



Report on the status of collaboration with other NCP networks

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1. Introduction

This report aims at describing the overall concept and objectives of Task 4.2. ‘Collaboration with other NCP’ networks’, the activities carried out so far (until January 2017), planned activities as well as bottlenecks and good practices concerning the cooperation of NCPs CaRE with other NCP networks, including the status of Task 4.2.’s development.

With regards to the carried out activities, this report covers a period from M1 (February 2015) to M24 (January 2017). The next (= 2nd) and also final report is foreseen in M48 and will cover activities of Task 4.2. conducted within the entire duration of the project.

2. Task 4.2 objectives - overview

The main objective of Task 4.2 is to identify synergies and implement common activities between NCPs CaRE and thematic/sectoral-specific Horizon 2020 NCP networks whose topics are related to SC5 areas and clients. According to the Description of Actions, the networks of interest for SC5 include, but are not limited to:

- SC2 network ‘BioHorizon’ - common actions on blue growth, circular economy, biodiversity and land management,
- SC7 network ‘SEREN3’ - joint actions on climate change and natural disasters topics,
- LEIT Space – actions on earth observation,
- LEIT Nanomaterials and Advanced materials – activities on water, waste and PPP SPIRE, circular economy
- NCP Academy – on legal, financial, ethical, horizontal and organizational issues common to all NCPs

The objective of Task 2.4. is also to monitor and publish, on the NCPs CaRE website, information about R&I environmental funding opportunities relevant for SC5, in particular about the LIFE programme and Structural Funds. Moreover, an opportunity to organize related webinars, in cooperation with WP3, should be explored.

Finally, the opportunity to organize joint brokerage events with other NCP networks (together with NCPs CaRE Task 5.3 “Trans-regional brokerage events”) should be examined and two common training workshops with other NCPs networks are to be organized (together with NCPs CaRE Task. 3.4 “Trainings”).

3. Joint activities carried out until M24

3.1. Communication channel

A setup of a communication channel between NCPs CaRE and relevant NCP networks has been accomplished at the beginning of the project. Besides the NCPs projects mentioned in the section above (i.e. BioHorizon, SEREN3, LEIT Space, LEIT Nanomaterials and Advanced Materials and NCP Academy), additionally, the following NCPs networks have been identified as relevant for SC5 areas of interest:

- NCP network for SC3 (C-Energy 2020) → energy efficiency and energy-related topics,
- NCP network for SC6 (Net4Society) → due to the SSH integration aspects in SC5 topics
- NCP network for ‘Innovation for SMEs’ (Access4SMEs) → eco-innovative SMEs,
- NCP network NUCL-EU 2020 → topics on waste management,
- NCP network for Infrastructures (RICH) → due to the access to research infrastructures for SC5 clients.

Emails have been chosen as the most convenient and effective communication tool. Persons responsible for communication with other NCP networks have been identified for each relevant NCP network. Contacts with them have been established and are regularly maintained, according to the needs and circumstances at hand. If necessary, also phone or skype calls take place.

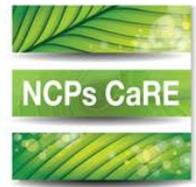
Table 1 sets out the relevant NCP networks and the contact details of persons responsible for cooperation with other NCPs, including their affiliation.

Table 1: Contact persons of other NCP networks for collaboration

Area	NCP network	Contact person	e-mail	Organisation
SC2	BioHorizon	Serena Borgna	borgna@apre.it	APRE, IT
SC7	SEREN 3	Pascale van Dinter	Pascale.VANDINTER@stis.belspo.be	BELSCO
Space	COSMOS 2020	Elena Giglio	Giglio@apre.it	APRE, IT
NMPB	NMP TeAM4 ¹	Serena Borgna	borgna@apre.it	APRE, IT
L&F	NCP Academy	Imelda Lambkin	Imelda.Lambkin@enterprise-ireland.com	Enterprise Ireland
SC3	C-Energy 2020	Chiara Pocaterra	Pocaterra@apre.it	APRE, IT
SC6	Net4Society	Elena Maffia	maffia@apre.it	APRE, IT
SME	Access4SMEs	Antonio Carbone	carbone@apre.it	APRE, IT

¹ Synergies on Partner Search Tool (T.5.1) with NMPTeAM-4 concerning common improvements, as the same tool is created & used by both NCP network projects.





