



# FP7 and Horizon 2020

*a comparative study of the support services  
in the Nordic countries*

VINNOVA ANALYSIS  
VA 2013:16

VINNOVA IN COLLABORATION WITH



**Title:** FP7 and Horizon 2020 - *a comparative study of the support services in the Nordic countries*

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**Series:** VINNOVA Analysis VA 2013:16

**ISBN:** 978-91-873537-03-5

**ISSN:** 1651-355X

**Published:** November 2013

**Publisher:** VINNOVA - Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems / Verket för Innovationssystem

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## **VINNOVA develops Sweden's innovation capacity for sustainable growth**

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VINNOVA's vision is for Sweden to be a world-leading country in research and innovation, an attractive place in which to invest and conduct business. We promote collaborations between companies, universities, research institutes and the public sector. We do this by stimulating a greater use of research, by making long-term investment in strong research and innovation milieus and by developing catalytic meeting places. VINNOVA's activities also focus on strengthening international cooperation. In order to increase our impact, we are also dedicated to interacting with other research financiers and innovation-promoting organisations. Every year VINNOVA invests about SEK 2 billion in various initiatives.

VINNOVA is a Swedish government agency working under the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications and acts as the national contact agency for the EU Framework Programme for R&D. We are also the Swedish government's expert agency within the field of innovation policy. VINNOVA was founded in January 2001. About 200 people work here and we have offices in Stockholm and Brussels. Our Director General is Charlotte Brogren.

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# Foreword

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The EU Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration – FP7 for short – as well as the following Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation that is starting in 2014 are among the world's – and the history's – largest funding instruments for research and innovation. Their importance is exceedingly great in the Nordic countries. Nordic well-being and affluence are largely based on active innovation and excellent science. Due to a targeted support system as well as a result-oriented cooperation between public research institutions, public organisations and private companies the Nordic countries have been among the most active and successful in FP7.

All Nordic countries share the understanding that efficient and high quality support services play an important role especially in attracting small and medium sized companies and new participants into the Framework Programmes. All countries have focused on developing and improving these services throughout previous Framework Programmes.

Our support systems differ to a certain extent, but there is a common vision that the precondition for success in European innovation and research projects is user-friendly information about the possibilities in the EU programmes and individualized advice about applications, establishing competitive consortia and managing projects. The Nordic NCP coordinators have over the years compared systems and exchanged experiences and best practises. However, this study is the first systematic presentation of the current state of the Nordic support systems and future plans in relation to the next Framework Programme, Horizon 2020.

The study was initiated by VINNOVA, Sweden, in September 2012. Discussions and comparisons between support systems have proved beneficial, having helped to identify development needs and new opportunities in each countries' services, and, above all, proved that Nordic cooperation is viable and works well also in the field of research and innovation.

The Nordic countries' support systems will continue this fruitful collaboration as Horizon 2020 becomes an even more important tool than FP7 to meet the increasing global competition and secure sustainable growth and employment in the Nordic countries.

November 2013

*VINNOVA, NRC, TEKES, RANNIS, DASTI*

# 1 Introduction and background

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The aim of this study is to map EU FP7 support services in the Nordic countries and analyse what services are needed in the forthcoming Framework Programme, Horizon 2020. This study is a joint effort by the Nordic countries to find ways to develop their services to enhance national participation in the Framework Programme. Also, following the recommendations in the report published by NordForsk in 2011<sup>1</sup>, the present study should contribute to improving the sharing of good practices in FP support aiming towards an improved FP participation.

Collaborating in this study have been; Sandra Olivera (VINNOVA), Lennart Norgren (VINNOVA), Dan Andrée (VINNOVA), Annette Borchsenius (DASTI), Vebjørn Walderhaug (NRC), Marja Nykänen (TEKES) and Elísabet Andrésdóttir (RANNIS).

## 1.1 Nordic countries' participation in FP7

This section presents statistics about Nordic participation in FP7, based on the European Commission's e-Corda database with extraction date 21st of June 2013.

Table 1 presents the overall statistics on participation of the top 35 countries in FP7, where we find the Nordic countries placed in the following positions sorted by EC contribution:

- Sweden 9<sup>th</sup> with a total of 3.8 per cent of the total EC contribution.
- Denmark 12<sup>th</sup> with a total of 2.4 per cent of the total EC contribution.
- Finland 13<sup>th</sup> with a total of 2.0 per cent of the total EC contribution.
- Norway 15<sup>th</sup> with a total of 1.7 per cent of the total EC contribution.
- Iceland 32<sup>nd</sup> with a total of 0.2 per cent of the total EC contribution.

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<sup>1</sup> Nordforsk, *Enhancing the Effectiveness of Nordic Research Cooperation- Best practices and lessons learned*, Policy Brief 1, 2011

**Table 1 Top 35 participation of countries in FP7 sorted by EC contribution**

COUNTRY	PARTICIPATIONS	SHARE OF PARTICIPATIONS %	COORDINATORS	SHARE OF COORDINATORS %	EC CONTRIBUTION MILLION €	SHARE OF EC CONTRIBUTION %
GERMANY	14 034	13.5%	2459	12.3%	5 490	16.1%
UNITED KINGDOM	13 541	13.0%	3918	19.7%	5 206	15.2%
FRANCE	9 829	9.5%	2127	10.7%	3 910	11.4%
ITALY	9 211	8.9%	1542	7.7%	2 767	8.1%
SPAIN	8 370	8.1%	1832	9.2%	2 463	7.2%
NETHERLANDS	6 119	5.9%	1271	6.4%	2 400	7.0%
SWITZERLAND	3 505	3.4%	826	4.1%	1 570	4.6%
BELGIUM	4 191	4.0%	721	3.6%	1 316	3.9%
SWEDEN	3 465	3.3%	571	2.9%	1 286	3.8%
AUSTRIA	2 693	2.6%	542	2.7%	887	2.6%
GREECE	2 936	2.8%	538	2.7%	816	2.4%
DENMARK	2 102	2.0%	390	2.0%	804	2.4%
FINLAND	2 055	2.0%	283	1.4%	690	2.0%
ISRAEL	1 584	1.5%	608	3.1%	637	1.9%
NORWAY	1 676	1.6%	270	1.4%	564	1.7%
IRELAND	1 492	1.4%	352	1.8%	480	1.4%
PORTUGAL	1 773	1.7%	255	1.3%	402	1.2%
POLAND	1 815	1.7%	203	1.0%	369	1.1%
HUNGARY	1 304	1.3%	172	0.9%	230	0.7%
CZECH REPUBLIC	1 119	1.1%	95	0.5%	217	0.6%
TURKEY	949	0.9%	239	1.2%	146	0.4%
SLOVENIA	737	0.7%	47	0.2%	137	0.4%
ROMANIA	858	0.8%	52	0.3%	115	0.3%
EUROPEAN UNION (JRC)	272	0.3%	14	0.1%	89	0.3%
BULGARIA	598	0.6%	41	0.2%	79	0.2%
CYPRUS	353	0.3%	60	0.3%	71	0.2%
CROATIA	309	0.3%	29	0.1%	70	0.2%
ESTONIA	436	0.4%	46	0.2%	70	0.2%
RUSSIA	472	0.5%	20	0.1%	65	0.2%
UNITED STATES	413	0.4%	3	0.0%	64	0.2%
SLOVAKIA	396	0.4%	33	0.2%	59	0.2%
ICELAND	215	0.2%	42	0.2%	55	0.2%
SERBIA	262	0.3%	40	0.2%	47	0.1%
LUXEMBOURG	189	0.2%	26	0.1%	44	0.1%
LITHUANIA	356	0.3%	21	0.1%	44	0.1%

Looking at the participation of the Nordic countries from a population point of view shows a different picture. Table 2 shows that Iceland is in the leading position among the Nordic countries if measured by EC contribution related to number of inhabitants. Iceland is followed by Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway, in that order.

**Table 2 Nordic countries' participation in FP7 by population**

COUNTRY	EC CONTRIBUTION BY POPULATION €/CAPITA
ICELAND	172
DENMARK	144
SWEDEN	136
FINLAND	128
NORWAY	113

The types of organisations participating in the European Framework Programmes, depends to a large extent on the RTD systems in each country and participation pattern variations exist within different programmes.

Overall, large similarities in the participation structure are found between Sweden and Denmark respectively between Norway and Finland.

Sweden and Denmark have an HES sector that represents more than 50 per cent of their country's participations in FP7. The distribution of participation for research organisations and industry follows the same similarity pattern between Sweden and Denmark, between 10 to 13 per cent of the participations. As for the participation of SMEs, Danish SMEs' show slightly higher participation rate (17 per cent) compared to Sweden (14 per cent).

The participation pattern for Norway and Finland shows an equally strong participation by HES and research organisations. Over 60 per cent of the participations from organisations in Norway and Finland are HES and research organisations. In Norway, 20 per cent of the country's participations come from SMEs, which is the highest rate among the Nordic countries. Finnish SME reaches 14 per cent. Regarding industry participation both Norway and Finland reach the same level, 10 per cent.

