

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Network of Science with and for Society National Contact Points (SiS-NET)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Iceland
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Icelandic Centre for Research
<b>Brief description</b>
The SiS.net project aims to enhance the effectiveness of National Contact Points (NCPs) in the 7th Framework Programme's (FP7) Science in Society (SiS) program by strengthening their networks. It builds on previous NCP initiatives to provide better services to stakeholders in the EU, associated countries, and International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC). The project ensures continuity between FP7 and Horizon 2020, fostering cooperation among NCPs and helping them navigate policy areas, research topics, and regulations to support their stakeholders more efficiently.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
The proposal promoted mutual learning and capacity building among NCPs by facilitating training sessions, network meetings, and mailing lists. These activities allowed for the exchange of best practices, enabling SiS NCPs to support each other in addressing challenges during the implementation of FP7 SiS calls.
<b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)
The SiS.net project was developed to improve the capacities of National Contact Points (NCPs) within the FP7 Science in Society programme. It was essential for optimizing NCPs' support to stakeholders and promoting Responsible Research and Innovation. The initiative encouraged better collaboration, strengthened policy development, and expanded engagement across diverse audiences. The outcomes were significant at local, national, and international levels, improving services for participants, fostering stronger European networks, and reinforcing the science-society connection.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Academic staff</li> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ University leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

Sis.net produced significant impact both internally and externally. It successfully mobilized its network of SiS NCPs through effective communication and networking events, and exceeded expectations by organizing brokerage events and a European Parliament meeting, fostering interaction and policy discussions among stakeholders. Additionally, the inclusion of ICPC partners broadened the network, enhancing global collaboration and participation in the SiS programme. These efforts strengthened capacities and facilitated policy development, furthering the initiative's reach and impact.

#### **Transferability of the initiative**

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The SiS.net project focuses on sharing best practices among NCPs to enhance their effectiveness in supporting organizations participating in Horizon 2020. By professionalizing and standardizing services across Europe and Horizon 2020 participant countries, it ensures more consistent and high-quality NCP support. These practices can be adapted to other research and innovation contexts, promoting better collaboration and service provision across diverse institutional structures.

#### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The success of the initiative over time was largely driven by effective communication efforts, which promoted SiS.net as the network for SiS NCPs and contributed to the wider promotion of the FP7 SiS programme. The network's reach expanded significantly, raising awareness about Responsible Research and Innovation and emphasizing the crucial role of science in society. This wider engagement demonstrated the network's growing influence and the increasing importance of its initiatives.

#### **Contact and references**

Link: <https://arquivo.pt/wayback/20160109174822/http://www.sisnetwork.eu/>  
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/289064/reporting>