Instrument				
EURATOM	NUCL-EU 2020	Bruno Mourenza	mourenza@apre.it	APRE, IT
Research Infrastructures	RICH	Gianmatteo Fornaro	fornaro@apre.it	APRE, IT

Since the majority of the relevant contact persons are affiliated with the same organization as the Task Leader (i.e. APRE), this additionally facilitates the communication flow between the NCP networks and enhances the exchange of relevant knowledge and information. For example, each first Monday of a month, the Task Leader meets with the Net4Society representative to identify and discuss relevant on-going initiatives, events and news of common interest. Since this mode of cooperation proves to be effective, the possibility to establish a similar cooperation format with other relevant NCP networks will be explored in 2017.²

In order to keep the partially commenced collaboration simple and effective, it was decided to avoid signing Memorandums of Understanding between NCPs CaRE and the other NCPs' networks. However, on February 11, 2016 a meeting was held at APRE gathering the representatives of almost all the NCPs networks, who agreed to keep a steady flow of information among them. Prior to and after this meeting, an email with invitation to cooperate (without a MoU) was sent to relevant NCP network coordinators (Mn11 & Mn14 = December 2015 & March 2016).

3.2. Activities involving NCP networks

NCPs CaRE, jointly with C-ENERGY 2020, supported the organization of and were present at a **brokerage event 'E² Tech4Cities 2015'** organized in Brussels, June 14-15, 2015. The event was one of the official events of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) of the European Commission and focused on energy and resource efficiency. During the event, the NCPs CaRE project and its services had been intensively promoted. The presence of the two networks allowed participants to meet either SC5 or SC3 NCPs.

A representative of the **NCP Network for Research Infrastructure (RICH, APRE/IT)** was invited to the **NCPs CaRE kick-off meeting** in Berlin, June 10-11, 2015, to present the RICH project and discuss the cooperation in the framework of PILLS, and most importantly to inform NCPs CaRE of any suitable topics in the infrastructures work programme for the SC5 clientele.

A NCPs CaRE speaker (from Euresearch/CH) was present during a **Net4Society event** in Vienna, June 7, 2016, to promote the project, NCPs CaRE services and tools and discuss SC5 topics requiring SSH integration.

² This mode of cooperation was commenced by the new Task leader in November 2016 to test its feasibility and effectiveness for the purposes of Task 4.2. Since it proved effective, it will be further explored with other NCP networks.





The **Coordinator (Juelich/DE) of NCPs CaRE project** took part in a **Meet and Exchange workshop organized by NCP Academy ‘NCP-Systems – Impact of NCP-networks’** in Copenhagen in June 7, 2016. During the workshop the role of NCP networks has been discussed as well as NCP’s good practices.

A NCPs CaRE representative (from APRE/IT) was present at the ESOF conference in Manchester, July 22-27, 2016. Specifically, together with other NCPs (including SEREN3, BioHorizon), she used a booth of the RICH network to promote the NCPs CaRE project, services and tools offered.

On November 15 and 16, 2016, a **NCPs CaRE representative (from FCT/PT) took part in an event related to the dissemination of a report prepared by the EASAC** (European Academies Science Advisory Council) and the JRC (Joint Research Centre) on “Marine Sustainability in an age of changing oceans and seas” in Lisbon. As part of this event, NCPs CaRE was involved in a BioHorizon staff exchange to explore possible synergies for cooperation and exchange of knowledge, to discuss opportunities and strategies on marine thematic and meet stakeholders in the field of marine/maritime issues. On the basis of these discussions, common activities with BioHorizon are currently being planned for year 2017 (see section 4.2. on Planned activities).

Three webinars have been organized in cooperation with C-Energy 2020, as set out in table 2 below:

Table 2: NCPs CaRE webinars in cooperation with another NCP network (C-Energy 2020)

Webinar’s topic	Date
Introduction to Intellectual Property (IP) Management in Horizon 2020	October 8, 2015
Dissemination & Communication issues in H2020	November 30, 2015
Open Research Data in Horizon 2020	January 13, 2017

NCPs CaRE is actively involved in the **cooperation with Net4Society and other NCP networks on PILLS** (circulation and provision of inputs for offers & requests on event, trainings etc. from all networks).

Activities of the relevant NCPs networks are regularly monitored by the Task Leader. Specifically, once a week websites of those NCP networks are searched for information about events, brokerage events, news, info-days, etc. of common interest. If needed, relevant NCPs are contacted for more detail/clarification. The selected information is published on the NCPs CaRE website and included in its newsletter (“Weekly Digest from NCPs CaRE: newsletter”). Depending on the issues and identified information, synergies and possible modes of collaboration are discussed.

3.3. Publications on NCPs CaRE website

A [page](#) dedicated to ‘other NCP networks’ has been developed on the NCPs CaRE website to spread awareness among SC5 stakeholders and NCPs about the existence of other networks of NCPs. Web





linkages have been established with those NCPs networks that offer this option on their websites (e.g. BioHorizon, NUCL-EU 2020, C-ENERGY 2020).

