

Fact sheet IncoNet EECA

Status: July 2009



Project title: "S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries"
Web page: www.inco-eeca.net / www.increast.eu
EU Funding: 3.550.000 €
Start of the project: 01.01.2008
Duration: 48 months
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Project partners

	Name	Acronym	Country
1	International Centre for Black Sea Studies	ICBSS	Greece
2	International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research-German Aerospace Center	DLR	Germany
3	Higher School of Economics	HSE	Russia
4	Austrian Research Promotion Agency	FFG	Austria
5	The National Information Centre for Ukraine-EU S&T Cooperation	NIP	Ukraine
6	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	TUBITAK	Turkey
7	European Network for Quality of Higher Engineering Education for Industry	ENQHEEI	France
8	Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan	InExCB-KZ	Kazastan
9	Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems	VINNOVA	Sweden
10	Committee for Coordination of Science and Technology Development	IUCP-T	Uzbekistan
11	Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria
12	Centre of Ideas and Technologies	CIT	Armenian
13	Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas-Help Forward Network	H-F	Greece
14	National Academy of Sciences of Republic of Azerbaijan	ANAS	Azerbaijan

	Name	Acronym	Country
15	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	BAS	Moldova
16	Academy of Sciences of Moldova	ASM	Moldova
17	Research Council of Norway	RCN	Norway
18	Archimedes Foundation	Archimedes	Estonia
19	Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Science & Technology Sphere Information Support	BellSA	Belarus
20	National School of Political Studies and Public Administration	NSPSPA	Romania
21	Georgian National Science Foundation	GNSF	Georgia
22	National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU	IPPT-PAN	Poland
23	Academy of Finland	AKA	Finland

General information about IncoNet - Projects

Background: Strengthen the bi-regional Dialogue between countries of the European Research Area (ERA) and the target region.

Objectives:

INCO-Net projects are aimed at establishing *bi-regional dialogues* that will:

- Promote and structure the participation of third countries in the activities of FP7.
- Promote regional integration and will lead to the identification and the prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Facilitate the uptake and use of common identified research areas and the monitoring of performance and impacts of international S&T cooperation across the Specific Programmes of FP7.

Activities:

- *Dialogue:*
 - Establish a Fora for active and constant exchange of views between European and non- European stakeholders
 - Strengthen the synergies between international S&T dialogues and the objectives of the external relations actions
 - Exchange of views with third country policy makers to focus on interdisciplinary issues with a real need for coordination of S&T policies and new rules that arise from the globalisation of research and S&T cooperation.

- Identify areas with potential for enhanced co-ordination with Member States and Associated States on the one hand, and the third countries covered by the INCO-NET on the other
- Implementation and Dissemination activities:
 - Setting up or strengthening platforms for strategic analysis and anticipation with a focus on connecting global trends and issues to regional specificities
 - Setting regional networks / fora with all relevant stakeholders
 - Increase awareness and dissemination of FP7 activities, their goal and tools
 - Disseminating results
- Monitoring and review:
 - Continuous monitoring and review of ongoing cooperation activities

Project Description

Aim of this INCO-NET is primary the extension of the European Research area by a systematic Integration from Eastern European and Central Asian. The project will address policy stakeholders from the EU/AC and EECA countries. The aim is to establish and sustain three dedicated S&T Policy Dialogue Platforms: one biregional EU/AC with all Eastern European and Central Asian countries, and two bilateral platforms for the respective dialogues of EU/AC with Russia and with Ukraine. The existing policy framework for cooperation will hereby be highlighted and improved. Special focus is the field of S&T to develop new opportunities and links between the scientific and research communities of the countries involved.

The main objectives of IncoNet EECA are:

- To support and facilitate a bi-regional EU – EECA S&T policy dialogue and, in the case of Russia and the Ukraine, a complementary bilateral S&T policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policy making, science community and industry. The dialogue will address national S&T potential, policy goals and demands in order to define common priorities and to develop respective joint scenarios and implementation strategies in order to strengthen the S&T cooperation. During this project, three S&T Policy Dialogue Platforms will be established and supported through the creation of a knowledge base and a variety of other concrete activities.
- To address other EU policies and their Instruments from which S&T cooperation with EECA could benefit. Emphasis will be given to the European Neighbourhood Policy – ENP and the Four Common Spaces with Russia (External Relations),

the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation (DCEC), the Education Policy (Life Long Learning Programme - LLL) and the Innovation policy (Competitiveness and Innovation Programme – [CIP](#))