Iceland's participations distribution is quite evenly spread between HES, SME and public bodies, these sectors stand each of them for one fourth of the Icelandic participations in FP7. Remaining 25 per cent are distributed between research organisations, 19 per cent and industry 6 per cent.

As for public sector participation in FP7 all Nordic countries, except Iceland, show a similar position with shares between 5 and 8 per cent.



**Table 3 Distribution of own country's participations by type of organization in FP7**

TYPE OF ORGANISATION	SWEDEN	NORWAY	ICELAND	FINLAND	DENMARK
HES	54%	27%	27%	36%	51%
RESEARCH ORGANISATION	13%	34%	18%	31%	12%
SME	14%	20%	14%	14%	17%
INDUSTRY	13%	10%	17%	10%	10%
PUBLIC BODY	6%	8%	23%	6%	8%
NON-PROFIT BODY	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%

### 1.1.1 The Cooperation specific programme in more detail

The main objective of the Cooperation specific programme in FP7 is to support a range of research and innovation actions involving the active collaboration of research teams from all sectors and countries, including industry, SMEs, universities, research institutes and centres, civil society organisations and so on and so forth. In the Cooperation programme it is also included the financial support to coordination activities of non-union research programmes, such as the ERA-NET scheme. Taking part in actions within the Cooperation programme contributes to a value added and positive impact for organisations<sup>2</sup>.

The Nordic countries participation in the Cooperation programme is visualised in table 4. The share of involvement in the total number of financed projects in the Cooperation programme could serve as a proxy to measure the success in acquiring research results, strengthening and expanding networks for the benefit of the organisation taking part and in the longer perspective also the society as a whole. Partly as a result of a larger population, Sweden is involved in over one fourth of all Cooperation projects. Denmark and Finland are on an equal level, regarding share of EC contribution 2.4 and 2.3 per cent respectively and share of projects, 17 and 16 per cent respectively. Norwegian participants take action in 13 per cent of all Cooperation projects. Icelandic organisations' participate in 2 per cent of the Cooperation projects.

**Table 4 Nordic countries' participation in Cooperation**

COUNTRY	SHARE OF EC CONTRIBUTION %	SHARE OF PROJECTS %
SWEDEN	3,9	26
DENMARK	2,4	16
FINLAND	2,3	16
NORWAY	1,8	12
ICELAND	0,2	2

<sup>2</sup> See for example NordForsk, *Enhancing the Effectiveness of Nordic Research Cooperation- Best practices and lessons learned*, Policy Brief 1, 2011 or Technopolis Group, *Impacts of the EU Framework Programmes in Sweden*, VINNOVA Analysis VA 2008:11, 2008.

## 2 Country description of FP7 support services

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### 2.1 Swedish support services in FP7

An organisation to support Swedish participation in the EU research Framework Programmes was founded before Sweden joined the European Union in 1994. In the early 1990's a secretariat was established within the former Swedish Agency for Technology Development (NUTEK). In 1992 a specific governmental agency, the Swedish EU R&D Council (EU/FoU Rådet), was created to host the related support services. This agency's sole task was to stimulate Sweden's participation in the EU research programmes, and it therefore hosted all the National Contact Points (NCP). The services offered by the EU R&D Council were integrated to the Swedish governmental agency for innovation systems (VINNOVA) in 2006. The international department at VINNOVA has, since 2006, hosted and coordinated most of the NCP functions (except the ERC NCP which is hosted by the Swedish Research Council). Secondary NCPs also called mirror NCPs are appointed for most of the thematic areas and they are hosted by the corresponding expert agency or council.

The ministry responsible for EU R&D affairs is the Ministry of Education and Research (Utbildningsdepartementet), working closely with other ministries specially the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications (Näringsdepartementet).

#### 2.1.1 Comitology

Sweden is represented in 20 FP7 Programme Committees and the Government has designated ministries and agencies for its representation. The Committee Delegate (CD) is appointed by the Government coming from the relevant ministry depending on the topic. Expert Members (EM) are appointed from the concerned expert governmental agency or council.

Instructions for the program committee work provided by the Government stipulate action lines in which the goal of Sweden's participation is described, for example, promoting the presence of certain research areas of importance to Sweden. The Committee Delegate is responsible for making a summary assessment of the subject specific aspects and political perspectives including the Government's priorities for the concerned area.

The instructions also recommend the Expert Members to establish (in accordance with the CD) a national reference group to collect the opinions of the research community in the concerned area. The reference groups are normally composed of representatives from educational institutions, industrial research institutes and industry associations as well as the NCP.

The Government has also established guidelines defining the corresponding responsibilities of delegates and experts participating in the Programme Committee work. The guidelines state among other things that the expert in each area should work closely with the NCP, and that it is desirable that the expert participates in information meetings organised by the NCP.

## 2.1.2 NCP work

In Sweden, the overall responsibility for coordinating the NCP work has been assigned to VINNOVA as mentioned earlier. The primary NCPs are all employed by VINNOVA, except the NCP for the European Research Council (ERC), which is the responsibility of the Swedish Research Council. The secondary NCPs are assigned in each corresponding expert agency.

Sweden applies the principle that most areas have both primary and secondary NCP. NCPs at VINNOVA have usually at least two areas of responsibility as well as other tasks related to national initiatives and activities. Sweden has 26 registered NCP by the Commission; however these persons are not working full-time as NCP. An estimate is that Sweden has about 10 full-time equivalents including both primary and secondary NCPs. The activities of the NCPs' in Sweden follow the guidance document published by the EC as a minimum level of activities.

The Swedish NCP system has during the FP7 lifetime carried out a variety of activities to stimulate and support a Swedish participation in FP7. The activities performed can be grouped in the following way:

- Personalised advice, guidance and support for applicants including thematic, financial and legal aspects. The personalised service is given through face-to-face meetings, telephone, e-mail etc.
- Information activities – e.g. national road show with 8-10 stops in different cities, inspiration days, thematic information days, specific workshops and trainings. These activities are most of the time also broadcasted live through the web and made available online afterwards.
- Participation in NCP, INCO and BILAT projects promoting European integration
- Conferences e.g. a yearly conference regarding European R&D policy
- Activities to promote increased participation in FP7 e.g. financial support through grants for SMEs applying to FP7 projects
- Activities to promote and support the participation of specific types of organisation through support offices – e.g. EU support office for SME within life science (EUSO), RISE – EUSME, support office for SMEs in all thematic areas excluding life science
- Coordination of the national support system e.g. bi-annual NCP-forum gathering all primary and secondary NCPs in Sweden, meetings with EU Project coordinators from higher education establishments
- Annual monitoring report about Swedish participation in FP7
- Communication e.g. newsletter with information regarding international R&D programmes published 6-10 times per year, use of social media (Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook), specific website with FP7 information
- Opinion forming workshops in the Brussels office
- High level strategy discussions with various actors in Sweden, such as Universities, big companies etc.

## 2.1.3 Brussels office

The Brussels office is part of VINNOVA. The office has a large contact network in Brussels and the main aim of its activities is to perform business intelligence, follow and analyse developments in the European research and innovation system. Also, an important part is to pro-

actively be engaged in policy actions, in line with the interests of the Swedish research community.

## 2.1.4 Other support services

### **The Enterprise Europe Network**

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) was formed in 2008 and financed by the EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, CIP. The network is a merger of two previous networks, Innovation Relay Centres (IRC) and the Euro-Info-Centre (EIC) from 1995 and 1987.

The responsible agency for the EEN network is the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket). The EEN includes 15 national and regional industry associations, including several research institutes. EENs' services are free of charge and the mission is to provide support to small and medium-sized enterprises. The aim is to increase the internationalisation, which in turn will lead to increased growth and regeneration of enterprises.

### **HES research offices**

In recent years, the awareness of academic stakeholders strongly increased regarding EU funding opportunities. Several universities have therefore developed strategies to increase their EU participation; own structures to support identification of external research funding opportunities have been put in place for example. An estimation says that around 150-200 people at universities and colleges throughout Sweden work with support on research funding and especially EU grants. These research officers at universities and colleges exchange information with each other systematically.. They organise regularly meetings to which NCPs frequently have been invited in order to share information about the Framework Programme. Taken into account the importance of this network in Sweden, VINNOVA has also taken the initiative to invite the network once a year to a whole day meeting, offering activities such as workshops, trainings and latest information.

### **FP7 support offices**

The need for additional support for some type of organisations was highlighted already during FP6 and therefore, during FP7 several support projects were launched. The goal was to increase the participation in FP7 for specific types of organisations identified. A specific evaluation of support interventions will be made in spring 2013. Three specific support offices have been active during FP7:

- EU support office EUSO offering support to SMEs within the life-science sector
- RISE-EUSME offering support to SMEs in all sectors, except life-science
- Support office for forest-based sector, offering support to all organisations within the forest-based sector.

### **Regional Contact Points**

Sweden had, until 2010 an active network of regional contact points (RCP) spread out over the country. The RCP were offered trainings and updated through networks meetings with the NCPs. However, due to structural changes and the creation of other support structures the role

of RCP was seen as redundant, especially since most of the acting RCP were integrated in the other support services. A decision was therefore taken by VINNOVA to close down the network.