Information about funding opportunities relevant for SC5 clientele is drafted by Task supporters and uploaded on the NCPs CaRE website. This includes, among others, articles about the LIFE programme and related calls, information about Bio-Based Industries Joint Technology Initiative, news about Climate KIC, information about SSH integration in SC5, links between “Societal Challenge 5” and “Space” in Horizon 2020, etc. In addition, relevant information regarding different initiatives that support SC5 Calls like JPI, EIPs, etc. is also disseminated through the NCPs CaRE website. Additional signposting to [other NCP networks’ partner search tools](#) is done via the partner search tool developed by NCPs CaRE (T.5.1).

4. Planned activities

In the upcoming months, several types of activities involving NCPs CaRE cooperation with relevant NCP networks are planned:

4.1. Webinars

A number of webinars will be organized in collaboration with NCP networks or other relevant initiatives in the field of environment. Webinars are considered to be the most cost-effective and simultaneously an efficient and powerful tool for knowledge transfer and exchange of questions and answers. Therefore, a major emphasis will be put on this type of collaboration.

The specific dates and topics of the webinars as well as the participating NCP networks will be determined in the upcoming months, in coordination with WP3 in order to ensure consistency with and complementarity to trainings planned in Task. 3.4 ‘Trainings’.

Please note that these webinars within the scope of NCPs CaRE are for capacity building of the project partners in their advising capacity to applicants.

4.2. Workshops with other NCP networks

We are planning to involve a representative of the NCP network for the ‘Innovation for SMEs’ (Access4SMEs) in the Workshop ‘How to write a good proposal’ dedicated to SMEs. The specific mode of involvement is still to be identified, as the workshop is planned for M40. Involvement of Access4SMEs in the workshop will ensure that the participants receive a comprehensive and detailed information about funding opportunities offered for eco-innovative SMEs.

As a follow up of the already mentioned event on “Marine Sustainability in an age of changing oceans and seas” where NCPs CaRE was involved in a BioHorizon staff exchange, we are planning to organize a training workshop/staff exchange with BioHorizon. The event will be most probably organised in fall 2017/early 2018 in order to address topics for the new Work Programme 2018-2020. This issue has been already preliminarily discussed between Task 4.2 leader and the relevant person at Biohorizon and the





discussion will be ongoing in 2017. The results of the workshop/staff exchange will be primarily beneficial for SC5 and SC2 applicants, as the event is planned to provide the participating NCPs with practical information on topics of mutual interest that will allow them to effectively support and advise the applicants in the proposal writing phase.

Another option is to organise a joint training with C-Energy 2020 ‘Train the trainer’ in the framework of Task 3.4. The details of this idea are to be discussed in early 2017 with Task Leader 3.4.

4.3. Joint brokerage events with other NCP networks

With regards to cooperation with other NCP networks concerning (co)organisation of brokerage events, NCPs CaRE is planning to organise a brokerage event in fall 2017 on the new 2018-2020 SC5 Work Programme. Therefore, we are exploring the possibility to include relevant NCPs in the event. Specifically, current discussions are ongoing with Net4Society (SC6) and Seren3 (SC7) on possible modes for cooperation. The possible cooperation forms include: (i) invitation of representatives of the NCP networks for thematic panel discussions during the brokerage event, (ii) promotion of the event through NCP networks and websites, (iii) opening of the registration for the brokerage event to applicants typically working on other Societal Challenges (e.g. in the case of SC6 – SHH flagged topics), (iv) presence of NCP networks at the brokerage event for promotion and information purposes (e.g. in advisory capacity to applicants). Furthermore, in early Spring 2017, Task Leader 4.2 is planning to explore the possibility to involve other NCP networks (i.e. other than Net4Society and Seren3) in the NCPs CaRE brokerage event.

Simultaneously, monitoring brokerage events planned for 2017 by relevant NCPs networks is ongoing and possibilities to co-organize or join the events are being explored. Since the majority of the NCP networks is planning to organize their respective brokerage events in fall 2017 (when new Work Programmes 2018-2020 will be published across Horizon 2020), there is still considerable time to agree on specific cooperation activities for those events.

4.4. Publications on NCPs CaRE website

The preparation of thematic fact-sheets/articles on common topics and complementary areas with other Societal Challenges is planned (in cooperation with Task 2.3 ‘Website’). The following articles are being drafted:

- In cooperation with COSMOS 2020 – on Copernicus, FEOS and earth observations,
- In cooperation with Net4Society – on SSH flagged topics in SC5.

When finalized, they will be published on the NCPs CaRE website and in the NCPs CaRE newsletter.

