



NCP IN FLANDERS (BELGIUM)

A distributed institutional setup

BELGIUM
THE FEDERAL STATE



- ▶ NCP at federal level
- ▶ NCP for the Brussel Capital Region
- ▶ NCP for Wallonia
- ▶ NCP for French speaking academia
- ▶ NCP for Flanders

THE COMMUNITIES

THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY



THE FRENCH COMMUNITY

aka Walloon Brussels Federation



THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY



THE REGIONS

THE FLEMISH REGION



THE BRUSSELCAPITAL REGION






THE WALLOON REGION



Flanders

NCP host organisations in Belgium

	Host organisations	Target stakeholders
EUROFED	BELSPO	Federal research organisations
	Impulse.Brussels	Organisations and private companies in Brussels Capital region
	Union Wallonne des entreprises - UWE	Companies in Wallonia
	Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS	Universities and research institutes in Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles
.....	Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship	All stakeholders based in Flanders

Previously in Flanders

- ▶ **Only the innovation funding agency (former IWT)**
 - As the FP originally targeted innovation and applied research projects
- ▶ **Research funding agency and innovation funding agency**
 - Distribution according to topic and activity
 - × MSCA, SSH, FET → research funding agency (FWO)
 - × Other → former innovation funding agency (IWT)
 - Two different websites with very largely overlapping information on certain programmes lines
 - But also incomplete information on others
- ▶ **BUT**
 - Complaints from researchers and companies on the quality of service [despite good participation numbers]

Now

- ▶ **Split of IWT and move/merger of split parts**
 - Funding for *companies* and/or innovation related matters (university colleges, not for profit, ...) → Enterprise Flanders, now called Flemish Innovation and Enterprise Agency (VLAIO)
 - Funding for *academia* and for fundamental and basic research → Research Foundation Flanders

- ▶ **New, “unified” NCP front-end office**
 - 1 website
 - Various communication channels but 1 strategy
 - 1 new NCP coordinator
 - VLAIO and FWO “actor expertise” are used for NCP services
 - Staff :
 - × 3 + 1 persons, 2,5 + 1 FTE (FWO)
 - × 9 persons, 3 FTE (VLAIO)
 - × [9 persons, 1,6 FTE (EWI)]

Now (2)

- ▶ **Only for Horizon 2020**

- No JPI related services
- Other contact points for structural funds
 - × But within VLAIO

- ▶ **PC-delegates <> NCP**

- Regular meetings
- “internal” task description/”protocol” (work in progress)
- “external” service level protocol with stakeholders (tbd)
- Common concertation platform (with stakeholders)
 - × Cascaded information divulgation

- Half way between centralised and decentralised system

- × Importance of expectation management and task agreements
- × More time-intensive (coordination)
- × More robust

NCP core activities



Goals

1. Short term

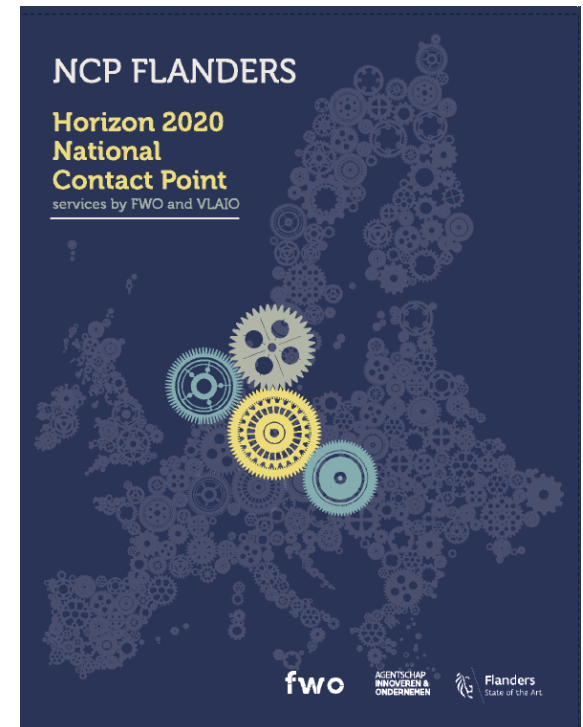
- NCP Flanders functions as a single front office
- It is well known, visible and easily accessible for stakeholders
- NCP Flanders uses various communication channels to disseminate up-to-date information effectively and efficiently
- All NCP Flanders advisers are well acquainted with the stakeholders in their domain/topic/area
- NCP Flanders actively participates in international networks (in particular NCP networks (CSAs), IGLO) and events or workshops (in particular of COM)

