



PROJECT H5NCP

Activating
National Contact Points
in the framework of
Decision H5

Cooperation on fraud and error

A project in the framework of Actions for Cooperation and Information
on Social Security Coordination no. VP/2012/004
Grant Agreement no. VS/2012/0277

With support of the European Commission

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Project H5NCP

Activating National Contact Points in the framework of Decision H5

Context : Cooperation on fraud and error issues

At the 307th meeting of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems (AC) in December 2007 it was decided to create an Ad Hoc Group (AHG). The purpose of the AHG was to assist the AC in strengthening co-operation between competent institutions and more particularly in combating social security fraud and error. This led to two AHG reports on fraud and error issues and the identification of major problem areas.

The conclusions and recommendations in the final report led to decision H5 in March 2010.

National Contact Points

The decision H5 states that: "Member States shall nominate a point of contact for fraud and error to whom either risks of fraud and abuse, or systematic difficulties which cause delays or error, can be reported by competent authorities or institutions..." A list of National Contact Points (NCP's) has been published by the Secretariat of the Administrative Commission in July 2011.

Observations

A first glance at the list already shows that it is not yet complete and that there is no coherence in the type of contact points assigned. This hampers efficient communication. First attempts to exchange information on risks or systematic difficulties concerning fraud and error were not successful. This leads us to believe that the NCP network has not yet attained its full potential.

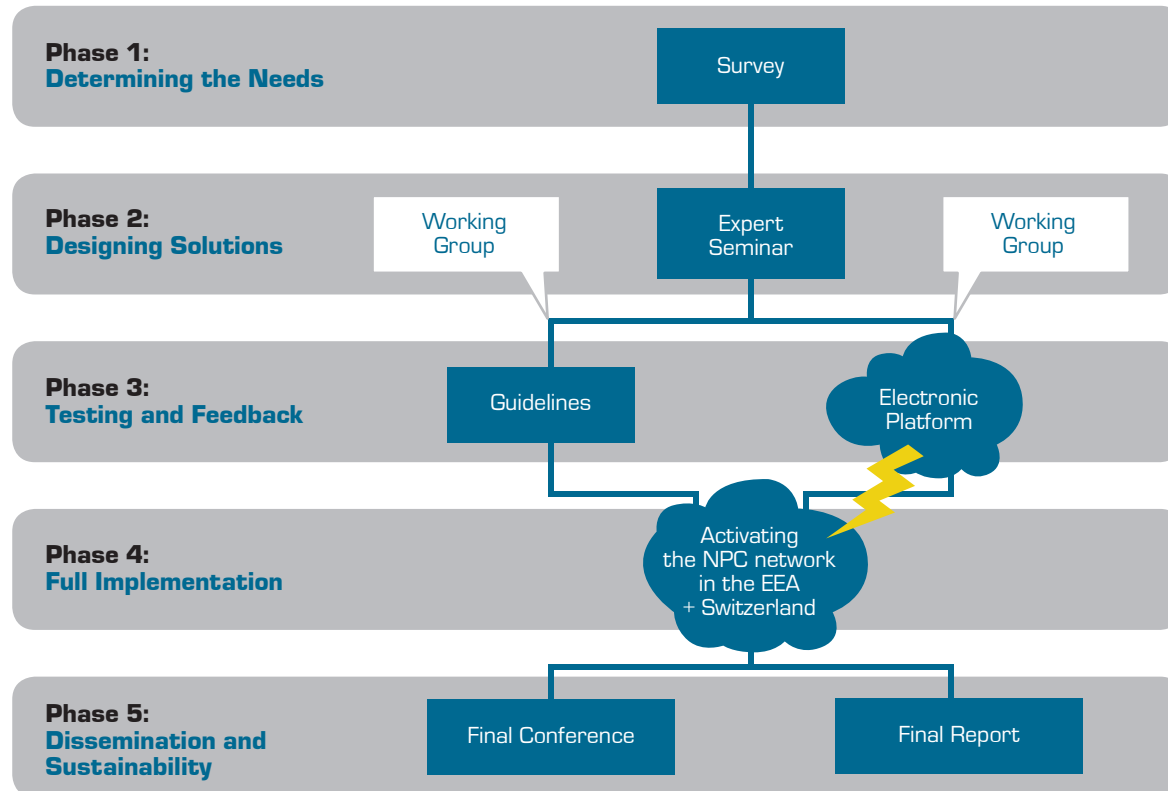
A new boost

Convinced of the importance of this network of NCP's, the Federal Public Service Social Security (FPS) in Belgium and the Social Insurance Bank (SVB) in the Netherlands have submitted a joint proposal to boost the NCP's activity by creating a new platform supported by clear guidelines. This project was elaborated in response to a call for proposal by the European Commission¹. The EC agreed to the project proposal.

¹ Call for proposals no. VP/2012/004 – Actions for Cooperation and Information on Social Security Coordination – 04.03.0500

Project Outline

The following image reflects the different project phases.



Phase 1 (October 2012 – January 2013): Survey

In October 2012 the FPS/SVB will launch a web-based survey, addressed to the NCP's in order to gather information about how the NCP's are organized, what their current activities are and possible improvements. The survey needs to be filled in by December 1st 2012.

Phase 2 (January 2013): Designing Solutions

Seminar on January 28th and 29th 2013 in Amsterdam

The FPS/SVB will organize a seminar in Amsterdam on January 28th and 29th 2013 during which experts from the NCP's can meet and discuss how to enhance the performance of the existing network. The aim of the seminar will be to map out the current situation of the NCP network and to propose specific solutions for its future use. The results of the survey will be the starting point for the expert workshops that will be held during the seminar. During the workshops the experts will be able to discuss what is expected of the NCP's and how cooperation between social security institutions can be improved.

