

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you once again to the pages of our forth joint newsletter. This newsletter will bring you fresh insights about final project events, EECA ICT cluster main results highlights and information about material we developed that might be useful for your future activities. It is our hope that the articles and information in this newsletter will be helpful for you.

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Svetlana Klessova
ISTOK-SOYUZ project
coordinator



Kostas Bougiouklis
SCUBE-ICT project
coordinator



Raphael Koumeri
EXTEND project
coordinator

ISTOK-SOYUZ, EXTEND final events

On June 7, 2011 **Final ISTOK-SOYUZ conference** was held at the EU Delegation to Russia. Conference agenda included presentations and discussions on:



- Project results of ISTOK-SOYUZ and clustering projects;
- Recommendations on cooperation strategy between the EU and the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the context of the new Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 and national initiatives, in particular on the development of Russian technology platforms based on European Technology Platforms methodology and experience;
- FP7 success stories coming from project activities;
- methodological and training materials developed in framework of ISTOK-SOYUZ project.

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The **EXTEND project Closing Conference** was organised on July 16-17, 2011 in Tbilisi, Georgia by the EU-funded FP7 EXTEND project (www.extend-ict.eu) with the contribution of ISTOK-SOYUZ project, in the framework of the ICT EU-EECA ICT Cluster (www.eeca-ict.eu). The conference aimed to formulate a strategy and actions for the development of ICT Research & Development in the region and for the region's integration in the wider European effort to achieve the Information Society based on the work done by the EECA Cluster projects.

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EECA ICT cluster main results highlights...

The three FP7 projects, ISTOK-SOYUZ, EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT have been running since January 2009 with the common mandate of strengthening the cooperation between EU and EECA countries in the field of ICT.

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and much more inside

EECA ICT Competence Platform

The EECA Competence Platform (<http://www.eeca-ict.eu/eeca/index.php/ru/competence>), a rich on-line database including the research profiles of both ICT experts and organizations from the entire EECA and EU regions, is one of the main assets of the EECA ICT cluster.

How to do guides

FP7-ICT training Guide “Getting Started with EU ICT research” is designed to assist beginners / newcomers in EU funded research activities. The Guide provides useful and practical information on how to be successfully prepare proposals and implement research projects under FP7-ICT.

“How to Effectively Network/Communicate in International R&D projects” guide is designed so that the target audience - EECA countries’ participants and stakeholders in international R&D projects - with lack of networking skills - could significantly improve them following the practical recommendations.

Help-desk

Is designed to provide you with the guidance and support related to the procedures of participation in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) theme of the EC 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

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Way forward for more effective research cooperation

Along the 3 FP7 projects, the recommended courses of actions have been identified and summarized in a common report. These proposals came from relevant policy makers and ICT specialists, feedback from projects’ events, from the analysis of lessons learnt. Some courses of actions are valid for the whole EECA region, while some are specific for one or another country... Examples of recommended courses of actions are as following:

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Upcoming opportunities

The upcoming FP7 ICT Calls 8 and 9 offer more than one billion Euros of EU funding and cover a number of topics:

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What comes after FP7 – “Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation”



Framework Programme 7 will end in 2013, and activities are ongoing for the preparation of the next programme, which will shape the future of European research starting in 2014. The European Commission proposed a Green paper on a Common Strategic Framework for the management of future EU research and innovation funding.

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We need your feedback

Dear readers! Our projects came to the end but we hope to continue our activities in the future projects. To improve our performance please answer on couple questions.

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The projects are supported by the European Commission under the ICT thematic area of the 7th Research Framework Programme.



Svetlana Klessova
ISTOK-SOYUZ project coordinator



Kostas Bougiouklis
SCUBE-ICT project coordinator



Raphael Koumeri
EXTEND project coordinator

will get insights about the past work on the pages of this newsletter, and we thank you, the readers and actors of the process, for contributions to bring closer EU and EECA ICT communities.

