

# International NCPs Workshop

*Promoting the International Dimension  
of Horizon 2020*

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Rado Faletič  
Montroix Pty Ltd  
Australia



# Report on *International Cooperation around the World (Part I)*

- Summary of presentations (speedy-quick)
  - Quick points from EC presentations
  - General insight from NCP presentations
- Some comments (maybe provocative)

# First, summary of EC talks

- Objectives of EC's international strategy:
  - Strengthening the **Union's** excellence and attractiveness in research and innovation and its economic and industrial competitiveness
  - Tackling **global** societal challenges, such as food and energy security and climate change
  - Supporting the Union's **external policies**
- *<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=strategy>*

- NCP guiding principles and standards
- Core tasks:
  - Informing and awareness raising of H2020 opportunities
  - Assisting, advising and training
  - Signposting and cooperation
- *[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_contact\\_points.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html)*

- NCPs should link **beyond NCP networks**. E.g. INCO projects, EEN, Europe Centres, science counselors and EEAS delegations
- Summary of calls that target international cooperation: *<http://incontact.etag.ee/topics>*

- International Cooperation page:  
*<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp>*
- Horizon 2020 manual:  
*[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm)*
- CIRCABC “Horizon 2020: Open to the World”  
interest group, *<https://circabc.europa.eu/>*

# General insight from NCP presentations

- NCPs and NCP activities are part of **broader** political and policy landscape
  - National ST&I priorities and programmes
  - S&T Agreements and Dialogues (with EU and Member States)
  - Different ministries, agencies, institutions also have an interest in collaboration with EU
  - Regional initiatives (e.g. ASEAN, LAC, MED)
  - Some level of national alignment with H2020

# NCP structures

- NCP Coordinator is usually within Ministry
- But, to have (solely) high-level NCPs for thematic doesn't work
  - Also need “**technical**” NCPs who understand the thematic specifics, call details and rules
- Work with numerous other **multipliers** (institutional and thematic)