2. Medium to long term

- NCP Flanders is the main “beacon” regarding Horizon 2020 for companies and research institutions in Flanders
- NCP Flanders advisers stay in touch with their stakeholders and frequently provide them with qualitative information
- NCP Flanders is ready for FP9

Direct communication channels

- ▶ **(new) website**
 - <http://www.ncpflanders.be/>
- ▶ **Mailings**
 - Published work programmes
 - Lists of interested/relevant actors per programme line
- ▶ **Meetings**
 - meet and greet with (new) NCPs
- ▶ **Information sessions**
 - Session on work programmes and calls 2018-2020
 - session on proposal writing
- ▶ **Email/telephone**
 - info@ncpflanders.be
 - Direct contact to NCP advisors
- ▶ **Flyers**
- ▶ **No Twitter/ LinkedIn/Facebook yet**



Flemish EU concertation platform

▶ EU platform

- Dissemination and discussion platform for
 - × government representatives (DEWI, VLAIO, FWO, BUZA, FIT)
 - × stakeholder representatives (4-ple helix)
 - In particular EU “liaison officers” at RPOs
 - × regional official advisory bodies representatives
 - × Others: e.g., membership organisation (vleva, Agoria, ...)

- WG1: all “COM funded” programmes
- WG2: all “Council related” and/or nationally funded EU initiatives
- WG3: ESFRI related
- WG4: Open Science and Innovation
- Steering group

- Output:
 - × Common positions (e.g., SSH, widening, FP9, EIC,)
 - × Events

VLAIO: H2020 NCP + ERDF MA

- ▶ **Combined expertise, in particular on SMEs, proves valuable**
 - VLAIO account managers are close to (or the same as) VLAIO NCPs
 - VLAIO participates with FIT in the EEN
 - VLAIO participates in EUREKA, Eurostars and AAL2
 - VLAIO is responsible for RIS3
 - × Has operationalised a (spearhead) cluster policy
 - × Spearhead cluster policy is implemented thanks to also ERDF money
 - Spearhead clusters are supposed to “internationalise” their network, including SMEs
 - VLAIO manages the “SME wallet” that funds needs for external advice for companies
- ▶ **Innovation centre Flanders coordinated by VLAIO**
 - 5 provincial front offices for funding seeking enterprises, especially SMEs,

- ▶ **Acknowledgments go the NCP Flanders coordinator for lending me some slides 😊**

Ja het helpt enorm dat we met VLAIO veel onder 1 dak hebben EFRO, Interreg NCPs, NCPs H2020 onderdelen die op KMO's gericht zijn... daarin zijn we met Vlaanderen redelijk uniek + is er intern makkelijker een mind-set om naar elkaar door te verwijzen

Ik zie echter ook veel nuttig werk gebeuren op het niveau van meer serieuze begunstigen/participanten aan H2020 (vnl. de kennisinstellingen dan) > zij hebben vaak een heel goed zicht op cross-overs of raakpunten tss de Fondsen + hebben vaak een goede eigen strategie om hun projecten aan de bak te doen komen in de verschillende fondsen naargelang de finaliteit van elk project

Mbt KMO's of ondernemingen in het algemeen is het ergens wel de ambitie denk ik dat de speerpuntclusters in de toekomst een dergelijke coördinerende rol zouden kunnen spelen tav ondernemingen in hun cluster. In combinatie met het accountmanagement van speerpuntclusters bij VLAIO + de nabijheid van een reeks NCPs voor verschillende fondsen zal dat ook kansen bieden tot (nog) grotere bedrijfsparticipatie aan Fondsen programma's