Project Deliverable

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SUPPORT ACTION	INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

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D2.2b Final Report about Networking and collaboration activities with cooperation projects

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Abstract :

The document summarizes the ISTOK-SOYUZ networking and collaboration activities with other cooperation projects. It includes, in particular, an overview on the cooperation activities implemented with the two other projects from the EECA cluster: SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND. It presents the cooperation established with initiatives and projects on local level in each of the EECA target countries. Finally, the document shows the cooperation with other European initiatives and projects.

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Introduction

1.1. About the ISTOK-SOYUZ project

For the last years, the European Commission (EC) has undertaken particular efforts to pave the way for ICT R&D activities revitalization and strategic partnership strengthening. The actions supported by the EC aim to raise Europe's research performance and to help keeping the European ICT sector at the forefront of technology development and advanced ICT use.

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project, based on the lessons learnt and sound outcomes of the ISTOK.Ru project, implemented in Russia during the period 2006-2008, is one of the three supported by the EC actions (SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND), forming the EECA ICT Cluster. The main ambitions of the clustering projects are:

- To identify the potential for ICT cooperation between EU and EECA countries
- To raise awareness of the opportunities for the cooperation
- To promote and facilitate cooperation between the EU and the EECA countries

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project targets five of the EECA countries: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan and addresses four other countries by its informational campaign: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. The large geographical scope of the ISTOK-SOYUZ project, as well as the overarching objectives and coverage with SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND, imply coordination between the on-going national and international initiatives in each of the addressed countries. In order to increase the impact of the three clustering actions, avoiding work overlapping the local partners from each country were charged with the coordination on national level with the other running projects and actions, concerning the ICT domain.

In addition, the ISTOK-SOYUZ project established collaboration with other European initiatives. This activity strengthened the presence of the project on the European ICT related web pages and articles.

The key outcome of the described task is to create links between ISTOK-SOYUZ with complementary – either by thematic or by geographical coverage – projects, in view of exploiting synergies , maximizing impact and contributing to the definition of co-operation strategies. This is also aimed at avoiding the work overlapping.

1.2. Overall vision of the networking and collaboration activities with other projects

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project aims to bring closer the ICT researchers from Europe and EECA and to foster joint collaboration between the ICT researchers from both regions. However ISTOK-SOYUZ is not the only support action, operating at the same region. The EU decided to support the EECA ICT clustering projects SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND, together with the ISTOK-SOYUZ project in order to widen the geographical coverage, to deepen the activities implemented and last but not least to increase the impact of the projects implemented.

The clustering approach allowed the partnering projects to benefit from a win-win situation, where the knowledge, acquired by each of them is shared and leveraged. The fact that different projects could profit from their common findings and results provides a considerable added value to the work of each of the projects and raises the efficiency for the target stakeholders of the projects. Another point worth mentioning is that when projects with similar objectives are acting at the same region, the risk of work overlapping is quite high. The clustering approach allows better coordination of the work and thus prevention of duplication of the activities and results available.

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project clearly supports this thesis and during its implementation it deployed efforts to establish links not only with the clustering projects SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND but also with other existing projects on local EECA level and on EU level with other related initiatives.

The cooperation on the EECA level can be separated in two levels:

- **Internal** for the EECA ICT Cluster: cooperation of the ISTOK-SOYUZ partners with SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND consortium partners. The cooperation and networking activities allowed the partners to benefit from the synergies and to avoid overlapping of work, increasing the added value for the national ICT R&D stakeholders

- **External** for the EECA ICT Cluster: cooperation and networking on country level and EU level with other projects, implemented in the ISTOK-SOYUZ target countries and EU. The cooperation and networking on country level with other projects allowed the extension of the network of the project partners and respectively of the whole EECA ICT Cluster. The linkage with other projects acting on the same region helps intensify the international cooperation and facilitate the networking interaction between EU-EECA research organizations, policy makers, individuals and other ICT stakeholders. The exploitation of the synergies between different projects allows a better knowledge and results share and an increase of the dissemination coverage.

The cooperation and networking activities on the EU level were done in order to spread across EU and beyond the impact of ISTOK-SOYUZ and the EECA ICT Cluster, to widen the network of stakeholders and to promote the project and the cluster through different channels. In addition, the cooperation with other projects and initiatives allowed the cross fertilization and exchange of good practices between the projects.
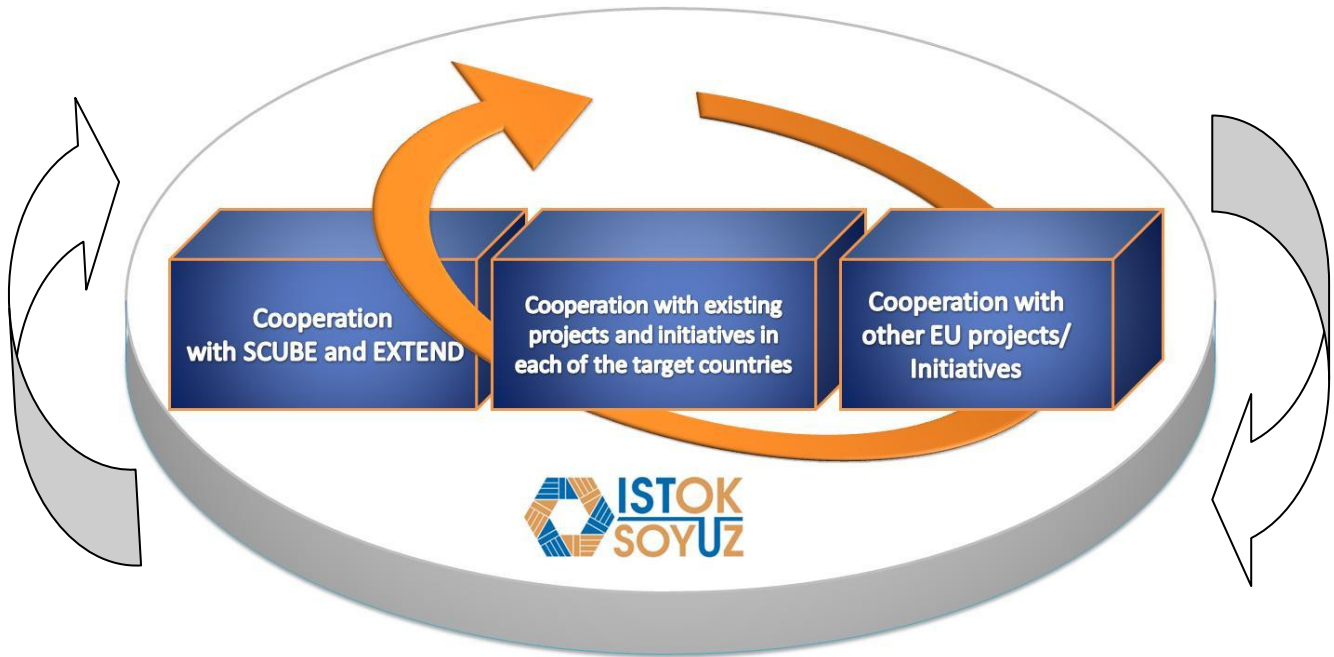
Figure 1 ISTOK-SOYUZ in synergy with other projects

1.3. Methodological approach

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project has organised the work according to the methodology presented below.