# NCP activities

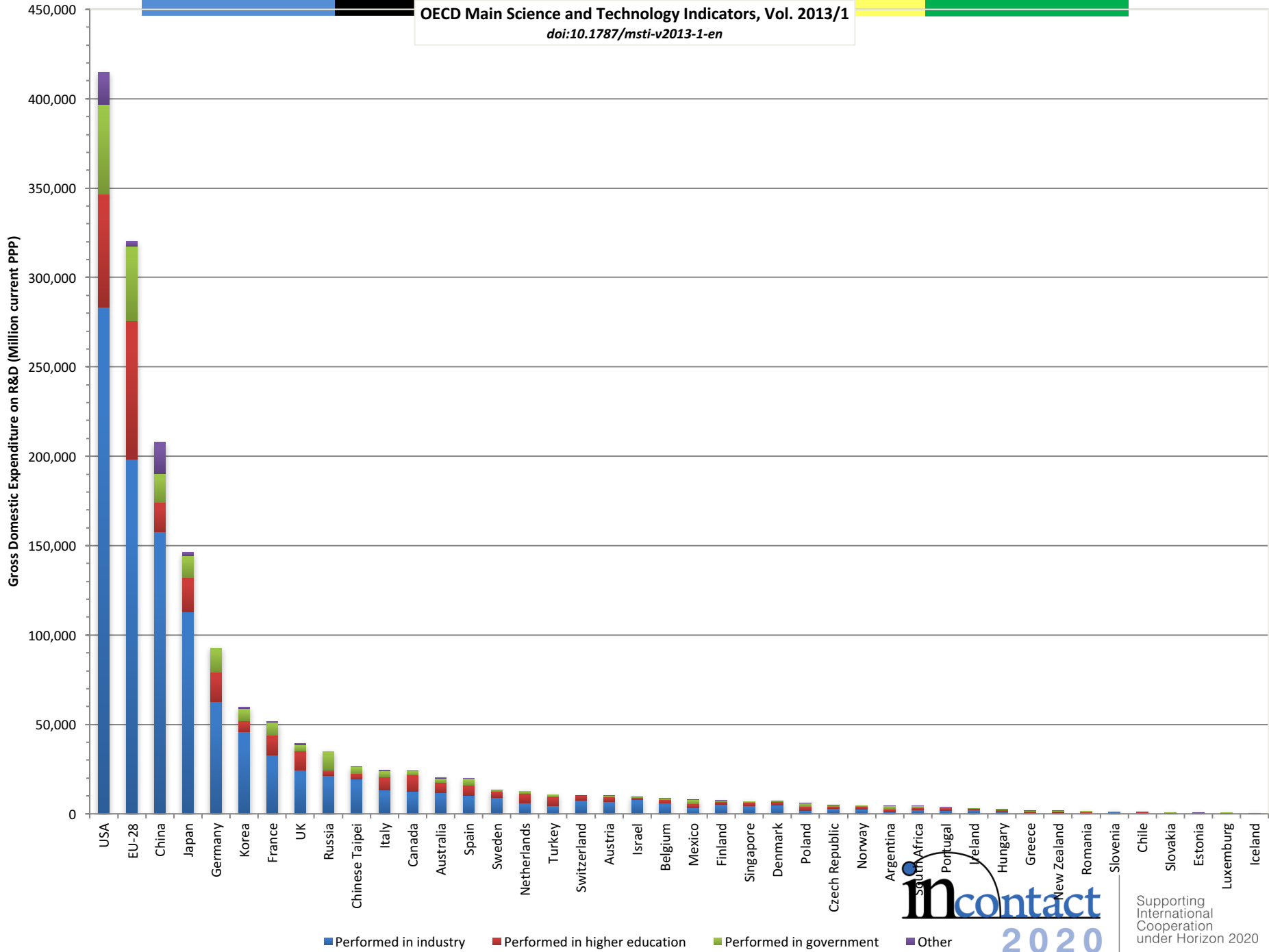
- Promotion and dissemination of **information**
- **Training** (NCPs and multipliers)
- Consulting with individuals/organisations (rules, proposal development, etc.)
- Liaising between different **stakeholders**

- **Translation** of H2020 information (language translation, but also from Euro-speak to local paradigms)
- Strengthening local and **regional** activities and coordination

# NCP challenges

- Need to **monitor activity**, especially proposals (need data on success and rejection)
- Other countries are increasingly competing for international collaboration attention (RF note: multi-lateral/multi-regional collaboration often has higher impact)
- *Perception* of difficulty of engaging with H2020
- Many European researchers **don't know** the rules about third country participants

- NCPs are not paid for their time (generally)
- Lack of **seed funding** in order to build projects
- **Strong interest in accessing thematic NCP networks**, to:
  - Build thematic relationships
  - Get more detailed call information
  - Develop connections in order to join consortia



# Comments

- Language: many of the first H2020 calls were clearly focused on local **Euro-centric** problems, which discouraged third country participation
- Language: **innovation** focus can similarly discourage some third country participants (most of whom are from public research actors)
- Learn from high-income third countries in FP7: clearly explain the **value to Europe** for your participation (and funding)

- Consider the financial and knowledge **leverage**, and use this to gain political support (15-20x leverage of local financial investment is common)
- The *science* that you bring to a project is essential, but your **soft assets** are equally important (e.g. networks and relationships)
- Encourage EU participants to **reach out** to their third country colleagues, & vice-versa

- Value of being an **expert evaluator**:
  - Inside knowledge and insight
  - Personal connections with others in your field
  - Not exclusive for senior researchers





“Try a thing you haven't done three times.

- Once, to get over the fear of doing it.
- Twice, to learn how to do it.
- And a third time to figure out whether you like it or not.”

– Virgil Thomson, composer (USA)



# Thank you

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Australia