INCONTACT—One World
Transnational Cooperation among INCO NCPs

LIST OF PARTNERS

PRAXI / HELP-FORWARD Network/ FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY-HELLAS (FORTH, Greece) - **Coordinator**

GERMAN AEROSPACE CENTER (DLR, Germany)

THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENTAL-AGE-NCY FOR INNOVATION SYSTEMS (VINNOVA, Sweden)

AGENZIA PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA RICERCA EUROPEA (APRE, Italy)

SIHTASUTUS ARCHIMEDES (ARCHIMEDES, Lithuania) CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA (CONACYT, Mexico)

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST, South Africa)

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT (IRD, France)

CHINA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE CENTER (CECO, China)

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MHESR, Egypt)

THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NORWAY (RCN, Norway) NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (NSTDA, Thailand) STATE UNIVERSITY – HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (HSE, Russia)

Background and Objectives

One of the objectives of the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) is attracting the best research talent from Third Countries as the opening of the European Research Area (ERA) to the rest of the world has become the underlying philosophy of European research cooperation. Supporting European competitiveness by producing knowledge and scientific excellence through engaging the best scientists from such countries to work within the ERA, make up the main goals of International Cooperation within FP7. Furthermore, addressing issues Third Countries face on the basis of mutual interest, constitutes another dimension of International Cooperation.

Third Countries, in FP7, have certainly more participation opportunities and, in this context, the role of the National Contact Points for International Cooperation (INCO NCPs) has changed. Since the thematic oriented research has been reintroduced to the themes, the responsibility of advising on International Cooperation lies with the Thematic NCPs.

The INCO NCPs will therefore have a strong horizontal task in FP7. Bringing together and providing an overview of the variety of INCO activities is a new challenge for its activities. Moreover, in the recent years there has been a noticeable increase in the number of NCPs compromising the quality and type of services delivered.

Overall Strategy

The milestone of **INCONTACT-One World**, building upon the experience acquired during the first phase of the INCONTACT project, is to establish a strong network of INCO NCPs as focal information point for all activities under FP7 with regard to Third Country participation, and acting as a facilitator for stakeholders and ICPC participants. Networking is therefore the main task and challenge of INCONTACT. Due to the horizontal nature of the FP7 INCO activities, networking within all ten FP7 Themes and relaying Third Country contacts to FP7, embraces a very strong commitment.

incontact

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.ncp-incontact.eu , incontact@help-forward.gr

Apart from networking, the current INCO network has to be strengthened. Exchange of information and communication between European and Third Country contacts within FP7 has to be improved so that partners acquire a more extensive knowledge for each other and better serve European and Third Country research stake holders.

Summing up, **INCONTACT-One World** has two main objectives:

- to reinforce the network of the INCO NCPs
- to increase regional FP7 awareness

Activities

INCONTACT-One World incorporates practical tools to achieve its objectives and overcome the issues identified:

- Annual INCO NCP meetings will give the opportunity for personal communication, training, discussion of global science policy issues, and presentation of research capacities from ICPC countries.
- INCO wiki, following the structure of a Wiki, will be enriched aiming to become a live tool for the transfer of knowledge and best practices on International Cooperation. It will also act as a tool for publishing information and as a discussion platform.
- Special trainings for the professional development of the NCPs will be offered.
- A two-way communication channel with all the thematic NCPs will be set for facilitating the information flow on specific aspects of International Cooperation (such as SICA calls).
- Free communication and networking tools will be reviewed and proposed to the INCO NCPs.
- A global dialogue on Science policy will be initiated aiming to provide sound proposals to the EC.
- Several local FP7 information events will be organised around the globe aiming to increase awareness on FP opportunities.
- An NCP support mechanism will be established to provide initial support to the new INCO NCPs.

*It is also underlined that **INCONTACT-One World** aims to support the entire INCO NCP network and to encourage all INCO NCPs to participate in the foreseen activities, meetings and discussions.*

Expected Impact

INCONTACT will stimulate closer cooperation among INCO NCPs and encourage them to work together for improving the overall quality of the NCP services in the field of International Cooperation.

The positive effect of these efforts will not be limited to the NCP network alone, but the international research community will ultimately benefit from the heightened level of service offered by the network.

Individual researchers will benefit from higher quality of NCP services and information, while the establishment of a more consistent level of NCP services across Europe will contribute to greater transparency of the research funding for ICPC participants.

incontact

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.ncp-incontact.eu , incontact@help-forward.gr