➢ The ISTOK-SOYUZ project coordinator has been responsible for coordination of the cooperation activities that are not relevant to the particular EECA country, and that cover EU-wide activities, namely:
  - Cooperation with two clustering projects: SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND;
  - Cooperation with other projects and portals, such as incrEAST or IDEAL-IST

➢ The national partners of ISTOK-SOYUZ have been responsible for:
  - Cooperation on the national level with the two clustering projects, SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND,
  - Identification of other on-going projects and programmes implemented in the same country, and cooperation with them.

In order to meet the project's contractual objectives, the coordinator and the partners from the five target EECA countries used different sources and tools, such as their own networks, communication, networking and brokerage sessions, mass media publications, the EU-EECA ICT platform and the EC web pages. (See Figure 1 Presentation of the sources and tools for establishment of contact with other projects and initiatives).
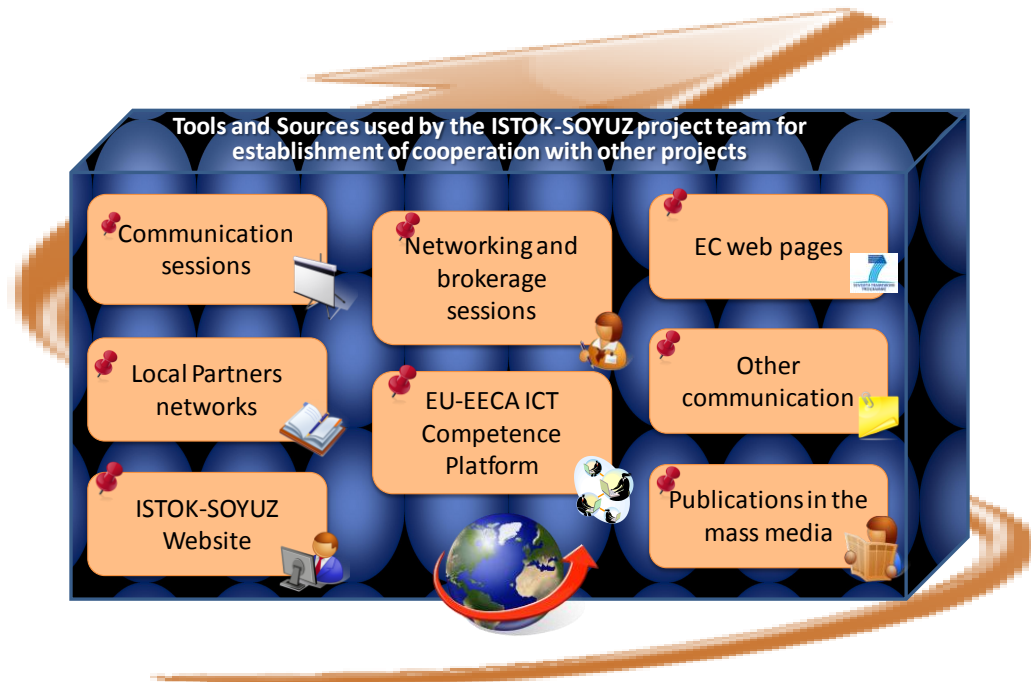
Figure 2 Presentation of the sources and tools for establishment of contact with other project and initiatives

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project established collaboration with other projects not only in the EECA region but also on European level with other on-going initiatives and projects. Collaborations were the result of the meetings with the coordinators and representatives during international conferences or events. The same sources and tools could be summarised as for the establishment of the national collaborations (See Figure 1). The active players for the set up of cooperation with the other EU initiatives were mostly the European members of the ISTOK-SOYUZ consortium.

The contacts establishment was based on the communication and networking of the coordinator and the local partners of the ISTOK-SOYUZ Consortium. For this doing, all the project team ensured regular communication and updates, regarding the possible collaborations. The feedback from the partners, presenting the information about the other projects and initiatives, is an important input for the establishment of cooperative actions.

In addition, the dissemination strategy, developed by the Russian partner RTTN further contributed to the preparation of the collaborative ground. The establishment of cooperation with other projects was carried out in parallel with the implementation of the awareness raising and dissemination campaign.

1.4. Document presentation

In order to provide a clear overview of the activities planned and accomplished by the ISTOK-SOYUZ project, the present document is structured in following three sections, corresponding each to one of the three levels of activity:

- ➢ Collaboration with the two other clustering projects: SCUBE and EXTEND
- ➢ Collaboration with other projects in the EECA countries
- ➢ Collaboration with other projects and initiatives in Europe

2. Collaboration with the two clustering projects EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT in the EECA countries

In its conception, ISTOK-SOYUZ is an EC-funded project which works in synergy with the two other clustering projects SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND. ISTOK-SOYUZ carries out clustering activities with the two other projects, focusing on the ICT domain. The three support actions address the EECA countries, with some differences in the main objectives. The cooperation between those three projects stems from the need of synergies creation and avoiding of work overlapping. In this context, the collaboration between the three project teams is essential for the efficient implementation of the actions planned.

The Figure 3 presents the geographic coverage of all three clustering projects.

