizon 2020;

- (2) Those who react to your information.

- Create a database for applicants (name, organisation, telephone, email address, specialisation, etc.)
- Create database of counterpart institutions in Europe
- Create a ready source of information for the potential applicants.

# The Challenges

We can **discuss:**

- The challenges you are likely to face may be many:
- Lack of knowledge – you are new in the NCP position with limited knowledge and lack of experience.
- Human – difficult to create and sustain the network; colleagues not cooperating; superiors not supportive.
- Work environment – your workplace is not conducive e.g. No internet connectivity, congested office, your own workload is heavy.
- Funding – (very) limited (in most African countries).

# Principles for NCP Effectiveness

- **Fundamental Principles**
- Must genuinely be committed to the role
- Selflessness, empathy
- Proactive, dynamic
- Knowledge-seeking (curiosity)
- Good inter-personal relations
- *Travelling alone, you go quickly; travelling together you go far...very far!*

## Thank you



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