### **Planning grants and private consultants**

There are several different types of planning grants for FP7 applicants offered by eight public agencies. Grants are mainly granted either within a specific area of research, type of role in a project (coordinator/participant), or to a specific type of organisation, e.g. SME. The grants are allowed to be used to finance private consultants to help with the application writing. The amount of private consultants working with FP7 has increased in Sweden during the lifespan of the programme, partly probably due to higher demand by newcomers to the Framework Programme.

## **2.2 Finnish support services in FP7**

The Finnish support system for EU R&I affairs was established in the early 1990s, even before Finland became a member state of the European Union. The system has been slightly modified during the last two decades but there have not been any major changes in the overall structure.

The Committee of EU Affairs in Finland is responsible for the coordination of all EU Affairs in Finland (see figure 1). Several sub-committees have been set up for different fields of EU-related issues. The subcommittee for EU R&I is called the Subcommittee 20. The Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union in Brussels also participates in the preparation of EU affairs. The ministry responsible for EU R&I affairs is the Ministry of Employment and the Economy (TEM), but it works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM).

### **2.2.1 Comitology**

TEM has appointed several organizations as responsible for specific themes and activities of FP7. Most of the themes and activities are given to the two national funding agencies, Tekes and the Academy of Finland. The responsible organizations nominate Finnish representatives for the thematic and horizontal composition of the FP7 committee. TEM confirms the nomination and informs the Commission of the nomination.

Normally there is a Committee Delegate (CD) for each of the committees as well as one or two additional Expert Members (EM). Currently there are 20 Committee Delegates and 31 Expert Members nominated for the tasks. Representatives are mainly from two main responsible organizations, Tekes and the Academy of Finland. Some Committee Delegates and Expert Members (Committee Delegates for Fission, Security and Transport as well as Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential) are appointed from the relevant ministries.

The actual Committee work is coordinated by TEM. The guidelines for Committee Delegates were published in 2006 before the start of FP7. Most of the Committee Delegates and Expert Members are closely connected to the national R&I activities because Tekes and the Academy of Finland are the main national funding organizations. Thus delegates are well informed about

the national activities and R&I priorities. All Expert Members and Committee Delegates have met several times during FP7, but it has largely been up to each Committee Delegates to organize his or her own work. All Committee Delegates also have a support group of key stakeholders and possible FP participants.

### 2.2.2 NCP work

The responsibility of National Contact Point coordination has been appointed to Tekes. The EU R&I Programmes Unit (EUTI) in Tekes coordinates the network. There are currently 22 primary NCPs and 14 secondary NCPs appointed to the tasks. All primary NCPs are also appointed Expert Members; in some cases they are Committee Delegates. NCPs also work mainly in Tekes or the Academy of Finland, some of whom also come from relevant ministries or research institutions. Like Committee Delegates and Expert Members, NCPs also work part-time. Most of their time is allocated to national R&I activities. In general, each NCP allocates 5-20% of his or her time to NCP responsibilities.

EUTI is also the main information centre for EU R&I activities. The EUTI website provides information on all aspects of FP7, and all NCPs are responsible for ensuring that the EUTI website has accurate and timely information on each FP7 theme. EUTI also publishes a newsletter twice a month on EU R&I issues and arranges training and information events on FP7. EUTI is responsible for assisting participants and other interested parties in administrative and cross-cutting issues related to Framework Programmes. EUTI publishes statistics and analyses on Finnish FP7 participation. EUTI works closely with the Commission-funded Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) in order to efficiently assist Finnish SMEs in FP7 activities.

The constitution of the Finnish support system suits the ERA ideology and the idea of close cooperation between national and EU funding activities. However, it has been a challenge for both the NCPs and the Committee Delegates to find enough time for the EU work because the national funding responsibilities have gradually taken time from the EU activities, and at the same time, the EU R&I field has been widening and getting more and more complicated.

### 2.2.3 Brussels office

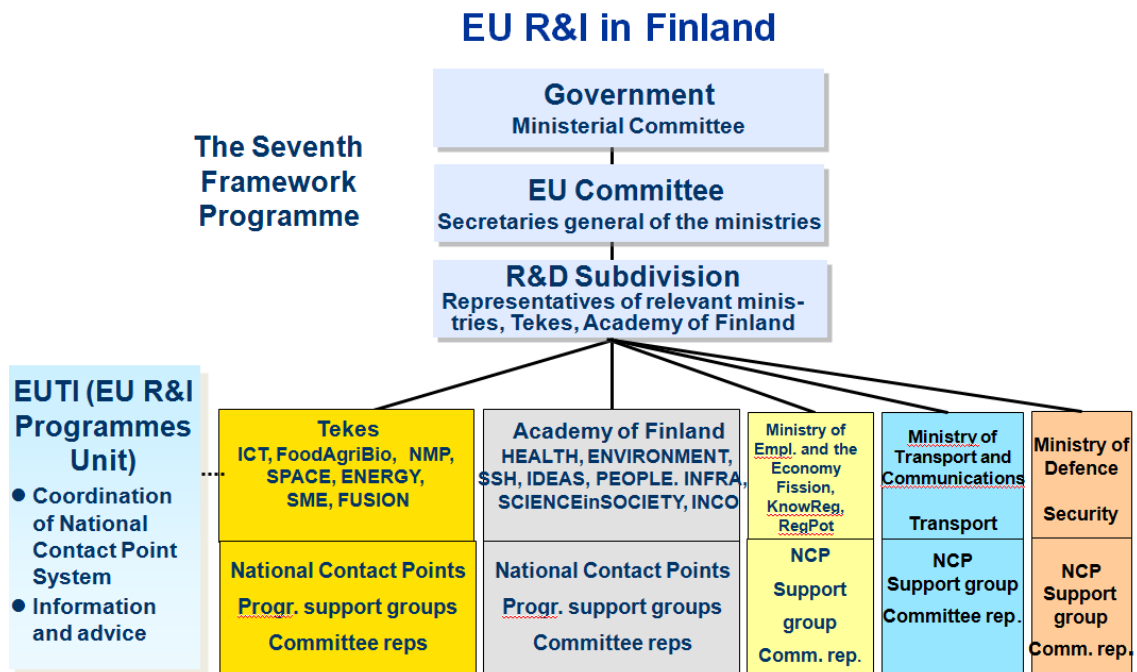
Tekes and the Academy of Finland have a joint liaison office for EU R&D in Brussels, FiLi. Established in Brussels in 1995, FiLi is jointly funded by Academy of Finland and Tekes. FiLi's mission is to foster collaboration inside the European R&D&I system including the programmes of Academy of Finland and Tekes. FiLi transfers information to and from Finland, and follows current issues of policy making in the field of R&D&I in Brussels.

### 2.2.4 Other support services

Besides the above-mentioned official support services, there are also other support networks in Finland. In 2009, EUTI established together with the Regional Centres for Economy and the Employment (ELY Centres) a network of Regional Contact Points for FP7. The network helps NCPs and EUTI spread information more efficiently throughout Finland. The Regional Contact Points also help universities and research organizations connect with the R&I-intensive SMEs in their own regions. EEN is also represented in the regional network. All Finnish universities

and research organizations have established support services for their own researchers. EUTI and NCPs cooperate closely with these, and EUTI arranges a meeting twice a year for all contact persons working in the field of FP7 assistance. Finally, since 2011 EUTI has published a list of the commercial consultants who offer services for SMEs interested in FP7 participation. To be accepted to the list the consultant must pass a test measuring her/his knowledge about the basic rules and practices of FP7.

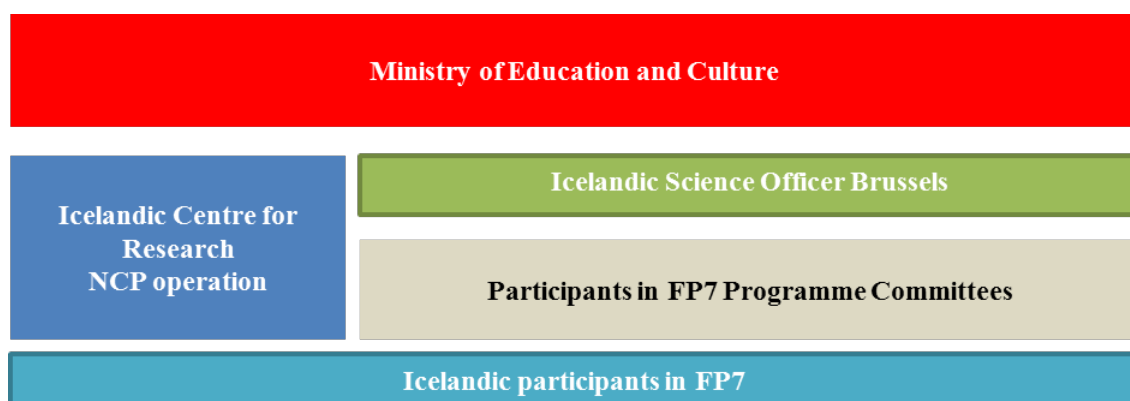
**Figure 1 EU R&I support services in Finland**



### 2.3 Icelandic support services in FP7

Iceland has participated in EU Framework Programmes since 1994. The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS) has from the start offered support services to participants. The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the Icelandic participation in FP7 and is coordinating the national efforts and the dialogue with the EU. Figure 2 shows the main actors in the national organization of FP7 participation. Rannis is the main FP7/ERA adviser to the ministries, and is responsible for the mobilization of FP7 participation and assistance to research institutions as well as enterprises.