	Russia	Ukraine	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Georgia	Moldova	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan
ISTOK-SOYUZ	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓				▓	▓	▓	▓
SCUBE - ICT		▓	▓									
EXTEND		▓	▓		▓	▓	▓	▓				

Figure 3 Summary of the EECA geographical coverage of the three clustering projects

The first coordination activities were established between the project coordinators of the three clustering support actions:

Svetlana Klessova
SOYUZ-ISTOK project coordinator

Kostas Bougiouklis
SCUBE-ICT project coordinator

Raphael Koumeri
EXTEND project coordinator

They were responsible for the smooth implementation of the global coordination of the actions planned under each project. The communication was run essentially by e-mail exchange, Skype conversations and face-to-face meetings. In addition, the communication and the matching of the actions were ensured on local level by the partners in each country, where two or three of the projects are acting (see Figure 4 Summary of the EECA geographical coverage of the three clustering projects). The regular communication on national level was particularly intensive, regarding the organisation of specific events in the respective country. Face-to-face meetings were privileged where possible.

During the first 15 months of the project (January 2009 – March 2010), the cooperation was organized as follows:

☑ **Meetings** among the three project coordinators were regularly organised to coordinate activities and synergies of the projects. Two face-to-face meetings of coordinators were organised on 21/01/2009 in Athens, Greece and on 05/10/2009 in Brussels, Belgium. Regular phone discussions between the coordinators were organised as well. Phone meetings of local partners (participants in different projects but being from the same country) were regularly organised to coordinate activities and synergies at the national level.

☑ **A Memorandum of Understanding** (see Annex 1) between the three projects was prepared, clarifying issues such as EU-EECA competence platform database use and portal maintenance. It was signed during the First clustering-projects meeting, organised in Athens, Greece, in January 2009. The MoU is attached in the Annex to this document.

☑ **Methodology**: During the first meeting at the beginning of the projects, the common methodology was agreed for the national reports template, and, as far as possible, for the respective questionnaires and other tools. The projects agreed how to avoid overlap of local contacts for the mapping activities: for example, ISTOK-SOYUZ projects collected information about the ICT experts, and the SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND projects collected information about the ICT organisations where the ICT experts worked.

☑ **Kick off** ISTOK-SOYUZ meetings were organised in each of the five target countries. SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND project representatives were invited to take part in the meetings. In Armenia, there were participants from EXTEND, in Ukraine there were participants from SCUBE-ICT (Russia and Kazakhstan are not covered by the two clustering projects).

☑ **Portal/websites**: Each project has been responsible for its own website. A common Eastern Europe and Central Asia portal (http://www.eeca-ict.eu/) was developed by SCUBE-ICT, linking to the three individual project websites. SCUBE-ICT is responsible for the portal' maintenance, but the three projects are responsible to provide information about news, events etc..

☑ **ISTOK competence platform** was updated by ISTOK-SOYUZ project on the basis of the needs of the two clustering projects (eg. Creation of the database about organisations). It was linked to the common EECA portal. The coordinator of ISTOK-SOYUZ and the IT subcontractor cooperated with SCUBE-ICT to solve the necessary technical details (for the integration of the ISTOK competence platform in the EECA web portal).

☑ **Taxonomy**: ISTOK-SOYUZ updated the taxonomy developed under the previous project, ISTOK (the previous taxonomy was relevant to FP6 challenges and objectives in the ICT area). The new taxonomy was agreed with the two other projects. It is used for the collection of information about EECA organisations and experts.

☑ **Databases**: Each project is responsible to enter data (collected by this project) on the EU-EECA ICT competence platform. As a result, data collected by three projects appears in one searchable database

in the same way for all (EU-EECA ICT competence platform, available under: http://www.eeca-ict.eu/index.php/competence).

☑ **Mapping and recommendations** on future ICT research co-operation: A working meeting of the three projects was organized in January 2009 in order to finalise a common methodology on express-diagnostic. Express-diagnostic was carried out by ISTOK-SOYUZ project in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Relevant results were shared with EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT projects, which performed the analysis for Ukraine and Belarus. EXTEND used the methodology to make the analysis in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. ISTOK-SOYUZ national partners took part in the EXTEND consultation meetings in Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia.

☑ **The training guide** "Getting Started with EU ICT Research" was updated by SCUBE-ICT on the basis of the previous versions developed under FP6-IST support actions. It was translated into Russian by the ISTOK-SOYUZ project team; the necessary adjustments were agreed with the SCUBE-ICT team. The Russian version is available for download at http://www.istok-soyuz.eu/index.php/component/content/article/37-news/114-training-guide-qgetting-started-with-the-eu-ict-researchq-published-in-russian and a link to the English version is published on the same page. The press release was published (in Russian language) about the publication of the guide in Russian.

☑ **A Delegation Tour in Russia**: The ISTOK-SOYUZ project organised a Delegation Tour in Russia June 22-27, 2009. It was promoted by SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND to Belarusian and Ukrainian organisations. SCUBE-ICT supported 2 Belarusian participants to join the delegation tour. Costs of participation were covered by the individual projects. SCUBE and EXTEND's common partner BELISA suggested EU participant who took part in the delegation tour and supported by ISTOK-SOYUZ.

☑ **A Delegation tour in Ukraine:** The ISTOK-SOYUZ project co-organised a Delegation Tour in Kharkov, Ukraine in May 2010 with SCUBE-ICT.

The ISTOK-SOYUZ project organised:

- o diffusion of information in Europe
- o selection of European participants (Local partners from ISTOK-SOYUZ and SCUBE-ICT will be consulted to select the European participants)
- o logistics of the relevant European participants;
- o draft agenda preparation
- o face-to-face meetings organisations
- o training for the local participants (planned: provision of 2 trainers)
- o preparation of the relevant deliverable.

The SCUBE-ICT project organised

- o diffusion of information in Europe
- o selection of additional European participants
- o logistics of the relevant European participants;
- o training for the local participants (planned: provision of 1 trainer)
- o preparation of the relevant deliverable.

The Delegation tour was attended by the representatives of EXTEND in Ukraine.

The two projects shared the effort and costs in order to achieve a larger geographical coverage and bring more EU specialists there. The two projects also joined forces in order to provide trainers per project and thus to ensure effective knowledge transmission.

☑ **Conference** organised by EXTEND in Moldova included representatives from **ISTOK-SOYUZ** and SCUBE-ICT projects.

☑ **Joint EECA ICT Newsletters**: Four editions of the joint EECA ICT newsletter were produced with common efforts of the three projects. ISTOK-SOYUZ provided the template for the newsletter, coordinated the preparation process, collected and integrated the contributions, prepared the design and sent the newsletter electronically to all the entities and experts registered on EECA competence platform. The three projects contributed to the content of each edition.

