

## Create an NCP system and support your country's participation to H2020



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### Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges

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# What is an NCP

A National Contact Point (NCPs) is a trained person in charge of providing guidance & advice, practical information and individual assistance on all aspects of participation in the EC main funding instrument for Research and Innovation

*NCPs give **personalised support to researchers preparing proposals and contracts for the EC main funding instrument for Research and Innovation on the spot and in the proposers' own languages***

# What is an NCP system

## A National Contact Points (NCPs) system

**is national structures/network established and financed by governments of the EU member states and associated countries, as well as of ICPC, to support the promotion of the EC main funding instrument for Research and Innovation**

# NCP services

- As NCPs are national structures, the type and level of services offered differ from country to country. In general, the following basic services will be available in accordance with the **Guiding Principles agreed by all countries:**
  - Guidance on choosing thematic priorities and instruments
  - Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues
  - Training and assistance on proposal writing
  - Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)
  - Assistance in partner search

# What does an NCP do

NCP Tasks divided into three sections:

- **1. Informing, awareness raising** (Circulate documentation on the EU RTD programmes, including on conditions for participation, organise promotional activities in liaison with the EC (e.g. info-days, seminars, newsletters, web sites, etc.)
- **2. Advising, assisting and training** (Explain the scope and the modalities of the whole spectrum of the funding instruments, advise on administrative procedures and contractual issues (e.g. role and responsibilities of participants, costs, etc.), assist in partner search)
- **3. Signposting** (Provide feedback to the EC on any problems or difficulties, signpost, to other EU services, for example to the *Enterprise Europe Network*)

# Co-operation between the NCPs and the European Commission

Since the Commission considers the NCP systems as important partners for the implementation and management of its funding instrument, it:

- publishes widely the nominated NCPs (CORDIS)
- provides timely information on WP and roadmaps, upcoming calls, changes in thematic priorities or administrative procedures, statistics of calls and evaluations...etc....
- invites NCPs to participate in information and awareness actions related to RTD
- informs NCPs about the evaluation results

# NCPs– a system with flexibility and diversity

- The NCP systems in the different countries **show a wide variety of architectures, from highly centralised to decentralised networks, and a number of very different actors, from ministries to universities, research centres and special agencies to private consulting companies**
- Provides the flexibility to each country to establish a tailor-made NCP structure

# Some basic characteristics – Human Capacity

- In about a quarter of the countries the NCP service is provided centrally by one single organisation.
- Other countries have more decentralised systems with up to 32 different organisations involved.
- National ministries act as NCPs in 2/3 of the countries, with two countries (Israel & The Netherlands) having the ministry as sole organisation.
- Private enterprises are NCPs in 6 countries.
- The number of full time equivalent staff delivering NCP services ranges from 3 to 43 per country.
- In total, about 400 persons (full-time equivalent) are working as NCPs in the 33 Member and Associated States.



## Some basic characteristics – Financing

- NCPs are financed by (in order of importance): national governments, regional authorities, private funding, own revenues, EU funding.
- In half of the countries, the NCPs are nearly exclusively funded by the national governments.
- In most of the countries, services provided by NCPs are free of charge.
- In only seven countries do fees have to be paid for some of the services.