**Figure 2 Icelandic structure of support for FP7 participation**



The main means to strengthen and improve Icelandic participation in FP7 have been:

- Activities related to the EU research in the national research programmes (thematic priorities corresponding to the FP7 Cooperation themes).
- Information, guidance, consultancy and training.
- Economic incentives (grants for applicants – travel grants and grants to cover time spent on preparing a proposal)
- Active participation in Enterprise Europe which is run by Innovation Centre in Iceland.

### 2.3.1 Comitology

Participation of Icelandic delegates is not included in the EEA agreement, but Iceland is nevertheless invited to take part in meetings, but without voting rights. Iceland participates in all FP7 Programme Committees except in the Euratom Programme. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture nominates the delegates and experts but with recommendation from Rannis.

### 2.3.2 NCP work

Rannis is responsible for the coordination of the work related to ERA/FP7/H2020. The main tasks are:

Main contact point towards the Icelandic authorities, the Commission, and the participants in FP7

- Coordination of the NCPs operation in Iceland
- Monitoring of the developments of ERA and the EU research policy
- Information, guidance and training
- Analysing the participation in FP7 and reporting
- Services provided are free of charge.

The NCP system in Iceland is organized in accordance with the FP7 structure i.e. NCP for each of the sub programmes under Cooperation and Capacities, plus NCP for Ideas, People, Joint Research Centre and Euratom/ radiation, as well as NCP for legal and financial matters. The NCP network is coordinated by the International division at Rannis, and all of the NCPs are



employed by Rannis, with two exceptions (People and Transport). NCPs are also nominated as experts to the various Programme Committees.

As for the tasks expected to be performed by the NCPs, Rannis follows the guiding principles for the FP7 NCP system published in 2007.

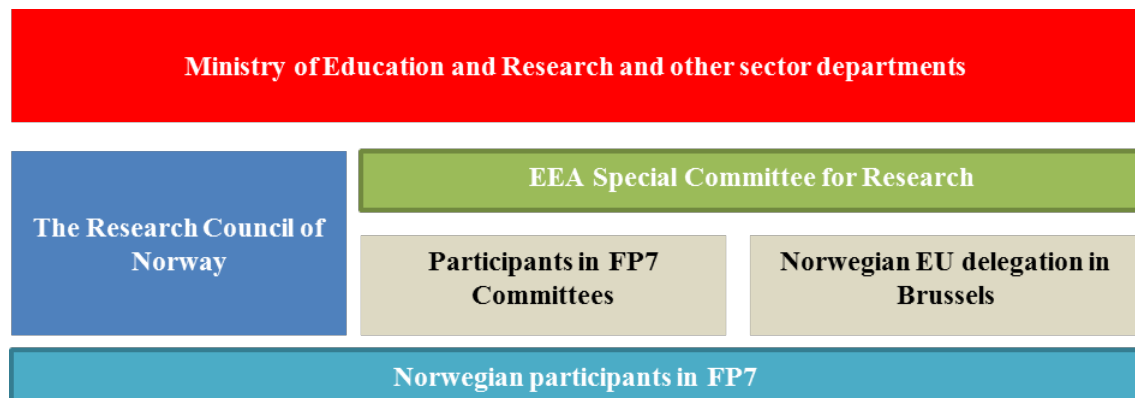
Rannis is a formal member of the Enterprise Europe Network in Iceland and has the role of promoting participation in FP7 to SMEs.

## 2.4 Norwegian support services in FP7

Norway has participated in the EU Framework Programmes since 1994 and FP4. The Research Council of Norway (RCN) has since FP4 offered support services to participants in the Framework Programmes, but the European support system as we know it today, with a network of National Contact Points (NCPs) across Europe, was introduced during FP5. In Norway, the NCP organization was strengthened considerably at the start of FP6, and has been kept more or less the same also during FP7.

The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for the Norwegian participation in FP7, and is coordinating the national efforts and the dialogue with EU. The simplified figure below shows the main actors in the national organization of FP7 participation. RCN is the main FP7/ERA adviser to the ministries, and is responsible for the mobilization of FP7 participation and assistance to research institutions as well as enterprises.

**Figure 3 Norwegian structure of support for FP7 participation**



The main means to strengthen/improve Norwegian participation in FP7 have been:

- Activities related to the EU research in the national research programmes (thematic priorities corresponding to the FP7 Cooperation themes).
- Information, guidance, consultancy and training.
- Economic incentives (e.g. support for establishing of project/”exploratory award”).
- Support activities in other parts of the national innovation support system (e.g. at Innovation Norway).

## 2.4.1 Comitology

Participation in the various FP7 committees is not included in the EEA agreement, but Norway is never-the-less invited to take part in the meetings, albeit without voting rights. With the exception of the Euratom part, Norway participates in all of the FP7 Programme Committees. Normally, the relevant ministry nominates the delegate, whereas the expert comes from RCN. One to two times a year the Ministry of Education and Research convenes a joint meeting for all the delegates and experts. RCN takes care of the follow-up of the committee work. This implies e.g. separate network meetings with various stakeholders (research institutes, universities/higher education institutions, industry, trade organisations, other actors in the innovation support system, etc.). Normally, preparatory and consultative meetings are held prior to the committee meetings.

## 2.4.2 RCN international staff (formerly the EU office)

The staff is responsible for the coordination of the work related to ERA/FP7/H2020 at RCN. Some of the main tasks are:

- Main contact point towards the Norwegian authorities, the Commission, and the participants in FP7
- Coordination of the NCPs and the RCN Brussels office
- Monitoring of the developments of ERA and the EU research policy
- Information, guidance and training
- Network organizer with Norwegian stakeholders. A particularly important task is the network with EU advisers at all the universities/colleges and research institutes.
- Coordination of the participation in EU committees, network groups, etc.
- Analysing and reporting

The RCN services are free of charge.

## 2.4.3 NCP work

The NCP system in Norway is organized in accordance to the FP7 structure. Some of the NCPs have a “deputy” (back-up) from the RCN International Staff. The NCP network is coordinated by the International Staff, and all of the NCPs are employed by RCN, with one exception (Space). Normally, the NCP is attached to one of the related national research programmes, in order to obtain an increased impact of the EU research as a means to reach national goals. This means that most of the approx. 25 NCPs are working part-time on the FP7 tasks. Most of the NCPs are nominated as experts to the various Programme Committees.

As for the tasks expected to be performed by the NCPs, RCN is basically following the guiding principles for the FP7 NCP system (from 2007). To a certain extent, there is a division of labour between the individual NCP and the RCN International staff. Tasks like general information and awareness raising (web-site, brochures, information meetings/seminars, etc.), training courses, and legal/administrative issues, are normally done by the latter, whereas the expert NCP will take care of specific information (e.g. newsletters), special guidance/assistance, partner search,

and follow-up of signposting from other support organisations. Joint NCP meetings (“NCP Forum”) are held twice a month.

## 2.4.4 SWOT-analysis of the NCP support service in Norway

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Almost) all NCPs under the same roof (i.e. RCN)</li> <li>• Well organized as network</li> <li>• Available and right competence on most NCP areas</li> <li>• Not many “competitors” in Norway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The turnover of NCPs on some themes/sub-programs is higher than desirable</li> <li>• Some NCPs lack experience from industry/enterprises</li> <li>• Most NCPs are “part-time workers” as NCPs</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing understanding at RCN (and in the boards of the major national programmes) of the importance of internationalization of research</li> <li>• New management of EU affairs at RCN</li> <li>• More “cross-border” contacts between NCPs is required (H2020)</li> <li>• An extended cooperation with the EEN network will improve the participation (in particular of enterprises) in the regional parts of Norway</li> <li>• The regional representatives in the counties (<i>län, fylke</i>) will improve their “EU competence” and contribute to the mobilization of local enterprises to the FPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCP network fails to get sufficient budget means to make the necessary increase of efforts in H2020</li> <li>• “Information gap” for NCPs due to sub-optimal organization of Programme Committees in H2020</li> <li>• SME NCP tasks transferred to EEN may create some challenges</li> <li>• Norway will choose not to participate in H2020 and/or COSME (<i>not very likely</i>)</li> </ul>

## 2.5 Danish support services in FP7

An organization appointed by the Danish Ministry for Education started providing information and advice already from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Framework Programme in 1991. The Danish National Contact system for EU Research & Development was established in 1998 to provide information and personalised support to applicants in their native language. Today the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education is responsible for the Danish NCPs.

The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education is responsible for EU Research & Development, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that holds the overall responsibility for all EU affairs in Denmark.