We also identified and discussed with EECA countries the specific courses of action that could substantially provide strongest ICT R&D collaboration potential between EU and EECA. Please read the highlights below about it, check the link to the whole document and please contribute with additional suggestions.

This newsletter will bring you fresh insights about final project events, EECA ICT cluster main results highlights and information about material we developed that might be useful for your future activities. It is our hope that the articles and information in this newsletter will be helpful for you.

Once again, we would also like to express our appreciation with all those working within the projects: ICT stakeholders, representatives of innovation infrastructure, policy makers, EC representatives, project partners... It has been rewarding, interesting and hopefully fruitful experience, and we look forward to working with you in the nearest future.

From the editors:

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you once again to the pages of our forth joint newsletter.

For the last years, the European Commission has undertaken particular efforts to pave the way for ICT R&D activities revitalization and strengthening of strategic partnership between the European Union and the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) countries. The EECA cluster team, composed of 3 FP7-ICT support actions ISTOK-SOYUZ, SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND is about to complete the projects that have lasted for two and half years with the common mandate of strengthening the cooperation between

EU and EECA countries in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. But the new project is expected to be started soon, so there would be no communication break.

The EECA ICT Cluster helped intensifying the international cooperation and facilitating the networking interaction between EU-EECA research organizations, policy makers, individuals and other ICT stakeholders. Together with you, the local actors, we identified the potential for research cooperation between the EU and EECA countries, discussed the benefit of cooperation and the necessary actions to reinforce it, and promoted concrete cooperation opportunities. You

ISTOK-SOYUZ, EXTEND final events

On June 7, 2011 Final ISTOK-SOYUZ conference was held at the EU Delegation to Russia.

Conference agenda included presentations and discussions on:

- Project results of ISTOK-SOYUZ and clustering projects;
- Recommendations on cooperation strategy between the EU and the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the context of the new Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 and national initiatives, in particular on the development of Russian technology platforms based on European Technology Platforms methodology and experience;
- FP7 success stories coming from project activities;
- methodological and training materials developed in framework of ISTOK-SOYUZ project.



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The projects are supported by the European Commission under the ICT thematic area of the 7th Research Framework Programme.





The conference attracted big interest from ICT community; 58 people attended this event and took active part in its discussions.

The conference started with welcome words by representatives from:

EU Delegation to Russia – *Manuel Hallen, Minister Counsellor, S&T*

RF Ministry of Economy – *Artem Shadrin, Head of the Department of Strategic Management and Budgeting.*

Mr. Shadrin is the main stakeholder in the Russian government program of creation the Russian technology platforms. He welcomed the project activities connected with integration of EECA ICT organizations into ETPs and expressed big interest to the possible coordination of ICT-oriented ETPs and RTPs activities.

Russian Academy of Science – *Vladimir Ivanov, Deputy General Scientific Secretary of RAS Presidium*

Mr. Ivanov was involved in previous ISTOK.RU project, being project consortium partner representative and also active in ISTOK-SOYUZ activities. Furthermore in the framework of Final conference agenda Mr. Ivanov also presented Priorities of the Russian Academy of Sciences R&D centers in ICT R&D and role of EU-RU cooperation.

Svetlana Klessova, ISTOK-SOYUZ project coordinator made detailed presentation on ISTOK-SOYUZ and Partnering projects results, recommendations for the EU-EECA collaboration.

EXTEND have been presented by 2 consortium members from *Azerbaijan - Tofiq Babayev, Azerbaijan ICT NCP and Belarus – Tatyana Lyadnova, Belarus ICT NCP.* Tofiq's presentation was devoted to the consultation process and the main findings for the EECA countries while Tatyana presented the Help Desk developed by EXTEND and its services.

This tool was actively used also for the Hands on Support to the ICT R&D EECA countries teams for FP7 participation. The relevant detailed ISTOK-SOYUZ experience was presented by **Gennady Pilnov, Executive director, RTTN.** Unique model for hands on support developed and implemented by ISTOK-SOYUZ led to the remarkable results.