☑ **FP7 ICT Helpdesk**: The Belarusian partner BELISA (participating in two of the projects: EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT) coordinated the Helpdesk services to be offered to all the countries. ISTOK-SOYUZ and SCUBE-ICT provided suggestions.

☑ **Catalogue about ETPs**: The ETP catalogue was prepared by the ISTOK-SOYUZ project (both in Russian and in English), published on the Internet site and shared with SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND.

☑ **Article "European technology platforms: using the European experience to create the new tool for the Russian innovative economy development" (in Russian and Armenian):** article explaining the benefits for the EECA community of joining European networks.

☑ **Round Table on ETPs in Armenia:** The Round table was organised by the ISTOK-SOYUZ partner in order to present to Armenian ICT stakeholders the benefits of joining the European Networks

☑ **Support to EU-EECA partnerships**: Each project kept track about organisations/teams concretely supported and helped to enter collaborative projects. ISTOK-SOYUZ shared also the information and results from the internal call for proposals in order to avoid overlapping of the hands-on support.

☑ **Hands-on support to EECA Participants to attend ICT 2010:** The ISTOK-SOYUZ project was responsible for the organisation of a Call for applications for provision of hands-on support to attend and create network during the ICT 2010 event. More than 100 applications were received and evaluated by representatives of ISTOK-SOYUZ, SCUBE and EXTEND. Finally, 50 participants were selected to benefit from the hands-on support to attend the event. (See Deliverable D4.2.c Third N&B event ICT 2010.)

☑ **Promotion stand "EECA ICT: ICT cooperation with Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia" at the ICT 2010 forum:** The ISTOK-SOYUZ project was responsible for the organisation and set up of the promotional booth ". The stand was also promoted and attended by SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND partners. (See Deliverable D4.2.c Third N&B event ICT 2010.)

☑ **Networking session" (Re) discover ICT cooperation potential with East Europe & Central Asia and Western Balkan countries" at the ICT 2010 forum**: The SCUBE-ICT project was responsible for the organisation of the Networking session. ICTOK-SOYUZ project has participated in the promotion and the panel speakers. The session was attended by the other ISTOK-SOYUZ and EXTEND partners as well. (See Deliverable D4.2.c Third N&B event ICT 2010.)

☑ **Networking Guide "How to Effectively network/communicate" in international R&D projects" (ENG and RU versions)**: The Networking Guide was prepared in English and translated into Russian by the ISTOK-SOYUZ project and was disseminated by the SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND partners.

☑ **ICT Proposers' day, Budapest, Hungary:** The ISTOK-SOYUZ project was responsible for the organisation of a networking and brokerage event during the event ICT Proposer's day 2011 in Budapest in May 2011. The event was attended as well by the EXTEND consortium members.

☑ **ISTOK-SOYUZ Final event in Moscow:** The ISTOK-SOYUZ final event will be organised in Moscow in June 2011 and will be attended by EXTEND members.

☑ **EXTEND Final Conference in Tbilissi:** The EXTEND final conference in Tbilissi will be organised in June 2011. ISTOK-SOYUZ partners will attend the conference. The ISTOK-SOYUZ project will contribute will co-moderation and speakers to the event.

The table below provides an overview on the activities undertaken by the three clustering projects. The results of these activities are used by all three projects:

Activity	ISTOK-SOYUZ	SCUBE-ICT	EXTEND
Meeting of coordinators January 2009, Athens, Greece	*X*	*X*	*X (ORGANISER)*
Meeting of coordinators October 2009, Brussels, Belgium	*X*	*X*	*X (ORGANISER)*
Phone coordination meetings among: ✓ *Coordinators* ✓ *Local partners in 'common' countries*	*X*	*X*	*X*
Memorandum of Understanding	*X*	*X*	*X*
Agreement for common methodology	*X*	*X*	*X*
EECA Common portal	*X* - *Suggestions of its design* - *Contribution to its content*	*X* - *Design, development and maintenance* - *Contribution to its content*	*X* - *Suggestions of its design* - *Contribution to its content*
EECA ICT Competence platform development	*X* - *Technical development and implementation, integration of organisations' profiles section and maintenance* - *Enrichment with profiles of ICT*	*X* - *Design of organisations' profiles section* - *Integration to the EECA web portal* - *Enrichment with profiles of ICT organisations*	*X* - *Design of organisations' profiles section* - *Enrichment with profiles of ICT organisations*

	experts		
Contribution to the EECA ICT Competence platform Database	X (experts profiles)	X (organisations profiles)	X (organisations profiles)
ISTOK-SOYUZ kick-off meeting in Ukraine	X (ORGANISER)	X	
ISTOK-SOYUZ kick-off meeting in Armenia	X (ORGANISER)		X
Common taxonomy development	X		
Validation of the common taxonomy	X	X	X
Mapping and recommendations on EU-EECA ICT collaboration	X	X	X
The training guide "Getting Started with EU ICT Research" preparation	X - Translation into Russian - Additional appendices	X Development of the English version	
Preparation of a catalogue of European Technology Platforms and Networks of excellence, open for collaboration with EECA organisations	X Development in English and Russian Validation with ETP/NoEs Diffusion in EECA countries		
Edition of article "European technology platforms: using the European experience to create the new tool for the Russian innovative economy development"(in Russian and Armenian)	X Edition and translation into Armenian		X Promotion in Armenia
Round Table about ETP/NoEs in Armenia	X ORGANISER		X
Delegation Tour in Russia	X ORGANISER	X	
Delegation Tour in Ukraine	X ORGANISER	X	X
EXTEND Conference in Moldova	X participation	X participation	X ORGANISER
FP7 ICT Helpdesk development	X Contribution and promotion	X Contribution and promotion	X Overall responsible
EECA newsletters: ✓ 1st issue, April 2009	X - Overall responsible	X - Review of the	X - Review of the