### 2.5.1 Comitology

The Danish Agency for Science and Innovation (DASTI) under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education is responsible for coordinating Danish and international research and innovation policy

Within DASTI, EuroCenter is the appointed Danish NCP-organisation. It is responsible for:

- Implementing the European Framework Programmes and promoting Danish participation.
- Publishing statistics on - and analysis of - the Danish participation.
- EuroCenter is further responsible for the Danish Research Office (DANRO) in Brussels, which oversees and promotes Danish research interests in Brussels.

EuroCenter and the Centre for National and International Research policy (also part of DASTI) are jointly responsible for the Danish participation in the Programme Committees for each thematic area of FP7 – all together 19 Programme Committees.

For each of the Programme Committees, Denmark has appointed a delegation. The delegations typically consist of one or two representatives from the above mentioned centres, an academic expert and a representative from the relevant thematic ministry.

DASTI have decided to focus on nine specific thematic programmes out of the 19 Programme Committees. For these nine Programme Committees a NCP and an employee from the policy centre were appointed as committee members and reference groups were set up. The reference groups consist of 10-20 representatives from the core participant organisations within each thematic programme. The task of the reference groups is to provide the Programme Committee members with up-to-date information on Danish research developments and strengths and input for Danish positions and suggestions related to the particular themes and topics of the work programmes.

## 2.5.2 NCP work

EuroCenter has ten employees who work as NCPs. Each NCP is typically responsible for between one and three thematic programmes. In that way they cover all FP7 programmes. Two NCPs allocate 50-80% of their time being Legal & Finance NCPs. The EuroCenter further has 4 employees who assist the NCPs with communication and marketing.

The NCPs to the nine appointed focus programmes are as mentioned also Programme Committee members. Further the NCP's are providing information and assistance related to JTIs. All NCPs are cooperating closely with colleagues in The Center for National and International Research and assisting them in various degrees (typically 5-10% of their time) on policy issues. The NCPs core task is to inform, advice, train and encourage Danish enterprises, research institutions and researchers to participate in FP7.

EuroCenter and the NCPs do not have close collaboration with the National Research Funding system.

The main part of EuroCenter's services is free of charge and include:

- Individual advice, by telephone, e-mail or at meetings
- Information meetings around Denmark in response to new calls
- Workshops on user defined subjects
- Website with information on FP7 incl. a step by step guide and toolbox for proposal writing - [www.fi.dk/fp7](http://www.fi.dk/fp7)
- Proposal guidance, commenting applications and comparing to the EU criteria
- Contact to the EU-Commission and help navigating CORDIS
- The quarterly 'EU-Information' magazine with a circulation of more than 6000 copies (e.g. FP related news; inspirational articles on FP7 participation; information on calls.)
- Statistics on and analysis of the Danish FP7 participation

- The EU-ERFA Experience sharing network for FP7 support personnel at universities and other organisations (intranet, biannual meetings)

EuroCenter also offers a number of intensive one-day courses (with a charge) on a range of subjects, for example:

- Proposal writing
- Reporting
- Economy and budgets
- Dissemination and IPR
- The role of the coordinator

The course catalogue is published in January every year.

EuroCenter cooperates closely with all business sector organisations, regional offices as well as other public providers of information and advice to especially SMEs. Under FP7 the NCPs have not had close cooperation with the EEN, however the collaboration has gradually increased during the last two years.

### 2.5.3 Other support services

A part from the above mentioned NCP support services, only few other organisations are providing FP services. All Danish universities have research support offices that provide assistance to in-house applicants/participants through all phases of FP7 projects.

In order to professionalise FP support personnel and create a platform for the dissemination of best practice, EuroCenter has set up and hosts the EU-ERFA experience sharing network. The network has approximately 300 members from public and semi-public institutions (e.g. Universities, regional offices, the Danish research and technology organisations – the GTS)

A number of private consultants offer assistance with proposal writing and matchmaking related to FP projects. EuroCenter has no formal ties with these private organisations, but extends its services for them free of charge.

## 2.6 Comparison national FP7 support services

A comparison of the organisation of the Nordic countries' structures to support participation in the Framework Programme gives the following distinctions:

- The Ministry of *Education* is responsible for EU R&D Affairs in all countries except Finland where the Ministry of *Employment and Economy* is responsible
- Whether Ministries or Agencies appoint Committee Delegates (CD) and Expert Members (EM) varies between countries.
- In Sweden, Denmark and Finland reference groups support the Expert Members in their Programme Committee work.
- In Sweden, Norway and Iceland the Committee Delegates come from Ministries and the Expert Members from agencies. In Finland and Denmark both Committee Delegates and Expert Members come from agencies.

- It is only the Danish NCP team that work full time with FP7. In the other countries the NCPs also spend time involved in national R&D-programs. Finland considers that too little time is spent on FP7 work.
- In Sweden and Finland there is an organisational structure of primary and secondary NCPs.
- Sweden and Finland have made use of Regional Contact Points (RCP). Sweden laid down the network after a trial period.
- Finland is the only country that publishes a list of commercial consultants that offer services for SMEs interested in FP7 participation.

## 3 Comparison between FP7 and Horizon 2020

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A comparison between FP7 and Horizon 2020 is made focusing on consequences mainly for the implementation at national level e.g. national organisation of Programme Committees (PCs) and the NCP-organisation.

The starting point is the Commission's proposal of the Horizon 2020 package (H2020) from November 2011 focusing on the regulation and the specific programme (SP) as well as Rules for participation (RfP). However, the proposal from the Commission does not contain details e.g. on number of Programme Committees or the NCP-organisation. In addition the final budget is still unclear but, in the end, the budget has in principle less direct consequences on the implementation as such (unless a drastic decrease would mean a modified proposal from the Commission). However, a smaller budget might have an impact on the number of PPPs/P2Ps.

The description is separated into three sections:

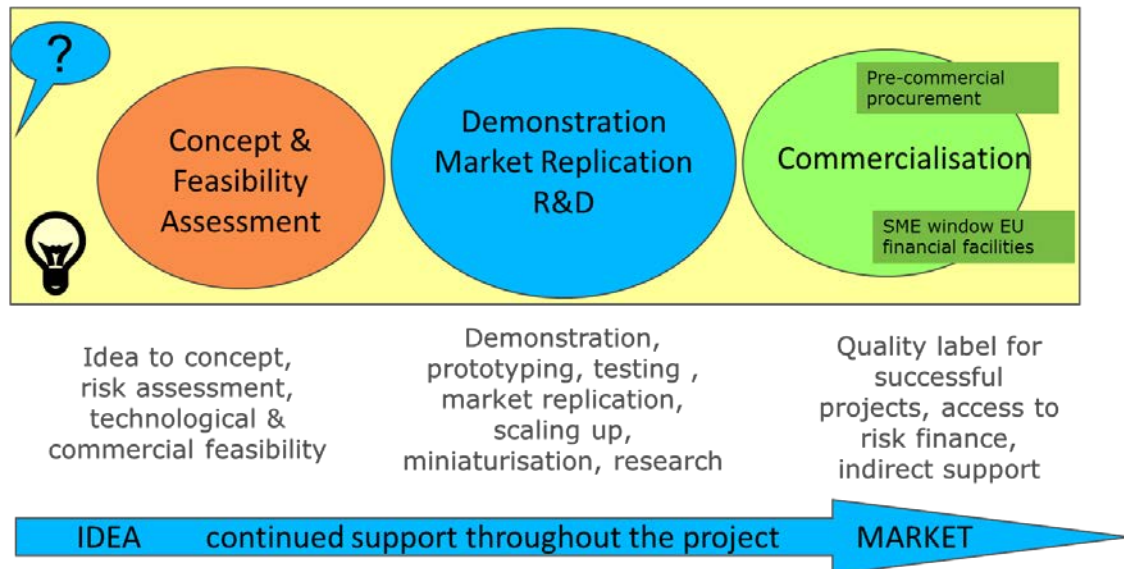
- Characteristics of H2020
- Changes in structure between FP7 and H2020
- Consequences at national level

### 3.1 Characteristics of H2020

- **Societal Challenges:** focus on societal challenges rather than a thematic approach, multidisciplinary projects, new focus on innovation-related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, and support for market uptake, explicit references to support for procurement of research and innovation, explicit references to common standards and/or guidelines and interoperability as well as inducement prizes. All forms of innovation: design, business models, social, public. Less prescriptive topics.
- **Excellence Science:** more focus on bottom-up research through increased budget for the ERC and considerable expansion of the FET-scheme from FP7 to cover all areas.
- **Industrial Leadership:** emphasis on R&D, large-scale pilots and demonstration activities, test beds and living labs, prototyping and product validation in pilot lines, support to PCP (Pre-commercial Procurement) and PPI (Public Procurement of Innovation) highlighted as essential aspects in addressing competitiveness, promoting activities in support of standardisation and interoperability, safety and pre-regulatory activities. More extensive use of financial instruments with high leverage effect.

- **New SME instrument** (on “Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies” & “Societal challenges”): particular focus on demonstration activities and market replication in its phase 2, follow-up support in phase 3 through services such as help to SMEs in accessing opportunities for public procurement of innovation (see figure below). New for the Framework Programme is also the possibility for a single SME to apply (‘an ERC for SMEs’)

**Figure 4**



SME-instrument is proposed to consist of three stages illustrated above. Direct funding is anticipated mainly for stage 2. SMEs can enter in any stage.