During January, 2009 – April, 2011, thanks to ISTOK-SOYUZ:

120 ICT teams with strong ICT R&D cooperation potential **were identified for hands-on support;**

101 partnerships were established with more than 100 EU organizations;

25 proposals with participation of supported EECA teams **were submitted for the FP7 ICT Calls and 27 project ideas are under discussion;**

in addition, **established EECA-EU partnerships submitted 19 project proposals for other Calls** of FP7 specific programmes "Cooperation" (Health and Transport priorities), "People", "Capacities" and other programmes supported European Commission (EU Baltic Sea Region Programme, ERANet Programme). These programmes include the use of R&D ICT collaboration potential of supported teams.

Under "partnership", ISTOK-SOYUZ team understands a written or oral voluntary arrangement where two or more teams / organizations (parties) from EECA and EU countries agree to cooperate to achieve common purpose and mutual success. In our case partners aimed at elaboration of project ideas for FP7 ICT Work Programme.

Under "proposal" team understands projects have been written and submitted to FP7 ICT Calls by EECA-EU partnerships.

These results were achieved ISTOK-SOYUZ consortium partners by using not only their own tool and activities, but also EU-EECA ICT-cluster's joint tools and activities.

Concrete Success stories of EECA teams supported by ISTOK-SOYUZ for FP7 ICT participation have been presented by **Maria Zhdanova, Manager-researcher, Laboratory of Network Technologies, Ltd.** and **Lev Shchur, Landau Institute, Chernogolovka.**

Nikolay Pakulin from ISPRAS outlined participation of EECA ICT teams in recent Proposers' day, Budapest. This event co-organized by EECA ICT cluster projects was in fact the integrated part of the final ISTOK-SOYUZ event and implemented in accordance to the hands-on support methodology. It is interesting to note that the number of registered participants from EECA countries comprised 4 % of the total number of Proposers' day participants. Still EECA teams submitted 11% of the whole number of project ideas published at ICT Proposers' Day website. The ratio between these figures could be interpreted both as high motivation and proactive position of EECA teams concerning EU cooperation and active support from ICT cluster projects.

Considerable part of the conference was devoted to the role of ICT oriented European Technology platforms (ETP) in EU R&D landscape formation. To make

Russian and EECA ICT R&D competencies more visible ISTOK-SOYUZ supported the number of EECA organizations to join ETPs. So the future prospects of ETPs are of the big interests for the EECA teams. It is interesting to note that recently Russian government initiated the process of technology platforms creation. **Manuel Hallen, Minister Counsellor, S&T** made the presentation on ETP experience. Following this presentation **Alexander Petrenko, Representative of RTP in ICT sphere** presented this new initiative on Russian Technology Platforms creation and his vision on prospects of EU-RU possible cooperation between RTP and relevant ETPs.

Speaking about future EU-EECA cooperation in ICT sphere **Dr. Marat Biktimirov, Director, The national association of research and educational e-Infrastructures "e-ARENA"** presented new EU - EECA initiative on Bringing ICT Policy dialogue to an Upper level for Reinforced EU-EECA Cooperation.

Jean-Charles Point, JCP Consult from France discussed the opportunities of the next FP7 ICT Calls in 2011-2012. Taking into account that nowadays FP7





comes into the end on 2013 EECA ICT community is interested in the future of EU R&D programme. "Mr. Point presented also the process of discussion in EU concerning this important issue.

Special questionnaire was prepared and disseminated during the event to receive feedback from participants on general

evaluation of ISTOK-SOYUZ project and results, priority tasks for EU-EECA R&D cooperation, ISTOK-SOYUZ Final event estimation, etc.

It is interesting to note that among the most remarkable results of ISTOK-SOYUZ were mentioned "Development of training guides on participation in FP7" and "Awareness raising of EECA researchers on FP7 and other EU R&D Programmes".