✓ *2nd issue, December 2009* ✓ *3rd issue, November 2010* ✓ *4th issue, to be prepared in June 2011*	*and template development* - *Design and development of the graphical version* - *Contribution to its content* - *Distribution*	*template/structure* - *Contribution to its content* - *Distribution*	*template/structure* - *Contribution to its content* - *Distribution*
Networking Guide "How to Effectively network/communicate" in international R&D projects" (ENG and RU versions	*X* -Preparation -Editing -Translation in Russian	*X* promotion	*X* promotion
Common EECA ICT Call for applications	*X* -Overall responsible -Set up of on-line questionnaire -Evaluation of applications - Hands-on support to EECA participants(including costs coverage)*	*X* -Evaluation of applications - Hands-on support to EECA participants(including costs coverage)*	*X* -Evaluation of applications - Hands-on support to EECA participants(including costs coverage)*
Set up of promotional stand at the ICT 2010 event	*X* -Overall responsible	*X* -Contributions and participation	*X* -Contributions and participation
Organisation and preparation of Networking session during the ICT 2010 event	*X* -Contributions and participation	*X* -Overall responsible	*X* -Contributions and participation
Promotion guide including EECA organisations and experts	*X* -Overall responsible	*X* -Contributions	*X* -Contributions
Success Stories	*X* -Contributions	*X* -Overall responsible	*X* -Contributions
Support to EU-EECA partnerships	*X*	*X*	*X*
EECA Cluster Sustainability plan	*X* Responsible for completing the deliverable covering the EECA Cluster	*X* Elaboration of first version, covering SCUBE-ICT project	*X* Contribution to the deliverable by the EXTEND project partners
"Policy Recommendations/Identified Courses of Action to Foster Future Research Cooperation between EECA and EU"	*X* Contribution to the deliverable	*X*	*X* Responsible for completing the deliverable covering the EECA Cluster

ICT Proposers Day 2011, Budapest	X	X
	Joint promotion	Joint promotion
ISTOK-SOYUZ Final Event in Moscow (June 2011)	X	X
	ORGANISER	Participation
EXTEND Final Conference in Tbilisi	X	X
	Participation, co-moderation, speakers	ORGANISER

3. Collaboration with other projects in the EECA countries

Existing cooperation projects were identified in each of the target countries (Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus and Kazakhstan) and communication flow was established with them. The main actions for the cooperational relations have been done by the local partners from the ISTOK-SOYUZ consortium. Those collaboration links were regularly fed by the informational campaign of ISTOK-SOYUZ. The ISTOK-SOYUZ data was regularly published on the web portals of other projects.

The representatives of the local projects and initiatives were invited to the national kick-off meetings of ISTOK-SOYUZ and other relevant events organised in the target countries.

Collaboration and regular exchange were established with the following cooperation projects:

Country	Project	Details
Russia	incoNET	Cooperation with incoNet EECA information platform (incrEAST) for promotion ISTOK-SOYUZ project and its activities: Detailed information about ISTOK-SOYUZ project has been published. The ISTOK-SOYUZ was nominated as "Project of the month – July, 2009". Information about the kick-off meetings in Russia and Kazakhstan, results of the internal call and hands-on support for the winners have been published on 21.04.2009 and 19.01.2010. **web-link:** http://www.increast.eu/en/576.php http://www.increast.eu/en/530.php http://www.increast.eu/en/803.php)
	IDEAL-IST Russia	Cooperation with Ideal-IST to find EU partners for the winners of internal call: Communications with Russian Ideal-IST representative (Dmitry Vatulya) have been established for consultancy support of the EECA R&D teams. The Guideline "How to publish information on Ideal-IST web-platform" for EECA R&D teams have been prepared. 7 proposal descriptions of the EECA R&D teams oriented to take part in 5 and 6 ICT Calls have been published on Ideal-IST web-platform. **web-link:** http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/BY/PS-BY-3898 http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/RU/PS-RU-3871 http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/RU/PS-RU-3751/ http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/RU/PS-RU-3678 http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/UA/PS-UA-3591 http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/RU/PS-RU-3434 http://www.ideal-ist.net/Countries/RU/PS-RU-3338
	Enterprise Europe Network Russia	Communications with coordinating team of Gate2RuBIN project and dissemination information about ISTOK-SOYUZ project during Gate2RuBIN events: - Presentation information about ISTOK-SOYUZ activities (internal call,

	(Gate2RuBIN)	hands-on support etc.) during Gate2RuBIN seminars (02/03/2009, 15/04/2009, 22-23/09/2009), annual Gate2RuBIN conference (29-30/10/2009). - Joint ICT section with more than 50 Russian and EU organisations participation has been organised during EEN-Russia (Gate2RuBIN) brokerage event in Moscow (29/10/2009) - Publication ISTOK-SOYUZ news on the Gate2RuBIN web-platform. - Information about Russia ICT R&D teams supported by ISTOK-SOYUZ project has been disseminated through EEN centres in EU for searching necessary partners. **web-link:** http://www.gate2rubin.ru/newsg2rb/id_800 http://gate2rubin.ru/en/events/id_769 http://www.gate2rubin.ru/newsg2rb/id_835
	FASIE-BMBF project	Providing additional consultancy support to ISTOK-SOYUZ internal call winners from Russia with the purpose to integrate them into FASIE-BMBF project. As an example, the winner of the ISTOK-SOYUZ internal call -"UNIPRO" Information Technology Center from Novosibirsk submitted the proposal together with German partner.
Armenia	EXTEND	Participation in "The Meeting of NCP's and on-going projects in ICT area" (May, 2009) organized by EXTEND, regular telephone meetings among projects local coordinators, discussing of the current achievements. The ISTOK-SOYUZ team has taken an active part in EXTEND conference "National ICT Priorities" (2-3.06.2010, Yerevan) to identify the Armenian potential according the ICT Work Program and to update the list of Armenian priorities in ICT area. The ISTOK-SOYUZ team participated in Training Workshop "Thematic and Hands-on Support for participation in FP7 ICT Call " (20-21.10.2010, Yerevan) as well. ISTOK-SOYUZ and EXTEND teams had a close collaboration on Application Call for participation in ICT2010 announcement dissemination as well as in applications evaluation process. The teams discussed and summarized participation's results together. The both teams have discussed issues on activities in regard to participation in Proposer's Day in Budapest (May, 2011). The teams are preparing to Projects' Final Event in Tbilisi (June, 2011).
	Black Sea Interconnection (BSI),	The project (was implemented until (1.03.2010)) aimed at establishing local and international fiber optics quick-acting segments in Eastern European and Southern Caucasus countries and linking it with GEANT2 European Research Area. Project representatives from Armenia were informed about ISTOK-SOYUZ project to involve them intensively in activities directed to join European Technological Platforms.
	SEE-GRID	The project (e-infrastructure for regional e-science) aims at promoting the integration of the Armenian calculating resources with the international calculating resources through the joint quick-acting optic network and establishing calculating environment with high productivity. The project results and particularly ArmCluster as the core of Armenian GRID infrastructure were presented in ISTOK-SOYUZ

