

# European Transport National Contact Points Alliance

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# EU National Contact Points (NCPs)



- Networks for Information and Assistance for Proposers in EU RTD Programmes
- Guiding principles for setting up systems of National Contact Points (NCP systems) for the 7th EU Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development

# Why EU RTD NCPs?



- The EU RTD Framework Programme (FP)
  - is not just a funding scheme for EU RTD
  - is an instrument supporting the EU R&T policies
  - follows strategic objectives in selected areas
  - applies specific rules
- There is a need for information and assistance
  - for potential participants
  - for contractors in ongoing EU projects
- EU National Contact Points (NCPs)
  - established by national or regional authorities
  - information and training by European Commission

# Basic Principles for NCP System



- Variety of architectures
  - ⇒ centralised or decentralised systems
- Involving different actors
  - ⇒ ministries, specialised agencies, universities, research centres, private consulting companies
- Assuring transparency & equal access

# Main NCP Tasks



- Informing, awareness raising
- Advising and assisting
- Training
- Signposting

# Informing, awareness raising



- **Circulate general and specific information**
  - ⇒ Calls for Proposals, possibilities and rules for participation
- **Organise promotional activities with EC**
  - ⇒ infodays, seminars, conferences, newsletters, Web sites, fairs, etc.
- **Raise awareness for general EU objectives**
  - ⇒ e.g. participation of women, science and society, science and ethics
- **Raise awareness for other programmes**
  - ⇒ e.g. EUREKA, COST

# Advising, assisting, training



- **Explain the modalities for participation**
  - ⇒ new and traditional funding schemes
- **Advise on administrative & contractual issues**
  - ⇒ responsibilities of partners, costs, rights & obligations in consortium, IPR
- **Assist in partner search**
  - ⇒ CORDIS partners, NCP network, IRC network
- **Stimulate participation of new partners**
- **Organise training seminars on EU RTD**
  - ⇒ for intermediaries and other different target groups
  - ⇒ on specific topics
- **Advise on project management**

# Signposting & Feedback



- **Inform Commission about planned NCP activities and events**
  - ⇒ involving Commission staff
- **Signpost to other EU network services**
  - ⇒ e.g. EEN
- **Give feedback to the Commission**
  - ⇒ experiences from implementing FP7
- **Signpost to national or regional funding and support organisations where appropriate**

# NCP Challenges



- National Orientation of National Contact Points
- Steady Influx of New NCPs
- Increased complexity of the Framework Programme

## → Response

- Development and Implementation of a Coordination Mechanism in order to:
  - Improve the Overall Quality of Transport NCP Services Across Europe
  - Increase Transparency of EU Transport Research
  - Ensure a more equal access to FP7 Transport calls

# Response: ETNA



- European Transport NCP Alliance
- Main objectives:
  - Reinforcing the network of NCPs
  - Identification and promotion of best practice
  - Provision of training and twinning measures
  - Networking with other networks, organisations and initiatives
  - Development of tools and practical initiatives which benefit cross-border audiences

# ETNA



- Funded by European Commission under FP7
- Start April 2008
- Duration 36 months
- Coordinated by TUV Rheinland (D)
- 14 consortium partners...
- ...who develop services and activities for the entire NCP-network
- <http://www.transport-ncps.net>

# ETNA structure



## WP 1: Improving the Performance of Transport NCPs

- Benchmarking of NCP Services
- Organization of a biannual ETNA Forum (five (5) Fora for the whole project duration)

## WP 2: Improvement of Partner Search Methods

- Analysis of existing PS Tools
- Setting up an advanced concept for an optimised PS Tool
- Organization of four (4) 2-Day Training Courses
  - 1st in Budapest (partner search, project structure, NCP structure, evaluation of projects)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Paris (legal and financial, consortium agreement, negotiation phase, exercises)
- Organisation of two (2) Brokerage Events

# ETNA structure



## WP 3: Raising Awareness of Transport NCP activities

- Website, publications, newsletters, brochures

## WP 4: Improving networking for better NCP services

- Mapping of relevant actors, networks and programmes
- Identification, set up of forms of cooperation
- Networking
- Enhancing International Cooperation

# Past Events & activities



- **1<sup>st</sup> ETNA FORUM:** Cologne, 27-28/10/2008
- **1<sup>st</sup> ETNA training:** Budapest 24-25/02/2009
  - Partner search
  - Project structure
  - NCP structure
  - Proposal Evaluation
- **2<sup>nd</sup> ETNA training:** Paris 23-24/04/2009
  - Financial aspects at proposal phase (Exercise on building a budget)
  - Negotiation phase
  - Consortium Agreement and IPR (Exercise on Consortium Agreement and IPR )

# Future Events & Activities



- **2<sup>nd</sup> ETNA FORUM:** Brussels, 29-30/06/2009
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ETNA FORUM:** 2010, 2011 (TBD)
  
- **3<sup>rd</sup> ETNA Training:** Brussels 30/05/2009 - 01/06/2009
- **4<sup>th</sup> ETNA Training:** TBD
  
- **1<sup>st</sup> Brokerage Event:** in 2009 (TBD)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Brokerage Event:** in 2010 (TBD)

# Thank you for your attention!



**HELP-FORWARD / FORTH**

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