As a remark regarding SME participation in Horizon 2020, the Commission proposes that 15 per cent of the budget from Societal Challenges and KETs will be addressed to support SMEs in Horizon 2020.

- **Closer-to-Market (CtM)** actions e.g. through inclusion of CIP-activities and also through funding via the debt and equity financing facilities.
- Support to the **Knowledge triangle** through EIT/KICs (the implementation of EIT/KICs will be through a separate regulation)
- More systematic use of **partnerships programme**
- Simplified **rules for participation**.

### 3.1.1 Partnerships programmes

The Commission distinguishes between Public-Public-Partnerships, P2P and Public-Private-Partnerships, PPP. P2Ps are mainly article 185 and ERA-NET/ERA-NET Plus as well as Joint Programming. PPPs are mainly the Joint Technology Initiatives (article 187). The Commission has the ambition to increase the number of P2Ps/PPP but it is difficult to predict how much. This will of course depend on the final budget for Horizon 2020. However, the present articles 185/187 will certainly continue and some JPIs will be taken up as article 185 or the new COFUND-scheme. Thus, it is foreseen that there will be a growing number of programmes decentralised and with contribution financially from member states. The Commission will



ensure better harmonisation of rules as the Rules for participation will also mainly be applicable for those initiatives. The Commission has also proposed (art 19 in the H2020 regulation) so called “contractual agreement”<sup>3</sup> between the partners which specifies the objectives of the partnership, respective commitments of the partners, key performance indicators, and outputs to be delivered including the identification of research and innovation activities that require support from Horizon 2020. The Commission expects stronger commitments from industry and Member states for PPPs/ P2Ps (which may also limit extent of partnering). In the end it is difficult to foresee the balance between formal PPPs implemented through art 187 and the ones implemented through the H2020 Work Programmes.

### 3.1.2 Rules for participation

The Commission’s proposal contained a significant simplification of the different funding rates with the principle of ‘one project - one funding rate’ for all participants (in the Council’s GPA this principle is not preserved). According to the commission this would lead to e.g. shorter time-to-contract, less errors due to the abolishment of real indirect costs calculations and fewer controls.

### 3.1.3 Changes in structure between FP7 and H2020

Figure 5 illustrates the changes in structure between FP7 and H2020. At a first glance it looks like H2020 is only a different mapping of FP7 on a new structure but as described above the differences are not so much in the structure but are to be find in the content and the way of implementation.

Some major structural changes are:

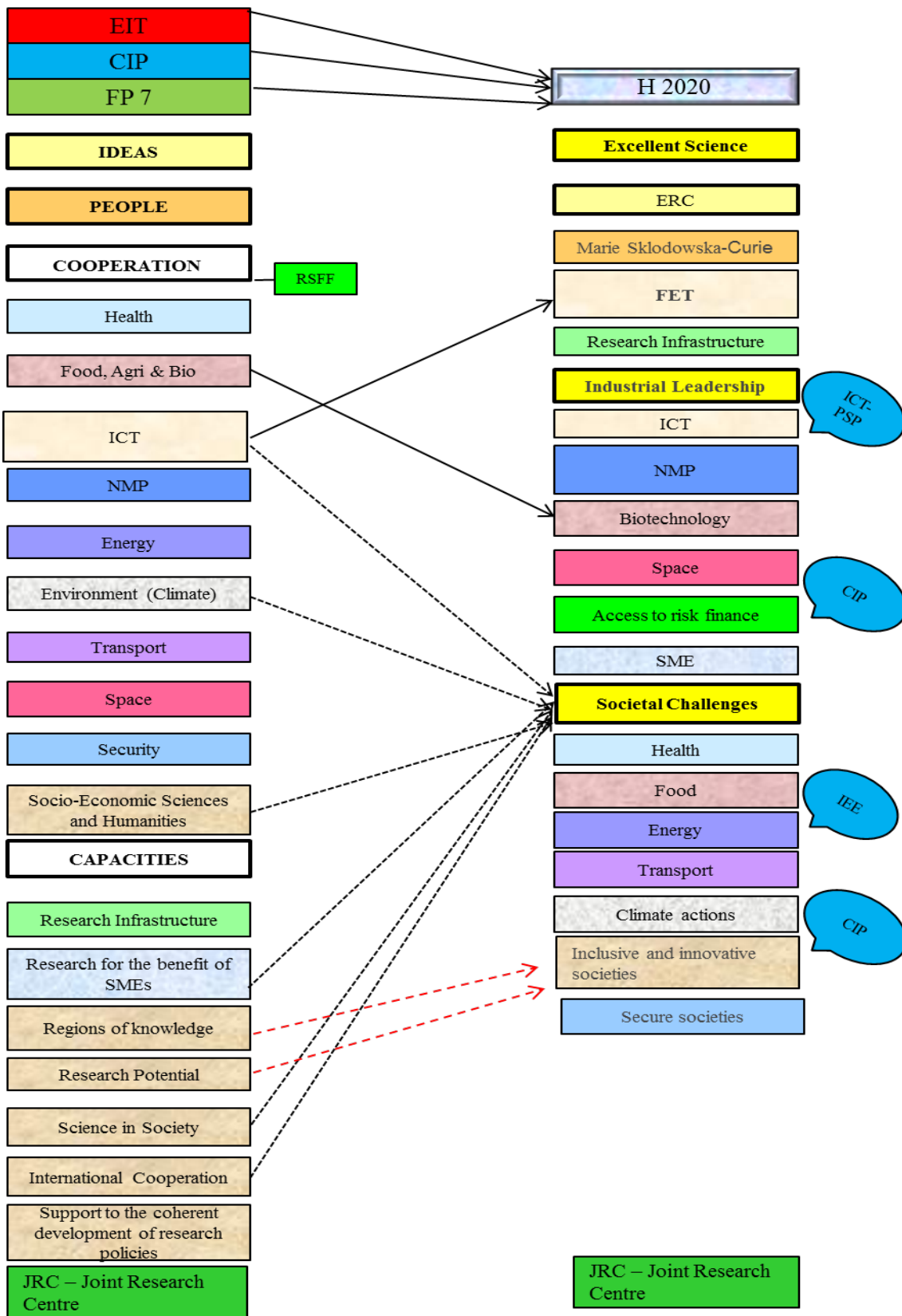
- A number of FP7 themes become horizontal activities in particular within the Societal challenges: ICT, environment<sup>4</sup>, SSH, Science in Society, SMEs and international cooperation.
- Some FP7 Themes (ICT, Food) are split into societal challenges and in the Industrial leadership part.
- Some activities (Research Potential, Regions of knowledge) appear partly as new types of initiatives or have disappeared.
- CIP-activities are merged with activities within societal challenges and in the Industrial leadership part

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<sup>3</sup> E.g. Green Car Initiative

<sup>4</sup> Environment in FP7 will consist of Climate actions in H2020 illustrated with the same colour and in addition as a horizontal activity in other challenges

Figure 5 Comparison of programme structure between FP7 and Horizon 2020



Note that in the cases where there is no arrow from an FP7-activity to a H2020 activity, e.g. Health means that most health-related activities are kept together. However, it does not mean the same type of activities.

There are many other aspects which are not indicated in the figure such as:

- Raw material will be included in Climate Actions which in FP7 partly was covered by NMP.
- The Space programme in FP7 and H2020 is different; e.g. GMES not included.
- Some energy activities in FP7 are now included in Climate Actions in H2020.

### **3.2 Consequences for implementation at national level**

The negotiations between Council and EP are still on-going. The Council has reached a Partial General Approach on all parts of H2020 except for Euratom and the ITRE Committee has voted amendments on all parts. There will of course be consequences for the implementation depending on the final decision, e.g. the split of challenge 6 into two challenges, special activities towards the less performing regions/member states etc. but the characteristics described above will mainly remain. In the following, a first attempt is made to identify major consequences.

A high participation in FP7 does not guarantee a high participation in Horizon 2020 for two reasons:

- 1 Firstly, every new call is ‘totally open’ and does not give any guarantee for continued success. However, in general, experienced participants have an advantage partly because of the complicated procedures and established network. This means that even in FP7 there is no guarantee for continued success, but the fact that the programme does not change in character gives advantage to existing participants.
- 2 Secondly, Horizon 2020 is not FP8 which gives a new kind of uncertainty which is difficult to assess. One aspect is that topics might become less prescriptive, in particular for the Societal challenges which could lead to lower success rates and the impact of this is difficult to assess

The major changes and consequences as described above are:

- Focus on societal challenges and more multidisciplinary projects
- Some thematic areas (from FP7) become horizontal aspects (environment, SSH, international cooperation, part of ICT) in the challenges and others become KET (nano-, biotechnology, materials, ICT)
- Focus on innovation and the whole innovation cycle in projects
- More bottom-up and less prescriptive topics

These changes will require researchers to develop relevant networks and to involve other actors, e.g. users in the projects. One ‘new’ actor will most certainly be local authorities/actors and public sector organisations as they are the main users and/or in demand of the solutions of societal challenges.