Phase 3 (February 2013 – May 2013): Testing and feedback

Guidelines

The project will deliver guidelines for the NCP network. The project will develop a manual that describes all the modalities of the functioning of the national contact points. This manual will cover subjects such as the mandate and responsibilities of the NCP's, the type of fraud and error issues to exchange and the procedures to follow.

The guidelines will be based on the results of the survey and the results of the workshops.

Electronic platform (with online user manual)

Efficient communication and fluid exchange of information is quintessential to guarantee a successful NCP network, therefore it is crucial to have the best technological solution. The development of a transnational corporate social networking environment that has already proved very useful for numerous multinational companies, seems the best way forward.

The development of the electronic platform will take place simultaneously with the development of the guidelines in order to ensure coherence between content and supporting technology.

Phase 4 (June 2013 – November 2013): Full implementation

Training session on June 10th 2013 in Barcelona

To guarantee easy and coherent use of the platform every user has to fully understand the system. A training session will explain all the modalities and technical functions to the future users. A demonstration of the first version of the platform will take place in Barcelona.

Deployment

The online platform will be activated in the EEA and Switzerland.

Phase 5 (December 2013): Dissemination and sustainability

Final conference on December 18th 2013 in Vilnius

The closing conference will be in Vilnius on December 18th 2013, during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council, seeking adherence of all member states, thus securing the future of the NCP network.

As such the project H5NCP will contribute to better implementation of the rules for coordinating social security systems for the benefit of all stakeholders, including social security institutions, the AC and all European citizens.

For more information, please contact:

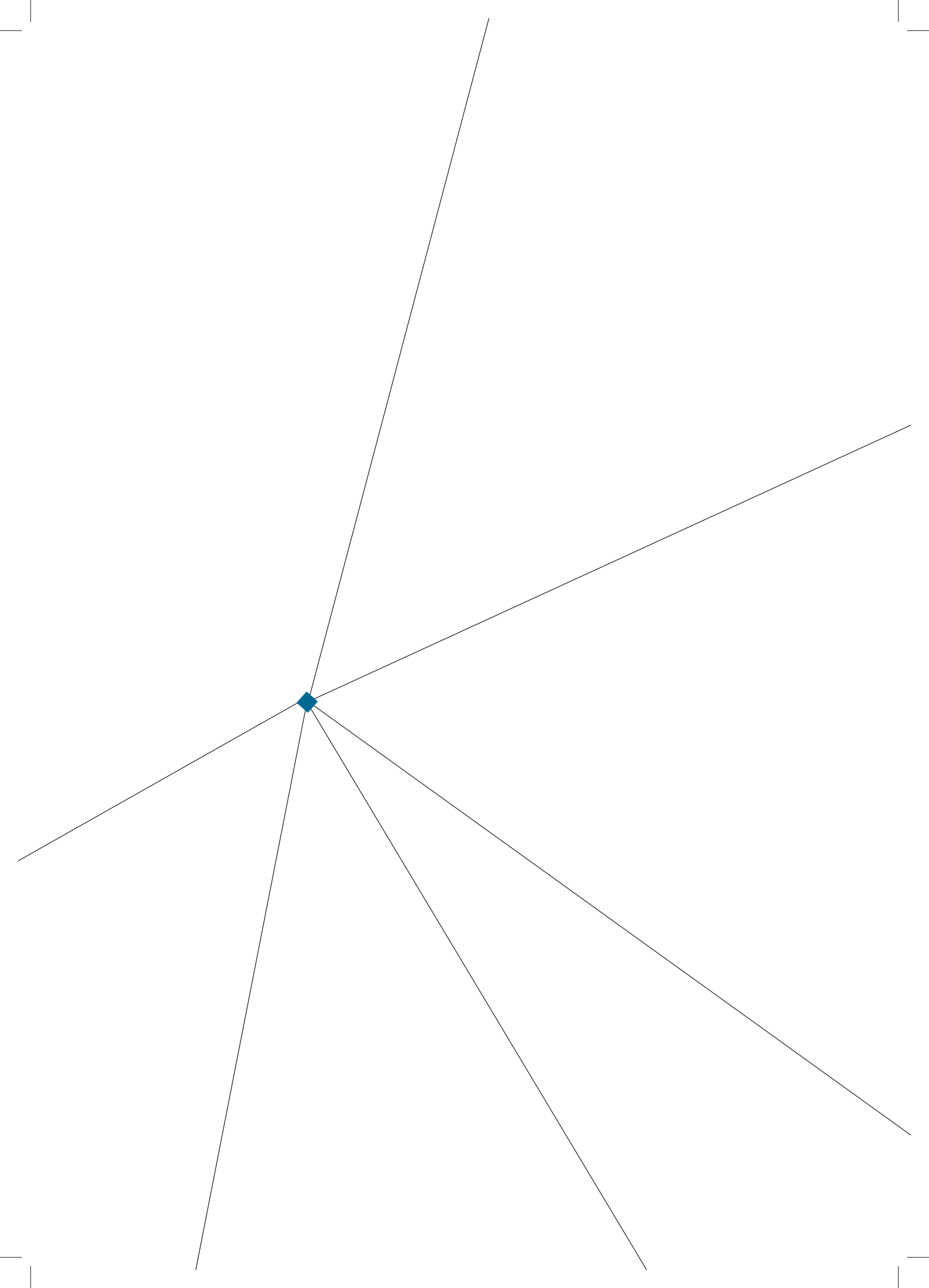
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The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or the views of the European Commission.

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