		materials.
	CAPS (Competitive Armenian Private Sector Project)	The project is a five year program of assistance funded by USAID. The project involves Information Technologies as a cluster and offers sector specific expertise in strategy, marketing, and financial management. The cooperation activities between projects included the projects mutually presentation, common tasks discussion, and a strategy development to achieve the projects current goals.
	IDEAL-IST Armenia	Communications with Armenian Ideal-IST representative Hasmik Sahakyan have been established for consultancy support of the EECA R&D teams. The issues regarding the use of ICT Support Network were discussed.
Belarus	SCUBE-ICT	Promoting ICT innovation through networking.
		Organization of the Session 7. International integration in innovation activity at the 1ST BELARUSIAN INNOVATION FORUM (November 17-18, 2009, Minsk, Belarus).
		Organization of the Session 6. International integration in innovation activity at the 2ND BELARUSIAN INNOVATION FORUM (November 18-19, 2010, Minsk, Belarus).
		Organization of the Policy Workshop "Strengthening collaboration between EU and Belarus in the field of ICT R&D" (December 2-3, Minsk, Belarus).
	EXTEND	Promoting ICT innovation through networking.
		Cooperation for the definition of the EU-EECA priorities for collaboration (questionnaire of SCUBE).
		Organisation consultations with the stakeholders and top researchers in Belarus with the aim to define ICT R&D areas recommended for cooperation with Europe (March 11, 2010, Minsk).
		Organization of the Session 7. International integration in innovation activity at the 1ST BELARUSIAN INNOVATION FORUM (November 17-18, 2009, Minsk, Belarus).
		Organization of the Session 6. International integration in innovation activity at the 2ND BELARUSIAN INNOVATION FORUM (November 18-19, 2010, Minsk, Belarus).
		Organization of the Policy Workshop "Strengthening collaboration between EU and Belarus in the field of ICT R&D" (December 2-3, Minsk, Belarus).
	IDEAL-IST	Promoting ICT innovation through networking.
		Organization of the Session 7. International integration in innovation activity at the 1ST BELARUSIAN INNOVATION FORUM (November 17-18, 2009, Minsk, Belarus).
		Organization of the Session 6. International integration in innovation activity at the 2ND BELARUSIAN INNOVATION FORUM (November 18-19, 2010, Minsk, Belarus).

		RCTT please complete
Ukraine	EXTEND	Cooperation for the definition of the EU-EECA priorities for collaboration (distribution of questionnaire and invitation to participate in the Consultation Workshop for the definition of ICT research priorities in Ukraine to ICT experts). Joint participation in the organization of the internal call for participation of Ukrainian scientists in the ICT-2010, Brussels.
	I3E	Promoting Innovation for Industrial Informatics and Embedded Systems Sectors through Networking (distribution of ISTOK-SOYUZ information and newsletters to I3E database, attracting ICT-specialists to ISTOK-SOYUZ actions). Participation in the networking and brokerage event in Kharkov, May 2010. **web-link:** http://i3e.isi.gr
	SCUBE-ICT	Participation in the ISTOK-SOYUZ kick off Ukraine meeting. Joint organization of networking and brokerage event in Kharkov, May 2010. Joint participation in the organization of the internal call for participation of Ukrainian scientists in the ICT-2010, Brussels. Participation in the final event of SCUBE-ICT in Kyiv, December 2010
	UGrid	Joint on-line Workshop with Ukrainian Academic Grid Project "New opportunities for National Science and International Cooperation" **web-link:** http://grid.kpi.ua/. Participation in the internal call and networking and Brokerage event in Kharkov, May 2010
Kazakhstan	INCREAST	NIF is in the process of the registration on the www.increast.eu
	incoNET EECA	National Innovation Fund during the period of 2010-2011 had a cooperative experience with incoNET EECA project. The project aims to complement and deepen the activities of the ongoing EU project with Eastern Europe and Central Asia (incoNET EECA) in the two sub-regions Central Asia and South Caucasus. It's objective is to support and facilitate the bioregional EU – CA/SC S&T policy dialogue, to address the coordination with other EU instruments and to strengthen participation in FP7. NIF JSC has organized and implemented the following activities with this project: 1. IncoNet CA/CS Mission to Kazakhstan, Astana, Almaty, 14-16 February 2011 2. "Improving S&T Indicators in Central Asia" training seminar, 6 – 8 April 2011 3. Stakeholders conference "EU-EECA S&T cooperation", 26-27 May 2011 4. Participation in the workshop "Innovation in the wider Black Sea region: Policies and Structures", 15-17 June, 2011 During these events, NIF represented the ISTOK-SOYUZ project within the international collaboration activities.
	UNECE	NIF JSC with UN Economic commission for Europe is implementing the

		project "Innovation performance review in Kazakhstan". This project with support of NIF JSC will be implemented by the international experts of UNECE and will be presented on the final session of UNECE at the end of this year. NIF JSC included to the report the information about participation in ISTOK-SOYUZ project.
	German International Cooperation (GIZ)	NIF JSC cooperates with GIZ annual project in Kazakhstan "Kazakhstan-German Innovation dialogue", which was held in Astana in June 29, 2011 with participation of German delegation and big audience of Kazakh stakeholders. NIF represented the ISTOK-SOYUZ project within the international collaboration activities.

As a result of these collaboration activities:
- the ISTOK-SOYUZ project was promoted to a larger extend, via the channels of the collaborative projects;
- the ISTOK-SOYUZ project extended its network and thus increased the chances of effective implementation of the planned actions;
- the project activities were shared and smoothly coordinated with the local partners of the other collaborative projects;

4. Collaboration with other projects and initiatives in Europe

In addition to the coordination with the clustering projects and the establishment of cooperation with the national initiatives in each of the target countries, the ISTOK-SOYUZ project focused also on setting up of cooperation with other European initiatives and projects, such as incrEAST, Eurosfaire, European Technology Platforms, Ideal-IST and EEN. These actions are necessary for the communicational campaign of the project itself and of its hands-on support services and results recognition to a larger extend.

In order to target a larger public, the project team contacted other initiatives, prepared adjusted presentations, matching the relevant web-sites formats and requirements and thus allowed the publication of news about the ISTOK-SOYUZ progress. Furthermore, the project was selected for project of the month for July 2009, on the incrEAST's website (http://www.increast.eu/en/576.php).