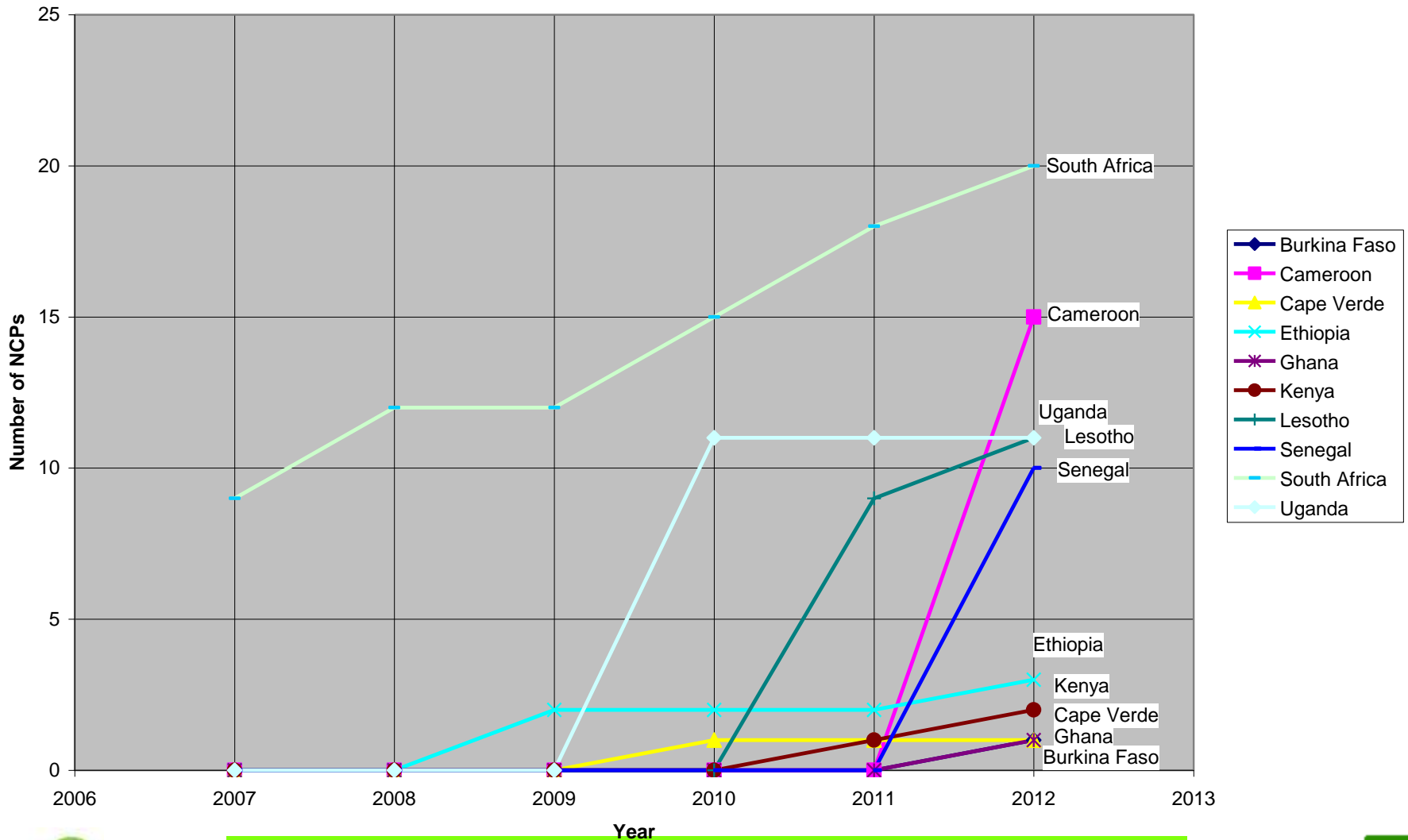
# Advantages / Disadvantages

- **Advantages of the current NCP system**
  - Tailored to national structures and needs
  - Can be set up and made operational quickly
  - No central “control” from Commission
- **Disadvantages of the current NCP system**
  - Variable coverage and quality of services
  - Variable levels of national funding
  - No standardised quality control of services delivered