Estimating the relative importance of the priorities for development of R&D cooperation between the EU and EECA countries in ICT area respondents stressed on the necessity to "develop more information and methodology materials on issues connected with participation in FP7 and other EU R&D Programmes" and to "strengthen the infrastructure for support the participation of EECA research teams in FP7 and other EU R&D Programmes".

The presentations can be found here



Tbilisi, June 16-17, 2011, EXTEND Closing Conference "THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY in the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus countries: Priorities and Challenges"

From the Georgian side about 50 Researchers, representatives of Georgian National Science Foundation, EC Delegation in Georgia, representatives of Ministries, universities, private and nongovernmental organizations, journalists and media representatives took part.

The Conference was opened by the EC ICT NCP in Georgia **Dr. Givi Kochoradze** (local manager of the EXTEND project). Dr. Ramaz Kvatadze, head of Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association (GRENA) made the welcome speech. Dr. Kvatadze in his speech underlined the importance of development of ICT technologies in South Caucasus countries and characterized some important contribution of GRENA in this field.

The next speaker **Mrs. Tamar Beruchashvili**, adviser of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, welcomed the guests and emphasized that one of the main functions of the mentioned Ministry is coordination and monitoring of activities of the executive branch of the Government of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In this respect the projects like EXTEND fall under the scope of interests of the Ministry and they welcome the implementation of such projects. She expressed the assurance that the results obtained during the implementation of the EXTEND proj-



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region and for the region's integration in the wider European effort to achieve the Information Society based on the work done by the EECA Cluster projects.

About 100 IT researchers and stakeholders from 13 countries of the Region and the European Union attended the conference and contributed with their presentations.

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ect are very useful for the Georgian ICT community taking into consideration the methodology suggested by the project due to which it became possible to estimate ICT potential and to define ICT priorities in the country. Tamar Beruchashvili spoke as well about the Ministry's policy regarding the integration of Georgia into Europe.

Finally **Dr. Zurab Gasitashvili**, vice Rector of Georgian Technical University welcomed the participants and underlined that the Georgian Technical University is the institution that during the last two years of the EXTEND project implementation supported the project activities, carried out in Georgia.

Mr. Vlassios Venner, EC project officer presented the European Research Area (ERA), the "open space" in research, which gives opportunity to make free movement to knowledge, technologies and in which transnational synergies and complementarities of researchers are fully exploited. He also gave general information about FP7, its directions, cooperation specific programs, ICT programme challenges, its funding schemes, rules for participation, mentioning in particular the international co-operation of the ICT programme, the participation of third country organisations from ICPC countries, (including EECA/EESC).

Oliver Reisner from the EU Delegation in Georgia in his presentation introduced the EC strategy for Georgia and Armenia. He presented local programs which have been periodically announced by the delegation for scientists and mainly for local NGOs.

Raphael Koumeri, EXTEND project coordinator, presented the main objectives and achievements of the EXTEND project and made brief description of all deliverables of the project.

Andrei Dospinescu from CEIS focused on the ICT R&D potential in the regions: strengths & Weaknesses demonstrated results of the project reflecting capabilities in 4 project targeted countries obtained after processing 100 questionnaires filled in by ICT stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.



Nicolay Pakulin, senior researcher from the Institute for System Programming Russian Academy of Sciences and partner of ISTOK-SOYUZ project made a presentation on the ICT R&D policies of the EECA countries: towards a regional approach.

Svetlana Klessova – Coordinator of ISTOK-SOYUZ project made a presentation on the results of the ICT EU-EECA cluster with the objectives and joint actions of three projects implemented in the frame of the ICT EU-EECA cluster, the opportunities offered by the help desk service and ICT competence platform, printing and publishing of training and networking guides, publishing newsletter, etc.

Four successful stories of EU-EECA cooperation were presented during the next session of the conference.

Dr. George Giorgobiani from the Institute of Computational Mathematics of Georgian Technical University presented INCO ERA WIDE project "Recreation and building of capacities in Georgian ICT Research Institutes" (GEO-RECAP).

Ms. Jeannie Veytsman from Yerevan State University presented the story of successful collaboration of **Prof. Samvel Shoukourian** from the same university within the project "Combined Methods of Education Accelerating Alignment to IT Development Tendencies".

Presentation of the EU-Network of excellence PHOREMOST project was made by **Prof. Sergei Gaponenko** from B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics of NAS Belarus.

Panel discussion sessions involved experts from every EECA country, so it was one of the most important parts of the Conference.

The first panel moderator was Raphael Koumeri, EXTEND project coordinator. The issues raised during the panel were related to **key challenges & barriers for EU-EECA collaboration**.

ICT experts from 6 EECA countries and Russia acted as panelists:

- Prof. Tamar Lominadze, Georgian Technical University
- Prof. Azad Bayramov, Institute of Physics of the ANAS, Azerbaijan
- Dr. Roza Dumbraveanu Assoc. Professor, ICT Department, State Pedagogical University, Moldova
- Dr. Olexandr Zakhovaiko, National Technical University of Ukraine «Kyiv Polytechnic Institute», Ukraine
- Prof Sergey Gaponenko, Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences, Belarus
- Dr. Grigori Saghyan, Internet Society Armenia Chapter, Armenia
- Anton Yanovski, Project director, Russian Technology Transfer network, Russia





The moderator asked the panelists to express their opinion on the main problems on EU-EECA collaboration.

The rapporteur of the first panel was Rodica Cujba from the Academy of Sciences of Moldova.

The second Panel was moderated by Svetlana Klessova, ISTOK-Soyuz project coordinator. This panel focused on strategies and policies for future research and networking.

8 panelists from 6 EECA countries were invited to say their opinion regarding possible strategies and policies for future research and networking:

- Dr. Tofiq Babayev, RITA, Azerbaijan
- Oleg Shatberashvili, President, Federation for Information & Documentation, Georgia
- Ms. Irina Cojocar, Information Society Development Institute, Moldova

- Dr. Sergii Sarapuloff, Member of the Academy of Technical Sciences of Ukraine
- Ms Liudmila Siachko, Executive director, the JLLC «CLabs» – SME, Belarus
- Dr. Levon Aslanyan, IST-C, Armenia
- Nadia Efimova, Technology Business Incubator «Kharkov technologies», Ukraine
- Ruben Topchan, State University of Armenia

The conclusions of the two panels formed the basis for the formulation of courses of actions and recommendations that are summarized in the Cluster Deliverable “Identified courses of actions for EU-EECA ICT R&D cooperation”.

On the second day of the Conference **Elena Zamsa**, EC ICT NCP in Moldova, together with **Edina Nemeth**, EC ICT

NCP in Hungary introduced the ICT Call 8 and ICT Call 9 objectives and specific conditions.

A special attention was paid to the ICT WP objectives that had been identified as priorities in EECA countries.

This introduction was followed by short presentations of proposal ideas made by attendees of the conference.

After these presentations the participants of the conference had free time for establishing contacts and finding partners for future FP7 projects.

Information about the conference and all presentations can be found on the cluster portal: (<http://www.eeca-ict.eu/eeca/index.php/en/eventlist/details/37>) and the web site of the EXTEND project (<http://www.extend-ict.eu/closing-Conference>).

EECA ICT cluster main results highlights...

The three FP7 projects, ISTOK-SOYUZ, EXTEND and SCUBE-ICT have been running since January 2009 with the common mandate of strengthening the cooperation between EU and EECA countries in the field of ICT.

The objectives of the EECA ICT cluster were identified as follows:

- Increase awareness on EU-funded research activities under the FP7 – ICT in the EECA region
- Improve visibility of ICT R&D teams from EECA countries on the European arena and stimulate collaboration with their EU counterparts
- Support the policy dialogue between the EU and EECA countries, contributing to the setting up of joint initiatives, enhancing their ICT R&D collaboration.

In order to achieve these objectives the EECA ICT cluster performed a series of joint activities and obtained a number of important results.

Objective 1. Increase awareness on EU-funded research activities under the FP7 – ICT in the EECA region

Info-days and training workshops were organized in all EECA countries to share insight on emerging opportunities under FP7-ICT theme. More than 750 researchers from EECA region obtained useful information about FP7 opportunities and were trained for participation and submission FP7 projects.

A publicly accessible Help Desk service was set up to offer guidance and support related to the procedures of participa-

tion in FP7-ICT. More than 300 EECA researchers received answers on their questions through Help Desk service using the tool of submitting question or consulting FAQ or/and Glossary sections.

EECA researchers were provided with hands-on support towards their involvement in EU-funded projects. More than 300 EECA researchers received consultations on FP7 calls and projects on phone or/and face-to-face.

The Cluster web portal was created and acts as an on-line source of relevant information. It contains important and useful guides and documents for researchers, elaborated by the Cluster, as well as information related to three cluster projects, their achievements and plans. EECA ICT Cluster tool is continuously updated.





Objective 2. Improve visibility of ICT R&D teams from EECA countries on the European arena and stimulate collaboration with their EU counterparts

On-line Database (Competence Platform) was created for the promotion of the research interests and achievements of prominent ICT R&D organizations and experts. For the moment more than 400 ICT R&D stakeholders and more than 7500 ICT experts are registered in the system. It is continuously updated.

The EECA ICT Cluster performed a number of networking activities in EU and EECA countries. Networking activities in EECA countries refers to the projects opening and closing conferences as well as some training workshops. Networking activities in EU refer to two major ICT events: ICT 2010: Digitally Driven (September 2010 in Brussels, Belgium) and ICT Proposers' Day (May

2011, Budapest, Hungary). For selecting prominent ICT researcher a call for mobility was announced by the cluster, resulting in participation of 50 actors in ICT 2010 event. A special networking session was organized during this event where the most important collaboration contacts were established and plans for future FP7 projects were set up. For participation in ICT Proposers' Day 15 ICT prominent or very concerned researchers were selected based on their active participation in EECA events or scientific works (presented proposal ideas during the trainings, published important scientific papers etc.).

Cluster partners' wide network of contacts in EU was exploited for enhancing

EECA ICT R&D teams' visibility. In this regards the LinkedIn social network was used, contacts with EECA Diaspora in EU and with European ICT NCP were established.

The visibility of EECA ICT R&D stakeholders was increased through organization of a promotion-publicity campaign in EU and EECA region. These activities refer to such promotion materials as Thematic excellence leaflet, National excellence brochure, EECA Success Stories brochure, Cluster Newsletters, Presentation of EECA ICT Organizations. During ICT 2010 event a special stand was used where besides abovementioned materials a big and informative poster of EECA ICT cluster was designed and demonstrated.

Objective 3. Support the policy dialogue between the EU and EECA countries, contributing to the setting up of joint initiatives, enhancing their ICT R&D collaboration

A series of policy/consultation workshops were organized in EECA countries. These events provided data on ICT research capacities, their future potential for ICT industry, private sector and SMEs, social needs and public administration etc. Open discussion forum pro-

vided analysis of the ICT research priorities and resulted in identification of key ICT areas of mutual interest.

During EECA ICT cluster events panel discussions were organized in order to reveal the problems and barriers in ICT

R&D development as well as some possible solutions.

Based on policy/consultation workshops results and panel discussions joint EU-EECA actions will be proposed to the EU.

and much more inside

EECA ICT Competence Platform

The EECA Competence Platform (<http://www.eeca-ict.eu/eeca/index.php/ru/competence>), a rich on-line database including the research profiles of both ICT experts and organizations from the entire EECA and EU regions, is one of the main assets of the EECA ICT cluster. The Platform offers many opportunities for both EU and EECA research and industrial community, such as ICT competences mapping tool, partners search engine, exportable PDF profiles and many others. Therefore, with its facilities, the Competence platform maximizes your chances of becoming part of international ICT Consortia but also finding organizations with the right competences needed for your proposals.