Summary of the publications on other projects web-sites:

Cooperative project	Web link	Details
incrEAST	http://www.increast.eu/en/530.php http://www.increast.eu/en/576.php	ISTOK-SOYUZ and incrEAST agreed to collaborate by promoting by promoting each others' activities. ISTOK-SOYUZ was selected project of the month July 2009.
Eurosfaire	http://www.eurosfaire.prd.fr/news/consulter.php?id=3928	Eurosfaire published news about the cooperation with ISTOK-SOYUZ.
S-CUBE	http://www.s-cube-network.eu/news/s-cube-collaboration-with-istok-soyuz	S-CUBE and ISTOK-SOYUZ cooperate in the framework of the ISTOK-SOYUZ ETP/NoE Visibility campaign in the EECA countries. The two initiatives work together in order to integrate EECA organisations in the S-CUBE NoE
NESSI	http://www.nessi-europe.eu/Home/tabid/36/ItemId/466/Default.aspx	NESSI and ISTOK-SOYUZ cooperate in the framework of the ISTOK-SOYUZ ETP/NoE Visibility campaign in the EECA countries.
Ideal-IST	http://www.ideal-ist.net/Projects/projectdescriptor.2009-11-09.6024353417	Ideal-IST and ISTOK-SOYUZ collaborate in order to achieve a common objective: to support partnership buildings and foundation of FP7 consortiums for proposal submissions in the field of ICT.
Enterprise Europe Network South-West France	http://www.entreprise-europe-sud-ouest.fr/sfx/financement/Programmes_europ_ens.asp?ContentID=0142&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage=	Enterprise Europe Network South-West France published news about ISTOK-SOYUZ project and more precisely on its hands-on support actions on its website.

The figure below illustrates the extensive collaborative environment of the ISTOK-SOYUZ project.

Figure 4 Cooperative projects network of ISTOK-SOYUZ

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The ISTOK-SOYUZ EC-funded project, aimed at bringing European and EECA ICT communities closer, established collaboration ground with other projects and initiatives in order to create synergies and improve its efficiency, gaining larger geographical and virtual areas for its hands-on support.

In conclusion, the ISTOK-SOYUZ project team estimates that this kind of collaboration intra-projects and initiatives is not only beneficial, but also essential for the effective implementation of these large-coverage FP7 support actions.

Annex 1. Memorandum of Understanding between the three clustering projects

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

ISTOK SOYUZ, represented by *INNO AG.* coordinator,
SCUBE ICT represented by *Q-PLAN N.G.*, coordinator
EXTEND, represented by *PLANET S.A.*, coordinator

INTRODUCTION

ISTOK SOYUZ, **SCUBE-ICT** and **EXTEND**, are, all, Support Actions funded by the European Commission.

The objective of the three projects is to suggest actions for the promotion of the cooperation between European Union member states and the countries of Eastern Europe and Caucasus in the FP7-ICT programme and to facilitate the participation of the Organisations of the targeted regions in European Programmes;

All projects have similar activities, and therefore it was agreed with the European Commission that Clustering activities will be carried out among the three projects **SCUBE-ICT, ISTOK-SOYUZ and EXTEND and a Memorandum of Understanding** between the projects should be signed to agree on the common actions and clarify the use of background knowledge and tools.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The 3 projects will carry out the following actions in order to provide compatible conclusions, avoid overlap and achieve the maximum impact:

- **Meetings** among the three project coordinators will be regularly organised to coordinate activities and synergies of the projects. Face-to face and/or phone meetings of local partners (participants in different projects but being from the same country) will be regularly organised to coordinate activities and synergies at the national level.
- **Methodology:** During the first meeting at the beginning of the projects, the common methodology will be agreed for the mapping (e.g. the national reports template), and, as far as possible, for the respective questionnaires and other tools.
- **Portal/websites**: Each project will be responsible for their own website. A common Eastern Europe and Central Asia portal will be developed, linking to the individual project websites. ISTOK competence platform will be linked to the common portal and will be upgraded to include profiles of organisations. ISTOK-SOYUZ will undertake this effort. SCUBE-ICT will create a mask of the common Eastern Europe and Central Asia portal and will be responsible for its maintenance, but the three projects will be responsible to provide information about news, events etc. ALTEC (partner in SCUBE-ICT) will be responsible for this task. However, the coordinator of ISTOK should cooperate with ALTEC to solve the necessary technical details (for the integration of the ISTOK competence platform).
- **Taxonomy:** ISTOK-SOYUZ will share the taxonomy developed under ISTOK.Ru. Upon request of partners, the taxonomy can be adjusted (namely, new entries can be added) to take into account the needs of SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND projects.

- **Mapping and recommendations on future ICT research co-operation**: A working meeting of the three projects will be organized in order to finalise a common methodology on express-diagnostic. Express-diagnostic will be carried out by ISTOK-SOYUZ project in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Results will be shared with EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT projects. SCUBE-ICT will perform the further analysis for Ukraine and Belarus to produce national reports for those countries. EXTEND will use the methodology to make the express-diagnostic and analysis in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. As a result, a common report covering all countries will be produced according to a common template: SCUBE-ICT will prepare the national reports for Ukraine and Belarus; EXTEND for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova; ISTOK will prepare recommendations on the cooperation potential in Central Asia and update the recommendations about collaboration priorities with Russia (prepared under the previous project ISTOK). The Consultation Document of EXTEND will take into account the collected information in view of the common development of recommendations at the end of the project. The draft recommendations will be discussed with ISTOK-SOYUZ and SCUBE-ICT. Relevant input for the countries where these projects are active, wherever appropriate, will be considered before the final version is submitted.

- **Competence platform / databases**: Each project will be responsible to enter data (collected by this project) on the ISTOK competence platform. As a result, data collected by three projects will appear in one database searchable in the same way for all (ISTOK competence platform). The search engine will be modified accordingly (also departments could be included). At the end of the project, data collected since the beginning of the projects (1-1-2009) for all the EECA organisations will be given in an appropriate forms to the partners.

- **Awareness / Policy events**: The three projects will, if possible and necessary, participate in each other's events and coordinate the timing of individual events. Policy / consultation workshops will be harmonised and merged. Regarding Belarus and Ukraine: EXTEND will organise a first round of policy / consultation workshops (one per country during the 1st year). SCUBE will be involved / participate in them. Then, SCUBE will perform a second round of policy workshops (during the second year) .SCUBE-ICT will combine the awareness raising / info days with training events (e.g. info day at the morning, training at the afternoon of a one-day event **or** a two-day event). It will also participate in the info/training workshops that will be organised by the other two projects in Belarus and Ukraine.