Further, the focus on innovation will mean more demonstration and pilot activities within the projects. This would normally result in higher participation of industrial actors as well as from research institutions.

The use of public procurement will mean involvement of different kinds of public bodies.

The new SME-instrument (with the three different phases) will require new types of advice and will stimulate a new category of SMEs not involved in transnational collaboration.

The main consequence of the partnerships programmes is at national level, in particular for P2P where public funds are required to top-up the programmes. This will require much more coordination with national programmes and also, depending on the structure in the country, coordination between funding agencies at national level. The Commission has announced a wider role for the NCPs as regards the partnerships programme which will mean further work load for the NCP-organisation. Finally there are also new initiatives such as the ICT Flagships where the implementation is still unsure but will certainly require national co-funding.

As regards the Rules for Participation, the Council's agreement from October maintain mainly the Commission approach whereas ITRE has proposed keeping the real indirect cost options and has introduced a separate lower funding rate for industry. However Council has added a 'top-up' of salaries for researchers under certain conditions. It is difficult to predict what kind of changes the new rules for participation will mean in terms of implementation at national level. Obviously, the participants will be the main 'winners' together with the implementing staff in the Commission, but it is difficult to assess what it will mean for e.g. the legal and financial NCP. Less advice will probably be needed to explain the difference between funding schemes. However, other financial issues may remain such as budget questions and other administrative reporting issues.

Considering the large increase in funding for, in particular larger enterprises, an increase of participation of this category of actors is foreseen. The new top-up scheme (if retained) would certainly lead to more need of assistance on how to use/interpret this possibility. All in all, the consequences for legal and financial advice are difficult to assess. An increase in work load could be foreseen as innovation activities in the projects will increase which could lead to e.g. more complicated questions.

In FP7 there was more or less the same NCP-structure as the PC configurations. In Horizon 2020 it is foreseen to have a NCP-structure reflecting the structure of Horizon 2020.<sup>5</sup> More interaction between the NCP-network and the EEN is foreseen, in particular relating the SMEs. NCPs are also expected to be more involved in PPPs/P2Ps. The Comitology is still not agreed between the Council and the Commission. The Commission has proposed one PC with four configurations and the Council has indicated a clear preference for a structure more similar to FP7. The structure and the number of configurations will have an impact on the implementation at national level in particular how the meetings are prepared taking into account that the discussion will be more strategic and also be of more cross-cutting character.

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<sup>5</sup> See annex I

Further, the Commission has indicated a multi-annual approach to the Work Programme in contrast to the traditional annual approach in earlier Framework Programmes.<sup>6</sup> This will mean a different approach when it comes to e.g. giving input to the Commission.

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<sup>6</sup> See annex II

## 4 National support services in Horizon 2020

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### 4.1 Current good practices

The Nordic countries have a solid base of support services in order to increase national participation in FP7. There are only minor differences in the range of services that are being used among the countries. However, below is a list of practices in the different countries that have proven particularly valuable under FP7 and estimated to be continued under Horizon 2020, taking into account the new characteristics of Horizon 2020.

#### 4.1.1 Sweden

- Overall the organisation for NCPs is regarded as well functioning and of easy access for participants. The close collaboration between VINNOVA and other governmental agencies and councils are of importance. Coordination activities carried out by VINNOVA for the national support system are a way of maintaining good collaboration e.g. regular meetings between primary and secondary NCPs.
- Information activities broadcasted live through the web have been appreciated. Webcasts are welcomed and understood as a complementary way for the NCP organisation to spread and make information available to more people across the country.
- Continued cooperation and collaboration between different support networks in Sweden e.g. HES research offices. A continuous effort to exchange information and share experiences within the different constellations. The how and when of the collaboration should be in accordance with the needs identified.
- A good collaboration between reference groups, Committee Delegates, Experts Members and NCPs have proven very useful when working effectively. Continue to develop the synergies and collaboration between these different constellations in favour of Swedish participants in Horizon 2020.

#### 4.1.2 Finland

- All Finnish networks – NCPs, Committee Delegates and experts, Regional Contact Points, university support services and sometimes also commercial consultants – meet twice a year to exchange information and share best practices and experiences.
- EUTI has initiated an informal peer group for project coordinators to share experiences on coordinating tasks and exchange good ideas and practices.
- EUTI and the Regional Contact Points have a monthly web meeting where they also exchange information on other international activities not necessarily related to FP funding.

#### 4.1.3 Iceland

- Financial support scheme for entities involved in preparing FP7 project proposals. The scheme offers travel grants, preparatory grants for entities participating in projects and grants for entities that are responsible for project coordination.

- The NCPs cooperate closely with support services at local universities.
- The Icelandic NCP operation is linked to the Enterprise Europe Network in Iceland. Rannis is a formal partner of the Icelandic EEN Network.

#### 4.1.4 Norway

- Exploration award scheme (PES). The purpose of this scheme (PES – prosjektetableringsstøtte) is to encourage enterprises and universities/research institutions to participate in European research cooperation. The support is used to prepare project proposals to EU R&D programmes, and is regarded to be an effective measure to improve the Norwegian participation. The role of the NCPs is significant, as they are in charge of most of the PES applications (i.e. the Health NCP takes care of the health related applications/ projects, the SME NCP receives the PES applications regarding Research for the benefit of SMEs, etc.). This gives the NCPs an opportunity to give guidance and advice to the applicants, if needed.
- About twice a year, seminars are organized to keep the EU advisers at academic institutions and research institutes updated about EU calls and other developments of the ERA. These network seminars gather normally 70 – 90 persons, and is regarded to be an important tool in the distribution of knowledge about the EU research programmes, and to exchange experience between the support structures at the academic/research institutions.
- The NCP network as a collegium: High priority is given to the development of the NCPs to form a real network for mutual support. In addition to the “NCP forums” twice a month, internal seminars are organized twice a year to develop plans and exchange knowledge and experience.

#### 4.1.5 Denmark

- The close cooperation between the Center for National and International Research Policy and EuroCenter and their joint status as PC members for 9 thematic Program Committees ensures a holistic approach to the thematic programs. PC meetings usually mix issues related to programme implementation with policy issues.
- The reference groups appointed for the thematic Programme Committees have provided valuable guidance to the Program Committee Delegates and their input has paved the way for Danish participation in the Framework Program.
- The EU-Erfa experience sharing network set up and hosted by EuroCenter has proven to be a powerful platform allowing for rapid knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practice. Based on a “train the trainer” approach it formalises the relationship between EuroCenter and the universities’ professionalised support structures.
- Allocating resources to developing a strong Legal & Finance team of two NCPs has allowed EuroCenter to provide a service that is in very high demand among participants and university support structures alike. Being specialist in L&F strengthens EuroCenter’s position as the central knowledge center in Denmark on FP7/H2020.
- Providing one-to-one guidance through all stages of the proposal writing (e.g. commenting on the same applications at different stages) is a highly valued service among applicants and creates a strong foundation for the work of the NCP ( although resource intensive).

## 4.2 National projects for the development of support services

### 4.2.1 Sweden

In January 2013 the Swedish Government assigned a working group to carry out a review of the national organisation for EU research cooperation. The review is a first step for the Government to put in place a future national organisational structure well adapted and designed to contribute to a successful Swedish participation under Horizon 2020.

The working group made a proposal for an organisation regarding the national support system for Horizon 2020.<sup>7</sup> The text below reflects the main organisational suggestions put forward by the working group. The formal decision regarding a future national structure to support Horizon 2020 participation at national level has yet to be taken by the Government.

The review proposes the national EU support organisation to be developed through (among other things) a more systematic cooperation with intermediary support functions. With the aim to more effectively reach out to major groups of actors. When it comes to higher education institutions, the inter-action with research offices of universities is proposed to be further deepened. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) are a priority target group for participation in the Horizon 2020. Changes in support structures to promote participation for specific group are envisaged, especially for SMEs, industry and research organisations. Horizon 2020 also means big opportunities for participation by the public sector at local and regional level and strategies and activities to promote these actors are also proposed to be developed.

On a higher strategic level, a national co-ordination “committee” (Samordningsfunktion) acting at a governmental agency level, has been put in place. The role is mainly to help the Government make prioritised decisions regarding Swedish participation in European partnership programmes. Decisions should take into account national priorities and explore synergies with national activities and programmes.

### 4.2.2 Finland

Just like during FP7, the Finnish support system in Horizon 2020 will be based on the NCPs, Committee members and the Regional Contact Points as well as organizational support services. There will be fewer NCPs, but each of them will have wider responsibility areas and consequently more time allocated to the NCP work. Relevant ministries will be more closely involved with the strategic planning and coordination of the national EU R&I policy implementation.

It is important to get new participants for Horizon 2020, especially participants from the third sector, stakeholders and new SMEs. Thus, it is also important to include cities, municipalities, NGOs, etc. and to get regional development companies and various types of business incubators involved in the programme activities.

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<sup>7</sup> Utbildningsdepartementet, *Den nationella organisationen för Horisont 2020*, Ds 2013:52, 2013



### 4.2.3 Iceland

The Icelandic NCP support services will be continued under Horizon 2020 but adapted to the challenges posed by the new program.

