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NCPs in FP6 and FP7

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NCPs in FP6

Some facts and figures

- **National structures established and financed by Member States and Associated States**
- **Wide variety of architectures (ministries, universities, research centres, consultants ...)**
- **Ministries act as NCPs in $\frac{2}{3}$ of countries**
- **One single organisation acts as NCP in $\frac{1}{4}$ of countries, in others up to 32 organisations could be involved**
- **Private enterprises are NCPs in 6 countries**





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Funding of NCPs in FP6

- **Sources of funding: national, regional authorities, private, own funds, EU**
- **Basic NCP activities funded by national governments**
- **In 1/2 of countries, NCPs funded exclusively by national government**
- **NCP services free of charge in most countries**
- **Some paid services (in only 7 countries)**



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The work of FP6 NCPs

- **Personalised support to researchers preparing proposals and contracts**
- **Basic services as set out in “Guiding Principles” - distribution of documents, website, phone/fax/e-mail helpdesk, seminars, workshops, one-to-one consulting**
- **Translation of documents (in $\frac{1}{2}$ of countries), partner search, proof-reading of proposals, support during contract negotiation (in $\frac{2}{3}$ of countries)**





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The work of FP6 NCPs

- **Support during project (particularly legal and financial NCPs)**
- **Advising national governments on FP6 matters**
- **Exchanging information with and signposting clients to IRCs**
- **Links with other European business support networks (EICs, BICs, IPR helpdesk) less developed**





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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**



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Disadvantages of the current NCP system

- **Variable coverage and quality of services**
- **Variable levels of national funding**
- **No standardised quality control of services delivered**
- **No central “control” from Commission**



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Issues on the work of NCPs in FP7

- **Variable quality of treatment of NCPs by Commission services**
- **EU funding of NCPs through calls**
- **Provision of statistics and data on proposal submission and selection**
- **NCPs as programme committee members**
- **Continue with same basic structure?**