- To strengthen the participation of EECA in FP7 with emphasis on the 'Cooperation' Programme but addressing other Specific Programmes, such as 'Peoples', 'Ideas', '[Capacities – SMEs](#)', as well. In parallel, concrete recommendation for future Specific International Cooperation Activities (SICAs) will be presented to the European Commission and to the responsible Programme Committees.
- To raise the capacities of the EECA countries, through particular activities that will address the institution building and human potential development of the existing National Information Points/National Contact Points.
- To build a public S&T Web Portal ([incrEAST](#)) and to setup a Central Information Office to widely disseminate information and to raise awareness of the potential of and the framework for enhanced EU-EECA S&T cooperation.

www.increast.eu

The project is financed within the 7th Framework programme of the EC. The International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (DLR) is one of the key participants within the consortium.

Highlights

- Kick-Off-meeting of the project, 16. - 18. February 2008 in Athens.
- February 2008: project website www.inco-eeca.net online
- Meeting of "Regional Correspondents", 17. – 18. April 2008 in Bonn
- „Project Coordinators Meeting“: Meeting of the coordinators from other CSA aiming at Eastern Europe and Central Asian, 18. June 2008 in Bonn
- Management Board Meeting, 19. June 2008 in Bonn
- Web portal *incrEAST* www.increast.eu online, August 2008
- 12.-13. February 2009, General Assembly (Vienna)
- 16.-17. June 2009, Policy Stakeholder Conference: "EU-EECA S&T cooperation: The way forward" (Athens)

State of affairs and intermediate results

State of Deliverables:

The IncoNet EECA is divided into 8 work packages. DLR is work package (WP) leader of

the WP1 that aims to establish three policy dialogue platforms. Besides this DLR is responsible for two tasks in WP7 („Communication, Dissemination, and Conferences“), the analysis of the European Neighbour Policy (ENP) and the four common spaces with Russia (WP2, Task 2.1) and the coordination with other EU Projects, that target to the EECA region (WP6, Task 6.2)

Specific responsibilities:

- Within WP1 DLR is responsible to establish the policy dialogue platform with Russia (PDP-RU). After agreeing on the general Terms of Reference for the PDP-RU, the whole process was put on hold due to actual political developments (i.e. conflict with Georgia). Present status: in early June 2009 a “Policy Stakeholder Conference” (Athens) is planned. The future development of the PDP-RU is still under reconsideration by the EC.
- Within WP2 DLR is responsible to analyze the four common spaces with Russia and its implementation.
- In WP6 DLR coordinates the cooperation with other „Coordination and Support Activities“ aiming to the EECA countries. On a first meeting in Bonn (June 18th, 2008) Coordinators from 20 CSA projects exchanged information and experiences. As a follow-up a web based conference for summer 2009 is scheduled.
- Within WP7 the DLR is responsible to establish a project website and additionally a web portal that will provide information about S&T activities in the EECA countries beyond the lifetime of the project. As part of this activity an “Information Office” was established at DLR.
 - The project website (www.inco-eeca.net) is online since February 2008. The website provides general information about the project and an internal area for communication among the participants.
 - The web portal *incrEAST* (www.increast.eu) is online since August 2008. IncrEAST is a central information portal for S&T activities in the EECA region, that aims at enhancing the networking between stakeholders from the EECA and the ERA

Planned activities from June 2009 to December 2009

- Report about “4 Common Spaces (4CS)
- Interviews with representatives of EU and Russian side responsible for 4CS
- September/October 2009 meeting with “Regional Correspondents” in Central Asia and South Caucasus to assure an optimum communication flow within the project and the region.

- September 2009, WP1 "conference to improve Russian participation in FP7
- September 2009, WP3 "workshop on barriers to mobility with recommendations on how to increase"
- 17/18 September (Warsaw, Poland): Brokerage Event FP7 NMP/ Inco Brokerage Event
- 5/6 October (Kyiv, Ukraine): FP7 "Transport" Workshop
- 19/20 October 2009, brokerage event "environment" in Yerevan/Armenia
- Autumn 2009, information days in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- 2/3 November 2009 Management Board Meeting (Istanbul)

Source: International Bureau of the Federal Ministry for Education and Science (BMBF)