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The FP7 National Contact Points

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NCP history

- In DG Research, Contact Points existed in FP4 for certain areas (Innovation, Information Society).
- In FP5 several other research themes established such networks
- Second half of FP5 (2000) saw the first coordination of the activities of these networks
- In FP6 (2002) the **NCP Guiding Principles document**



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NCP Network in FP7

- Network structure and guiding principles formally agreed with all Member States and Countries associated to FP7
- Third countries encouraged to participate in the network
- Formal nomination procedures established





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FP7 NCP structure

- NCPs are individual persons, not organisations
- 21 FP7 NCP themes
- NCPs nominated in:
 - 27 Member States
 - 11 Associated Countries
 - 37 Third Countries (“FP7 contacts”)
- 1283 persons nominated in MS+AC
- 239 persons nominated in third countries
- Internal inter-DG network
 - Coordination and spreading good practices



FP7 NCP structure

NCP short name	Fields of FP7 covered
NCP Co-ordinator	Overall co-ordination of NCP activities; Cooperation – Emerging needs and unforeseen policy needs*, Technology Platforms and Joint Technology Initiatives*, ERA-NET, ERA-NET+, Article 169; Capacities – Coherent Development of Policies
Legal and financial NCP	Horizontal legal and financial issues; Intellectual Property Rights
Health NCP	Cooperation – Health
Bio NCP	Cooperation – Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology
ICT NCP	Cooperation – Information and communication technologies
NMP NCP	Cooperation – Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials, and new Production Technologies
Energy NCP	Cooperation – Energy
Environment NCP	Cooperation – Environment including Climate Change
Transport NCP	Cooperation – Transport (including Aeronautics)
SSH NCP	Cooperation – Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities
Security NCP	Cooperation – Security
Space NCP	Cooperation – Space
Ideas NCP	Ideas
Mobility NCP	People
Regional NCP	Capacities – Research Potential, Regions of Knowledge
SME NCP	Capacities – Research for the benefit of SMEs;
INCO NCP	Capacities – Activities of International Co-operation**
Infrastructures NCP	Capacities – Infrastructure
SiS	Capacities – Science in Society
EURATOM NCP	EURATOM
JRC NCP	Joint research Centre



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Operating the network

- The make-up of NCPs are at the discretion of Member States
 - Many different approaches!
- All costs of national activities are covered by national authorities
- Thematic trans-national meetings (in Brussels)
 - NCPs reimbursed





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Functions

- NCPs provide advice to their clientele research community, tailored to national and local conditions, and in the national language.





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Specific suggested NCP tasks (I) (from Guiding Principle)

Informing, awareness raising

- Circulate information and documentation
- Organise promotional activities (e.g. info-days, websites, fairs, etc.).
- Raise awareness of specific policy objectives
 - SME participatin
 - Women and science
 - Ethics
 - Civil society etc
- Raise awareness of other European programmes in the field of research and innovation such as CIP, Eureka and COST.





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Specific suggested NCP tasks (2)

(from Guiding Principle)

Advising, assisting and training

- Explain the scope funding schemes
- Advise on administrative procedures and legal issues
- Assist in partner search activities
- Assist organisations, in particular new actors and SMEs
- Organise training sessions on RTD programmes for intermediaries
- Organise training seminars for specific target groups, or on specific topics
- Provide information for and advise participants,
- Assist the Commission services in assuring transparency and equal access to calls for new partners in on-going FP7 Projects.





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Specific suggested NCP tasks (3)

(from Guiding Principle)

Signposting and Feedback

- Give feedback to the Commission on any problems and difficulties
- Signpost to other Community business support network services
- Inform the Commission services about planned NCP activities and events requiring participation of Commission staff.





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NCP Network Projects

- Special funding (via FP7 projects) for trans-national NCP activities
- Typical activities:
 - Benchmarking
 - Identifying and spreading good practices
 - Joint events
 - Enhanced partner search
- Coordination meeting planned for 13 January 2009



NCP Network Projects

NCP	Project period (start date & end date; or "under negotiation")	Acronym
Euratom	under negotiation	NUCL-EU
Cooperation: Food, Agriculture and fisheries, and Biotechnology	1.09.2008 - 31.08.2012	BIONET
Capacities: INCO	01.01.2008 - 31.12.2009	INCONTACT
Capacities: SME	1.02.2008 - 31.01.2011	TransCoSME
Cooperation: Energy	under negotiation (1 year)	
Cooperation: SSH	1.02.2008 - 1.02.2011	NET4SOCIETY
Capacities: Science in Society	1.02.2008 - 1.02.2010	EUROSIS
Cooperation: NMP	under Negotiation. Planned for early 2009	NMP TeAm
Capacities: Regions of Knowledge	1.01.2008 - 31.12.2012	TransRegNCP
Capacities: Research Potential	1.01.2008 - 31.12.2012	ResPotNet
Cooperation: Health	1.05.2008 - 30.04.2012	HEALTH-NCP-NET
Cooperation: ICT	1.10.2008 - 30.09.2011	Idealist2011
Cooperation: Space	1.06.2008 - 31.05.2011	COSMOS
Cooperation: Transport "European Transport NCP Alliance" (ETNA)	1.04.2008 - 31.03.2011	ETNA
Cooperation: Security	1.02.2008 - 01.07.2009	SEREN
People: Marie Curie	1.08.2008 - 31.07.2011	PeopleNetwork
Cooperation: Environment	1.12.2008 - 30.12.2013	ENV-NCP-TOGETHER
Capacities: Infrastructures	1.11.2007 - 31.10.2011	EuroRIs-Net



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**Thank you for your
attention!**

