



## ENRF Briefing Note on the role of National Contact Points in Horizon Europe

The start of [Horizon Europe](#), the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, is approaching. In September, the European research ministers agreed on a budget of €90 billion for the period 2021-2027 and how it will be allocated. An extra €4 billion are expected to be agreed on soon. Given the challenges ahead and in comparison with [H2020](#), this is a substantial improvement, and the progresses made in the discussions of this week within the Council will allow for the decision process to go further, and **Horizon Europe to be up and running from January 2021**.

The new Horizon programme - with its 3 main Pillars and priorities - that are not new but grouped in a way to make it to promote the synergies between the different areas - increases the implication of the EU Member States and citizens, **through the concept of missions, the European partnerships, and the co-design of the strategic plans for Horizon Europe**. This is important as research and innovation need concrete visibility to be broadly supported.

### Horizon Europe: Structure



### Lessons Learned

from Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation

- Support breakthrough innovation
- Create more impact through mission-orientation and citizens' involvement
- Strengthen international cooperation
- Reinforce openness
- Rationalise the funding landscape
- Encourage participation

### Key Novelties

in Horizon Europe

- European Innovation Council
- R&I Missions
- Extended association possibilities
- Open science policy
- New approach to Partnerships
- Spreading Excellence

As a cross-cutting priority across the Framework programme, widening participation is seen as key to make it that those Member States that are performing lower will be able to increase their participation in the programme (3,3% of the overall budget will be allocated for this). In order to make this happen, Horizon Europe is designed taking into account lessons learned, and how based on it novelties can be created in the new framework programme, including to expend it to third countries that could not access it before.

In all this process, **the national contact points have a key role to play**. The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and

assistance on all aspects of participation in framework programmes. Established and financed by the governments of the 28 EU Member States and the States associated to the framework programme, NCPs are also present in many non-EU and non-associated countries ("third countries"). Their main role is to provide support to all the parties interested in applying for EU projects, on the following points, as agreed by all the countries (see [NCP Guiding Principles](#)): Guidance on choosing relevant framework programme topics and types of action; Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues; Training and assistance on proposal writing; Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals, etc.); Assistance in partner search; Organising Workshops. As the NCPs are national structures, the type and level of services offered may differ from country to country.

Nursing researchers are encouraged to start working on the new Horizon Europe framework programme and making sure that nursing research is at the top of the Research and Innovation debate and outcomes. Europe must be more proactive when looking at how best to bring innovation into healthcare systems. Nursing research is essential for EU policy design! As your NCP is for sure starting to prepare for the Horizon Europe calls that should be open in April 2021, it is key to start contacting them to build synergies and alliances with key partners for EU projects to make sure that the nurses' voice is part of this development. This will create additional cooperation opportunities in Horizon Europe.

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