- **Training events**: Training events: EXTEND will be responsible for the two rounds of training events in the 4 countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova and will participate in the training events wherever they take place in Belarus and Ukraine. SCUBE will organise trainings in Belarus and Ukraine. ISTOK will organise training in Russia and Kazakhstan (or, instead, regional event in Ukraine).

- **Networking and brokerage events**: The delegation tours of ISTOK will be open to participants from EXTEND and SCUBE projects. SCUBE will consider dedicating its first event resources to this delegation tour. The costs of participation will be covered by the individual projects. The location of the final events of the different projects will be discussed and the events will be organised in different countries.

- **Newsletter**: a joint newsletter will be produced and possibly prepared taking turns. ISTOK-SOYUZ will provide the template for the newsletter and will request inputs from the rest of the projects. Then ISTOK-SOYUZ will develop the ready-to-distribute newsletter and send it to all the entities in the database.

- **Guide**: A joint FP7 ICT guide will be prepared (in Russian and English). SCUBE-ICT offered an existing guide (from projects HAGRID and IST-Bonus) as a basis. SCUBE-ICT will undertake its update (with support from ISTOK-SOYUZ). ISTOK-SOYUZ will then translate it into Russian.

- **Helpdesk:** The Belarus partner (participating in two of the projects: EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT) will coordinate the Helpdesk services to be offered to all the countries.

All parties agree:

- Not to use any information or knowledge acquired otherwise than for similar purposes of this project.
- Not to disclose the privacy protected information to any third person unless expressly agreed in writing by the parties involved.

For the

ISTOK SOYUZ,

INNO AG. coordinator,

SCUBE ICT

Q-PLAN N.G., coordinator

EXTEND,

PLANET S.A., coordinator

Done in Athens

Annex 2. Memorandum of understanding between ISTOK-SOYUZ and IDEAL-IST

UMBRELLA MEMBER'S INFORMATION

We would like to ask you to read the Memorandum of Understanding (see annex) and state that you agree on the terms and conditions by ticking the box:

I state that I have read and agree on the MoU   [x]

In order to collect useful information on your project/organisation that will allow us to fulfil the Memorandum of Understanding please fill in the spaces below.

Contact	
First Name	Svetlana
Last Name	Klessova
Email Address	s.klessova@inno-group.com
Phone Number	+334 92 38 84 26
Fax Number	+334 92 38 84 35

Project			
Project Acronym	**ISTOK-SOYUZ**		
Short Abstract (up to 512 words)	The ISTOK-SOYUZ Project – a special support action co-funded by the FP7 ICT programme of the European Commission – was initiated by the eight partners from seven countries. Based on the sound outcomes and lessons learnt of ISTOK.Ru project (www.istok-ru.eu), implemented in Russia in 2006-2008, the ISTOK-SOYUZ project expands this experience to the Eastern Europe & Central Asia countries, identifying and promoting visibility of mutual RTD potential and collaboration opportunities. The 30-month project started on 1 January 2009 and aims to: • promote the EU ICT programme, raise awareness about benefits of mutual collaboration and identify ICT landscape and potential for R&D ICT collaboration between European Union and all 12 addressed countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA); • expand EU-Russian ICT research community to 4 other targeted countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia and Kazakhstan) through opening of ISTOK competence platform to these countries and implementing pilot actions as well as networking & brokerage events aiming to increase visibility of cooperation opportunities; • provide support to the teams from targeted countries in order to increase number of ICT FP7 partnerships between researchers from Europe and targeted countries. The project activities will be done in collaboration with national stakeholders and other relevant co-operation projects in view of exploiting synergies and maximising impact. Clustering approach involving two other FP7 projects started in parallel with ISTOK-SOYUZ, SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND – will be applied (in particular for the specific activities in Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia) in order to increase the benefit for the joint EU – EECA research from the support actions of three projects. ISTOK-SOYUZ has formed a Cluster targeting the EECA regions (http://www.eeca-ict.eu) with the EU supported projects: SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND.		
Starting Date	January 2009	Ending Date	June 2011

Contact URL	http://istok-soyuz.eu/
Project Logo (in jpeg or gif please)	

Organisation	
Org. Name (coordinator of ISTOK-SOYUZ project))	Inno AG
Org. Mission	Inno is one of the leading European consultancy firms, specialized in innovation and R&D issues, with particular focus on project management and hands-on management of commercialization for a portfolio of 6.500 researchers located in Germany and France, and ICT support. Inno has extensive experience in managing complex EU projects in R&D field – in particular in the ICT field - and in implementation of EU-scale projects and networks, such as IRE, Gate2 Growth Incubator Forum, PAXIS networks... Inno has offices located in France, Germany, and Sweden and works in most of EU countries. Inno has been working with EECA countries since 1993 (permanently – since 1999) and implemented a number of EU-funded major innovation and S&T related projects in Russia. inno has been active in FP5, FP6 and FP7 and coordinated a number of FP projects.

Street name	Karlstrasse	Street number	45b
Postcode	7663	City	Karlsruhe
Country	Germany		

Which services provides the project for free?

	Informing	Coaching Mentoring	Training	R&D partner search	Innovation partner search
Please tick the box where applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Informing	Coaching/Mentoring	Training	R&D partner search	Innovation partner search

Informing: Are you informing on ICT opportunities (FP7, CIP, EUREKA, IMS, other national or international ICT related programmes)? **YES**

Coaching/Mentoring: Are you offering individual support to participation to these programmes and/or exploitation of their results (strategy formulation, valorisation, technology transfer, marketing research etc.)? **YES**

Training: Are you providing trainings e.g. thematic workshops to keep clients updated on the opportunities in getting public/private funding from FP7, CIP, EUREKA, IMS or any other national or international ICT related programmes? **YES**

R&D partner search: Are you helping to find appropriate research and development partners (companies, SMEs, research centres, universities, public administrations, user groups, NGO etc.) for ICT related projects? **YES**

Innovation partner search: Are you helping to find appropriate business partners for developing innovative ICT based products and services? **YES**

Please indicate which services are offered in which country (countries)

Country	Informing	Coaching/Mentoring	Training	R&D partner search	Innovation partner search
Russia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Armenia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belarus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ukraine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kazakstan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kyrgyzstan	✓				
Tadjikistan	✓				
Turkmenistan	✓				
Uzbekistan	✓				

Any comments or suggestions: