



THE SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The Sixth Framework Programme covers Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) for the period 2002 to 2006

Survey on **FP6 National Contact Points (NCPs)**

in the 15 EU Member States and the 18 countries associated to FP6

Disclaimer: This survey is based on information and data provided by the national coordinators of the NCP systems. The Commission cannot be held liable for the correctness of the data. For questions on specific countries, please contact the respective national coordinator directly (contact details are available at <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/ncp.htm>).

Objective of this survey

National Contact Points (NCPs) are national structures established and financed by governments of the 15 EU member states and the 18 states associated to the Framework Programme. NCPs give personalised support to researchers preparing proposals and contracts for the Framework Programme on the spot and in the proposers' own languages. 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.

The aim of this survey is to present an overview of the different systems with some basic data on resources, types of organisations involved and services offered in the countries. The presentation is based on data and information provided by the national coordinators of the NCP systems between September and December 2003.

Organisations involved, number of staff

While 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 two thirds of the countries, with two countries 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. As could be expected, there is a certain relation between size of the country and number of staff but with marked deviations from proportionality.

In total, about 400 persons (full-time equivalent) are working as NCPs in the 33 Member and Associated States.

Financing, charges for services

NCPs are financed by (in order of importance): national governments, regional authorities, private funding, own revenues, EU funding¹. 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. There is no country in which all NCP services have to be paid for.

¹While the basic NCP activities are financed by national sources, EU funding from the Framework Programme is available for specific activities (transnational cooperation, help for specific actors like SMEs), in the form of Specific Support Actions, based on calls for proposals

Activities and services offered

In all countries basic NCP services as agreed in the “[Guiding principles](#)” (see <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/ncp.htm>) are provided: distribution of Commission documentation; NCP website; phone/fax/e-mail helpdesk; face-to-face consulting; organisation of conferences, seminars and training courses for proposers and contractors. In about half of the countries NCPs translate Commission documentation into the national language. Help in proposal editing, proof-reading of proposals and support for contract negotiation is offered in two thirds of the countries.

Most of the NCPs are involved in advising their national governments on FP6 matters.

The average monthly number of contacts (e-mail, phone, fax, face-to-face) with clients ranges from ten to more than 5000. Phone and e-mail are the preferred modes of communication, but there is also a considerable number of face-to-face consultations. The total number of average monthly contacts in all 33 countries exceeds 20,000.

Relations with other information and support networks

The majority of NCPs exchange information with and signpost clients to the network of Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs, see <http://irc.cordis.lu>). Links with other European business support networks (e.g. Euro Info Centres (EICs), Business Information Centres (BIC), Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Helpdesk) are less developed.

Survey of NCP systems, table 1: Number of staff and organisations involved

Country	n° of NCP staff (full-time equivalent)	n° of organisations involved	Types of organisations involved					If other, specify
			Ministry	Higher Education	Public research organisation	Private Enterprise	Other	
Austria	43	11	x				x	NPO's contracted by public bodies
Belgium	11	6	x				x	Governmental Agency, Business Federation
Bulgaria	NA	5	x	x	x	x		IRC
Cyprus	3,2	10	x	x	x	x	x	National Research Funding Organisation
Czech Republic	11	1					x	private not for profit organisation
Denmark	6	1					x	Authorised Technological Institute
Estonia	7	1					x	Private non-profit organisation
Finland	10	8	x		x		x	Governmental funding organisations
France	14	32	x	x	x		x	associations
Germany	40	12	x		x	x	x	Technology Transfer Agency, Public Private Partnership
Greece	11	5	x		x	x	x	
Hungary	5	3	x				x	National Atomic Energy Office, Hungarian Space Organisation
Iceland	3	4		x			x	
Ireland	7	10	x		x			Semi-State Agencies
Israel	14	1	x	x				
Italy	18	4	x		x			
Latvia	11	2					x	Professional NGO: Baltic Chapter of SPIE and IRC
Liechtenstein	1	1				x		
Lithuania	7	1					x	Agency for Intern. Science & Techn. Development Programmes
Luxembourg	1,5	1					x	National Innovation Agency
Malta	5	3	x	x		x		
Netherlands	31	1	x					
Norway	8	1					x	Research Council
Poland	46	12		x	x			
Portugal	11	18	x	x				
Romania	3	5	x	x	x	x	x	
Slovakia	5	10	x	x	x			
Slovenia	8	3	x					
Spain	9	8	x	x	x	x	x	National Agency for Technological Development
Sweden	12	3					x	Public body
Switzerland	22	12		x			x	Private non-profit organisation
Turkey	13	1			x			
United Kingdom	46	32	x	x	x	x	x	Govt owned contractor

NA=Not available

Survey of NCP systems, table 2: Financing and charges

Country	Sources of financing (%)						Charges for services			
	National government	regional authorities	private funding	Own revenues	EU funding*	Other	If other please specify	always free	charges for some services	charges for all services
Austria	69	5		1	15	10	Austrian Federal Economic Chamber	x		
Belgium	20	80						x		
Bulgaria	60	20	20						x	
Cyprus	50				50			x		
Czech Republic	95				5			x		
Denmark	98			2					x	
Estonia	80	2			18				x	
Finland	100							x		
France	88	2	8		2			x		
Germany	95				5			x		
Greece	70		10	10	10			x		
Hungary	100							x		
Iceland	30			70				x		
Ireland	100							x		
Israel	95				5			x		
Italy	80				20			x		
Latvia	45							x		
Liechtenstein	2		98						x	
Lithuania	98				2			x		
Luxembourg	75			25				x		
Malta	70		10	10	10			x		
Netherlands	95				5				x	
Norway	100							x		
Poland	75			13	10	2	contribution by participants	x		
Portugal	87		13					x		
Romania	80	9	1	10				x		
Slovakia	95				5			x		
Slovenia	100							x		
Spain	80	20						x		
Sweden	92			8					x	
Switzerland	99	1						x		
Turkey	99			1				x		
United Kingdom	98	1		1					x	

NA=Not available

*While the basic NCP activities are financed by national sources, EU funding from the Framework Programme is available for specific activities (transnational cooperation, help for specific actors like SMEs), in the form of Specific Support Actions, based on calls for proposals

Survey of NCP systems, table 3: Services offered, numbers of contacts, signposting to other networks

Country	Activities/Services													Contacts					Signposting to other networks			
	Distribution of Commission documentation	Translation of Commission documentation	Publication of own FP6 documentation	Websites dedicated to NCP activities and FP6 information	Organisation of seminars, training sessions etc.	Partner search and brokerage	E-mail/fax helpdesk	phone helpdesk	face-to-face consulting	help in proposal editing	proof-reading of proposals	support for contract negotiation	advice to national government	Average n° of contacts per month	by phone %	by e-mail and fax %	face-to-face %	other %	EICs	IRCs	BICs	Other
Austria	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5250	12	83	4	1	x	x	x	x
Belgium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	200	35	50	15		x	x		x
Bulgaria	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		3100	20	60	20		x	x		
Cyprus	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		10	50	30	20			x		
Czech Republic	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		800	40	50	8	2		x		x
Denmark	x			x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	100	50	40	10		x	x		
Estonia	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	161	35	52	13		x	x		
Finland	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	1000	55	40	5			x		
France	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	1000						x		
Germany*	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	NA	50	40	10		x	x		x
Greece	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	200	60	30	8	2	x	x		
Hungary	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		15	55	30	15					
Iceland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	1200	5	85	5	5		x		
Ireland	x			x	x			x		x	x		x							x		
Israel	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		40	30	15	15		x		x
Italy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	225	40	30	20	10		x		
Latvia	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	400	15	50	20	15		x		
Liechtenstein	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x			x	70	15	80	5					
Lithuania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	290	30	35	20	15				
Luxembourg	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	30	30	65	5		x	x	x	
Malta	x			x	x	x	x	x	x				x	120	20	10	60	10		x		
Netherlands	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	658	37	46	15	2		x		
Norway	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	400	40	30	30		x	x		
Poland	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	2415	37	53	8	2		x		x
Portugal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	500	35	55			x	x	x	
Romania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	280	16	60	24					
Slovakia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	120	40	30	20	10				x
Slovenia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	200	30	40	20	10	x	x	x	x
Spain	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	640	20	40	10	30	x	x	x	x
Sweden	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	900	32	51	17		x	x	x	x
Switzerland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2000	9	81	5	5				x
Turkey	x			x	x	x	x	x	x				x	450	55	40	5					
United Kingdom	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	581	50	40	5	5	x	x	x	x

NA = Not available

*Not all German NCPs offer all services indicated