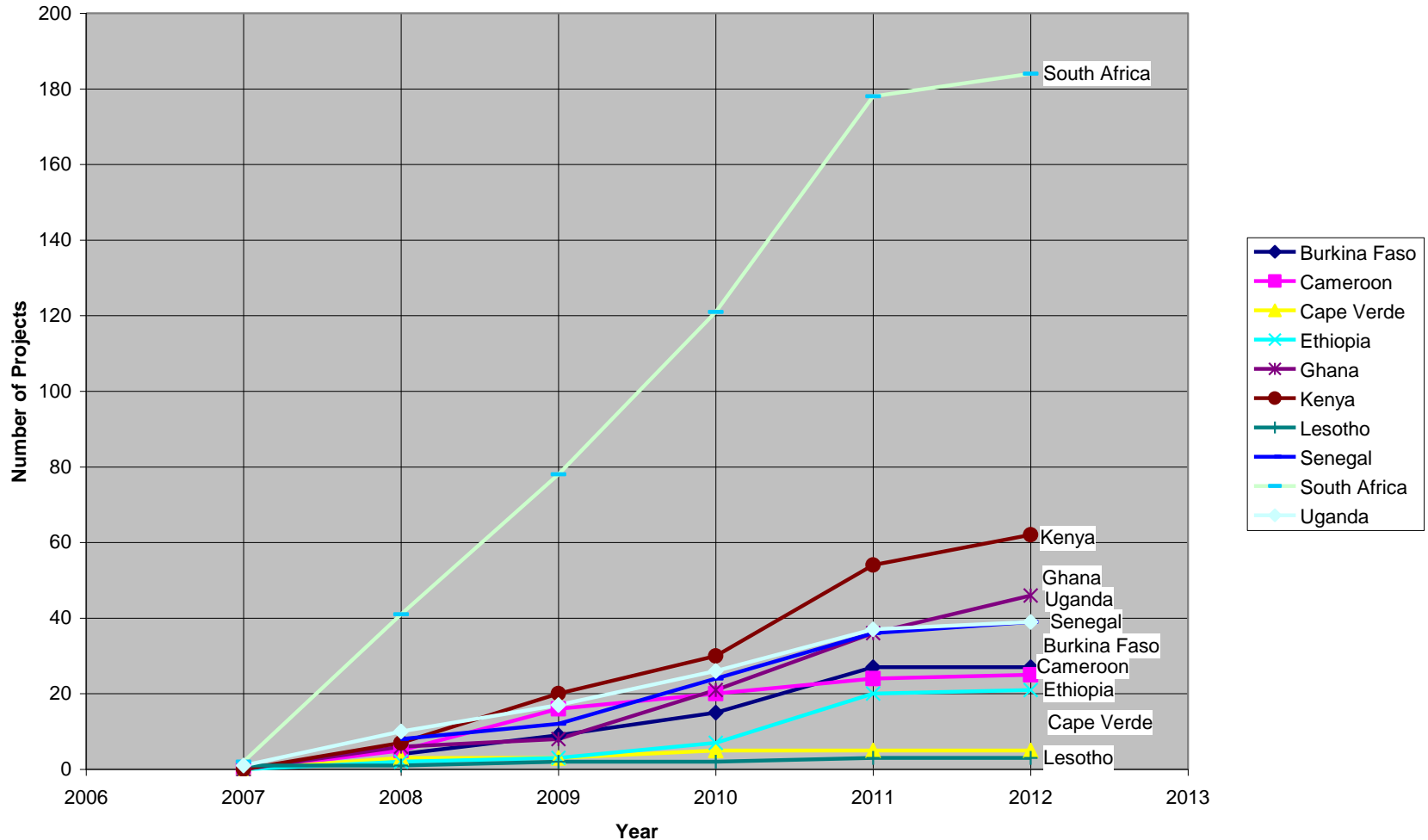
# Evolution of NCPs

- Since 1999, under the **5th and 6th Framework Programmes, all Member States and Associated Countries** have set up NCP systems **to inform and assist potential participants** and partners in ongoing projects
- In FP7 also many **third countries have established NCPs**

# The 7th Frammework Programme and its achievements: Evolution on NCPs appointment 2007-12



# The 7th Framework Programme and its achievements: Participation of sub-Saharan-African countries with appointed NCPs in FP7 projects by year



# NCP system in Horizon 2020

- a) A system of National Contact Points is/will be established for Horizon 2020, building on the experience of previous Framework Programmes
  
- b) The system of National Contact Points will be established, operated and financed under the responsibility of the Member States and countries associated to the programme

# NCP system in Horizon 2020

## 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.*

# NCPs in Horizon 2020

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National NCP Coordinator</li><li>• Legal and Financial aspects</li><li>• SMEs</li><li>• Access to Finance*</li><li>• European Research Council</li><li>• 'Future and Emerging Technologies';</li><li>• 'Marie Curie actions on skills, training and career development';</li><li>• 'European research infrastructures;</li><li>• 'Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)';</li><li>• 'Nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing';</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Space';</li><li>• 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing';</li><li>• 'Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy'; &amp; 'Biotechnology';</li><li>• 'Secure, clean and efficient energy';</li><li>• 'Smart, green and integrated transport';</li><li>• 'Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials';</li><li>• 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies';</li><li>• Security'</li><li>• Joint Research Centre</li></ul> |
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# How to create an NCP system

- The Ministry that would like to host the NCP should write a formal letter of appointment
- The formal letter should be sent through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the interested country to
  - the European Commission Delegation of your Country, or if there is no Delegation,
  - directly to the European Commission

**Directorate-General for Research and Innovation**

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## Thank you



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