For the past few months the main emphasis has been on raising awareness and stimulate interest in Horizon2020 among Icelandic stakeholders and potential participants. Rannis has organized a few information meetings and a seminar where Horizon2020 has been introduced; this operation will be continued throughout the year. In November Rannis will organize the launch of Horizon 2020 in parallel with an exhibition celebrating the success of FP7.

### 4.2.4 Norway

Considering the many major changes that are expected to be implemented at the start of the next Framework Programme, an internal project has recently been launched at RCN, with the following objectives:

- Smooth transition from FP7 to H2020
- Plan for operation of the national support and mobilization services from the start of H2020

The main results of phase 1 (“transition and emergency”) will be:

- Clarification of the resource need.
- A strategy for mobilization of participants in H2020.
- A strategy for cooperation with other important stakeholders.

As it seems likely that the NCP tasks for SMEs and for finance of innovation will be taken care of by Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) during H2020, a much closer cooperation with Innovation Norway (the EEN project manager in Norway) will be given high priority. RCN is co-financing the EEN network.

### 4.2.5 Denmark

The Danish NCP support provisions will be continued under Horizon 2020 but adapted to the challenges posed by the new program. H2020’s emphasis on closer-to market activities, on multidisciplinary and the overlaps between the societal challenges as well as the LEITs will be addressed by EuroCenter.

In collaboration with the Centre for National and International Research policy, EuroCenter has begun setting up H2020 reference groups for the coming program committees. During spring 2013, the reference groups will take part in the mapping of the Danish research and innovation strengths in order to prepare the Danish positions related to the coming work programs

To raise awareness and stimulate interest in Horizon2020 among Danish stakeholders and potential participants, EuroCenter has held a number of H2020 information events in 2012 which are set to continue throughout 2013. In October EuroCenter will be responsible for the Danish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Higher Education’s high profile and big-scale H2020 kick-off conference in Copenhagen. The Conference has room for 1500 participants and EuroCenter will seek to ensure broad media coverage.

In 2013 EuroCenter will also launch a canvassing campaign aimed at potential H2020 SME-participants (a minimum of 50 potential SME participants will be recruited for tailored in-depth introductions to their opportunities under Horizon2020)

Finally, a new broad EU-DK support initiative laid out in the Government's Innovation Strategy from December 2012 will be launched in 2013. The support initiative is chaired by EuroCenter who is responsible for strengthening the collaboration and ensuring synergies between services provided by all EU advisors in Denmark on H2020, COSME, CEF, Creative Europe; The EIB/EIF, The EU structural funds. The aim is to enable support structures to cooperate across all EU programs for the benefit of Danish participants.

# Annex I – Final NCP structure

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- 1 National NCP Coordinator
- 2 Legal and Financial aspects
- 3 SMEs\*
- 4 Access to Finance\*
- 5 European Research Council
- 6 'Future and Emerging Technologies';
- 7 'Marie Curie actions on skills, training and career development';
- 8 'European research infrastructures';
- 9 'Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)';
- 10 'Nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing';
- 11 'Space';
- 12 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing';
- 13 'Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy'; & 'Biotechnology';
- 14 'Secure, clean and efficient energy';
- 15 'Smart, green and integrated transport';
- 16 'Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials';
- 17 'Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies; science in and for society; widening participation';
- 18 'Security'
- 19 Euratom
- 20 Joint Research Centre\*\*

*\* Task to be performed in liaison with Enterprise Europe Network, according to the national situation.*

*\*\* As the in-house science service of the European Commission, the JRC is in charge of direct research under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The JRC NCPs act as key intermediaries and operational contact points between the JRC and the relevant stakeholders from the scientific community, industry and public authorities of the EU Member States and Associated Countries.*

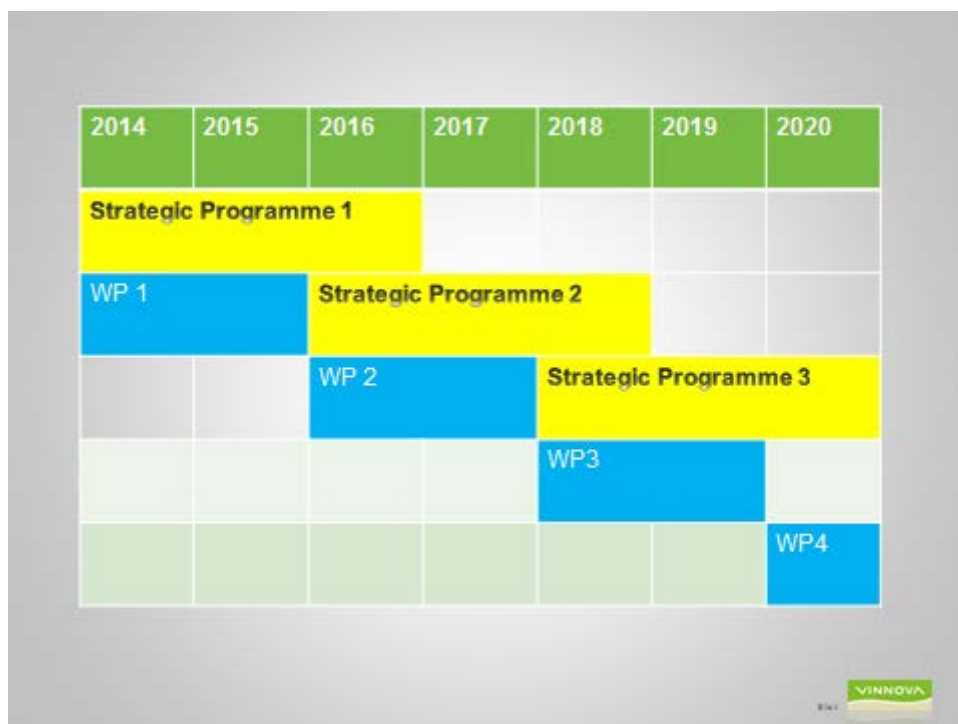
*The JRC NCPs' main missions are: to raise awareness about the JRC in their country; provide information about the JRC to relevant stakeholders in their country; advise and support relevant stakeholders regarding the practical modalities to collaborate with or work at the JRC; foster the contacts and collaboration between the JRC and scientific stakeholders in their country; act as a source of information and support for activities of the JRC in relation with their country.*

*Besides its close contacts with the special JRC NCPs, the JRC also liaises with and associates the thematic NCPs responsible for the 'societal challenges' priority under Horizon 2020 in its activities.*

## Annex II - Implementation of Horizon 2020

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Horizon 2020 is expected to be implemented through biennial work programmes in contrast to the annual WPs in FP7. This means that the WPs will be more or less fixed during two years which on the other hand can be compensated for with more open/less prescriptive topics. Further, it is anticipated that Strategic Programmes covering the whole of Horizon 2020 activities will be developed and form an introductory part of the WP. This would allow for more strategic discussion both inside the Commission and in the PCs. This will also put new requirements on the national organisation, in particular on how meetings in the PCs are prepared. As former CIP-activities (n.b. CtM projects) will be included additional competencies might be needed in the PCs,



The Commission has proposed one PC with four configurations, one horizontal and one for each priority. The agenda will, according to the Commission allow for experts, e.g. for the societal challenges to attend. The Commission has also proposed that the PC shall not give opinion on projects. From the deliberation in Council it is clear that there will be a threshold, likely around 2.5 M€ and that there will be more configurations, up to 17.

## Annex III – Programme Committees

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The Commission has proposed one PC with fourteen configurations whereof one horizontal. The agenda will, according to the Commission allow for experts, e.g. for the societal challenges to attend. The Commission has also proposed that the PC shall not give opinion on individual projects. Programme committees will continue to be asked to provide a formal opinion on the adoption of work programmes.

- 1 Horizontal configuration
- 2 European Research Council, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Future and emerging technologies
- 3 Research infrastructures
- 4 Information and Communication Technologies
- 5 Nanotechnologies, Advanced materials, Biotechnology, Advanced manufacturing and processing
- 6 Space
- 7 SMEs and Access to Risk Finance
- 8 Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- 9 European Bioeconomy Challenges: Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine and Maritime and Inland Water Research
- 10 Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
- 11 Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
- 12 Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw materials
- 13 Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective societies
- 14 Secure Societies - Protecting Freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

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November 2013

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- 02 Metallindustrin i Sverige 2007 - 2011
- 03 Eco-innovative Measures in large Swedish Companies - An inventory based on company reports
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- 05 Rörliga och kopplade - Mobila produktionssystem integreras
- 06 Företag inom miljötekniksektorn 2007-2011
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- 09 Den svenska maritima näringen - 2007 - 2011
- 10 Long Term Industrial Impacts of the Swedish Competence Centres
- 11 Summary - Long Term Industrial Impacts of the Swedish Competence Centres. *Brief version of VA 2013:10*
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- 14 Företag i energibranschen i Sverige - 2007-2011
- 15 Sveriges deltagande i sjunde ramprogrammet för forskning och teknisk utveckling (FP7) - Lägesrapport 2007-2012. *Only available as PDF*
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