A list of further articles and a timetable for their publication will be developed in February 2017, in cooperation with Task 2.3.



5. Good practices and bottlenecks in cooperation with NCP networks

5.1. Status of Task 4.2. development

In mid-October 2017, there was a change in the position of the Task Leader 4.2 due to an internal staff rotation at the task leading organisation (APRE). The coordinator, the WP leaders and most importantly the Task 2.4. supporters were duly informed about this change. The change will be also reflected in a new Description of Actions (DoA) in the framework of the ongoing amendment.

Based on the data included in the Technical Report for NCPs CaRE project, it can be observed that partners involved in Task 4.2 have been underspending so far (as per M18 - project interim reporting).

Consequently, this means that a considerable amount of work for Task 4.2 is to be planned and carried out in the second part of the project – starting from early months of 2017. This is reflected in Section 4 of this report where the general overview of planned activities is laid out and will be adjusted, if necessary, to the future needs of the network. Task 4.2 partners have been consulted on this issue by the new Task Leader and are aware of the importance of ensuring smooth cooperation in the execution of Task 4.2 activities. They have offered their full support, availability and willingness to pursue the future activities.

The cooperation between Task 4.2 partners is going well. Tasks are mostly distributed by its Task Leader (in accordance with the DoA) and executed by Task supporters in due time. Initiatives from the Task partners are welcomed. The quality check procedure is implemented for each document produced by the Task partners.

5.2. Good practices

Identification of contact persons in relevant NCP networks at the very beginning of the project and maintaining with each of them regular contacts is indispensable for effective cooperation between NCP networks. As mentioned above, the majority of the relevant contact persons are affiliated with the same organization as the Task Leader (i.e. APRE) - this allows for regular (daily) personal contacts and greatly facilitates the communication flow between NCPs CaRE and other NCP networks.

Since activities of NCP networks are being constantly developed, it is also important to **establish a specific (personalized) cooperation model with each contact person at relevant NCP networks and to follow the agreed format and timetable**. At the end of 2016, this has been done with the representative of Net4Society and proved to work very well. The possibility to establish a similar cooperation format with other relevant NCP networks will be explored in early 2017.

Holistic approach to all project activities and in specific active cooperation with other relevant tasks within the project enhances the implementation and impact of Task 4.2 activities. In particular, thematic news, articles and fact-sheets are prepared and uploaded on the NCPs CaRE website and the





newsletter in cooperation with Task 2.3. ('Website'); webinars are planned and organized in collaboration with Task 3.4. ('Trainings'); the workshop 'How to write a good proposal' for SMEs (Task. 2.5) will be organized in collaboration with Access4SMEs network.

It is advisable that **Task Supporters on 'Cooperation with other NCP networks' are personally involved in activities of other NCP networks and relevant initiatives.** This gives them the first-hand information on possible synergies and areas for cooperation. In the case of Task 4.2, the Task Leader is directly involved in Seren3, Net4Society and BioHorizon. EZ/RVO is the Dutch NCP for the Life Programme and has all NCPs for Horizon2020 in their office - therefore has contacts with all NCP networks. As a beneficiary partner EZ/RVO is involved in the following NCPs networks: NCPs CaRE (SC5), ETNA2020 (SC4) and BioHorizon (SC2). FCT (the Portuguese partner) is involved in the NUCL-EU 2020 network. AMEUP (the Croatian Partner) is involved in BioHorizon project as well C-Energy 2020, HNN 2.0, Idealist, Net4Society, WIDENET, NCP Academy and Seren3.

5.3. Bottlenecks

Some NCP networks (e.g. COSMOS2020) do not have a specific task on cooperation with other networks. This means that collaboration with other relevant NCP networks is not their priority and they do not have specific budgets and resources for that specific purpose. This can substantially hinder the establishment of synergies and implementation of common activities. The LIFE programme does not have an NCP network project similar to the H2020 NCP network projects. Therefore, synergies between H2020 SC5 and LIFE NCPs will probably mostly be accomplished on a national level.

Staff rotations at organizations involved in the task also delay and hamper cooperation activities, as the new staff takes time to get acquainted with the task activities, with other partners and internal communication. Since Task Leader 4.2 has changed in mid-October 2016, many activities have been planned from 2017 onwards.

The description of Task 4.2 in the DoA has been written in a relatively general manner, without providing too much details of each partner's responsibilities and obligations within the task. This may create misunderstandings or confusions between partners with regards to their role in the task. In addition, this can be also a reason for a lack of partners' initiative. Given this, a strong leadership, constant input and clear directions from the Task Leader are necessary to ensure smooth evolvement of the task and implementation of all planned activities. At the same time, initiative of all task supporters is always welcomed and expected.

