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# Lessons learnt from the IncoNet EaP Support to NCPs

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## IncoNet EaP Project

- ✓ A 3-years long Coordination and Support Action dedicated to the EU – EaP STI cooperation (FP7, 2013-2016)
- ✓ Builds on previous FP7 IncoNets and other projects addressing the region (Bilat, BS-Eranet, IncoNet EECA, etc.)
- ✓ Promotes the EU-EaP Policy dialogue and identification of research priorities, with focus on 3 SCs: **Climate Change, Energy & Health**
- ✓ Implemented by a consortium of 19 Partners from **all EaP** countries and 12 EU MS/AC
- ✓ Promotes H2020 in the EaP region in order to **enhance cooperation** between relevant stakeholders from EU MS/AC and the EaP countries.

## 1. Local awareness on NCP structures

Dedicated activities at **national level** in order to promote the importance and the capability of NCPs (through trainings, workshops, print-out material, NCPs twinnings). **Well-organized NCPs lead to an increased participation in H2020 but also in broader ERA activities**

## 2. Review of support activities for NCPs

Review of ongoing support activities dedicated to NCPs in the EaP region which are possibly under implementation by DG Research and Innovation (and other DGs involved ). **Conclusions and recommendations** in order to revise the planning of the support to be provided to NCPs.

## 3. Training the NCP structures (spring 2014)

On WP, calls, proposal submission , evaluation, financial administration and legal aspects (38 NCPs from all EaP countries)



## *During the IncoNet EaP Project (additional activities)*

### **4. EaP PANEL on RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, 2016 annual event "Horizon 2020 NCPs training" (16-17 March 2016, Kiev)**

Active participation of the EaP NCPs. It was an opportunity to **update** any available information regarding the new WP 2016-2017 of H2020/ **present** an overview with statistics of the H2020 participation/ **good practices** of NCPs/ **proposal writing**.

### **5. Twinning scheme to support EaP NCP activities**

- EaP NCPs related to EN, CC, HE visits to the relevant EU NCPs
- Sharing best practices, training on practical issues (administrative and financial), presentation of the EU NCP structure (national-regional-local level)
- Positive feedback → need to repeat this activity ?

## Importance and Impact of NCPs

The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide **guidance, practical information** and **assistance** on ALL aspects of participation in Horizon 2020.

The NCPs national structures *differ* from country to country.

- ✓ type and range (highly centralised to decentralised structures)
- ✓ level of services offered

In general, the following basic services are provided:

- ❖ **Guidance** on choosing relevant H2020 topics and types of action
- ❖ Assistance in **partner search**
- ❖ Advice on **administrative** procedures and contractual issues
- ❖ **Training** and assistance on proposal writing
- ❖ Distribution of **documentation** (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)

# Lessons Learnt from the Project`s activities (1/3)

## H2020 EaP NCPs (by May 2016)\*

AM	AZ	BY	GE	MD	UA
17	16	27	20	27	33

### Major fields of EaP NCPs

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions on skills, training and career development and processing

Nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing

Health, demographic change and wellbeing

Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy; & Biotechnology

Secure, clean and efficient energy

Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials

\*[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_cont\\_act\\_points.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_cont_act_points.html)



## Lessons Learnt from the Project`s activities (2/3)

- In most of the countries, NCPs work on a **voluntary basis** and in **parallel** with the main job.
- NCPs need from their national authorities:
  - support (funding and/or other)
  - promotion of their role
  - consolidation/continuity
- EaP countries provided **some financial support** to their NCP systems in the FP7. However in H2020, there is a **lack of funding** for participation in NCPs activities.
- **Lack of experience** -to some extent- since there is no permanent personnel of NCPs. It is necessary to organise activities of **capacity building** for less experienced NCPs in the region.
- Improvement of **NCPs service** is needed as well as advancement of **regional** networking

## Lessons Learnt from the Project`s activities (3/3)

- Support at EU level: **Minimum standards and Guiding principles** for setting up systems of National Contact Points (NCP systems) under Horizon 2020
- **H2020 Projects** related to thematic NCPs networks (open to EaP countries) can support the EaP NCPs
- **EC support** : TAIEX, TWINNING, Eastern Partnership
- EU initiatives **contribute** to the capacity building of the EaP NCP systems although **national support** is necessary.
- Findings and recommendations of IncoNet EaP can support:
  - a) the *national authorities* of the EaP countries to strengthen the NCPs
  - b) the *EaP NCPs* to improve the provided services (funding, trainings etc.)



# Networks for Thematic NCPs (1/2)

Net4Mobility <a href="http://www.net4mobility.eu">http://www.net4mobility.eu</a>	Network for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions NCPs
Rich2020 <a href="http://rich2020.eu">http://rich2020.eu</a>	Network for Research Infrastructure NCPs
Idealist <a href="http://www.ideal-ist.eu/">http://www.ideal-ist.eu/</a> is	Network for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) NCPs
NMP TeAm 3 <a href="http://www.nmpteam.com/">http://www.nmpteam.com/</a>	Network for Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing (NMP) and Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT) NCPs
COSMOS2020 <a href="http://ncp-space.net/">http://ncp-space.net/</a>	Network for the Space NCPs
Health NCP Net 2.0 (HNN 2.0) <a href="http://www.healthncp.net/">http://www.healthncp.net/</a>	NCP Network for the Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing Societal Challenge (SC1)
NCP Academy <a href="http://www.ncpacademy.eu/">http://www.ncpacademy.eu/</a>	NCP Coord. and NCPs for Legal and Financial aspects of H2020 to develop the NCP Academy concept and implement training on cross-cutting issues.

# Networks for Thematic NCPs (2/2)

C-ENERGY 2020 <a href="http://www.c-energy2020.eu/">http://www.c-energy2020.eu/</a>	NCP Network for Energy
NCP CaRe <a href="http://www.ncps-care.eu/">http://www.ncps-care.eu/</a>	NCP Network for SC5 “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”
Net4Society <a href="http://www.net4society.eu/">http://www.net4society.eu/</a>	NCP Network for the SC6 "Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies”.
SEREN3 <a href="http://www.seren-project.eu/">http://www.seren-project.eu/</a>	NCP Network for Secure Societies (SC7)
NCP WIDE.NET <a href="http://www.ncpwidenet.eu/">http://www.ncpwidenet.eu/</a>	NCP Network for Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
SiS.net <a href="http://www.sisnetwork.eu/">http://www.sisnetwork.eu/</a>	NCP Network for Science with and for Society
BioHorizon <a href="http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/">http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/</a>	NCP Network for the SC2 “Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy” and the Key Enabling Technology (KET) “Biotechnology” (KET-B).

**Thank you for your attention!**

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