The Competences Platform will remain active at least three years after the EECA clustering projects' end. If you have not subscribed yet, you have still the chance to benefit from the opportunity to promote your competences and increase your visibility!

Today the EECA Competence platform accounts more than 2780 experts profiles and 430 organisations both from EECA and EU countries. Among them 1493 experts from the EECA countries have already advertised their competences for free. Just be the next!





How to do guides

FP7-ICT training Guide “Getting Started with EU ICT research”

is designed to assist beginners / newcomers in EU funded research activities. The Guide provides useful and practical information on how to be successfully prepare proposals and implement research projects under FP7-ICT. For this purpose the Training Guide serves the following objectives:

- Support research organisations and companies in setting research objectives based on their capacity and track record, and planning their actions towards successful participation in European Framework Programmes (FPs) for Research and Development (particularly FP7-ICT).
- Familiarise newcomers / beginners in Framework Programmes with the process “from idea generation, to identifying research partners, to successful elaboration of an EU-funded research project”.
- Enhance their ability to write successful proposals and elaborate multinational research projects.



To download the English version of the Guide click here



The Russian version is available here



“How to Effectively Network/Communicate in International R&D projects” guide



is designed so that the target audience – EECA countries’ participants and stakeholders in international R&D projects – with lack of networking skills - could significantly improve them following the practical recommendations.

The necessary condition for the successful international R&D collaboration between EU and EECA countries is the potentially attractive knowledge and know-how for the EU counterparts. But this knowledge could be exploited only with the capacity to share it. This capacity is very much related to the capacities for networking on different levels of project participants (researchers, stakeholders, policy makers, project partners in EECA countries etc.) interactions. The lack of networking skills could stay this R&D potential undiscovered.

In broad sense Networking is relationship building among people with similar interests and goals. It involves actively getting to know people – developing an ever-increasing list of connections. Networking is about sharing information, ideas, resources, opportunities.

Basic networking skills/
recommendations include:

- Understanding the difference in culture
- Promoting competencies of the researchers
- Participating proactively in the events
- Making good presentations
- Writing effective emails, providing feedback
- Using the web collaboration tools/services efficiently.

More advanced networking skills/
recommendations include:

- Planning an event
- Running/facilitating effective meetings.
- Making effective interview, using questioning techniques
- Organising efficient brainstorming meetings
- Following up the meetings and decisions
- Writing the reports
- Negotiating with mass-media

To download

the English version
of the Guide click here



The Russian version
is available here

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Help-desk

Is designed to provide you with the guidance and support related to the procedures of participation in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) theme of the EC 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

Inquiries in the help-desk can cover all aspects of participation in FP7 i.e. information on open Calls, finding partners, proposals eligibility, communication with EC, etc.

The following services are offered through our Help-Desk:

1. Submit a Question

All inquiries should be submitted in the Help-Desk through the "Submit a Question" area. Questions can be submitted in your own languages, but all responses will be given in English.

The Help-Desk will have a response time of maximum 2 working days from the first call/question.

2. FAQ

The Frequent Asked Questions area is intended to provide a quick reference to basic aspects of participation in FP7. We strongly encourage you to visit our FAQs before submitting your question.

FAQs will be continuously updated from the pool of questions and answers exchanged through the Help-Desk.

[FAQ about participation in FP7-ICT in Russian](#)

[FP7 general presentation in Russian](#)

[Presentations on ICT Objectives on Call 8 and Call 9 \(ICT Proposers' Day 2011\)](#)

3. Glossary

The glossary aims to familiarize newcomers with acronyms, rules and definitions used within the domain of EU R&D programs.

4. Your Feedback

Your feedback and recommendations are very welcome to make this service as efficient as possible.

5. Country Contact Persons

Responses to your inquiries will be given by competent and well trained on FP7 people located in your countries. Click on this option to find out which organization in your country is responsible for handling your inquiry.

Help-Desk will be available also after EXTEND completion and we hope that it will really answer your questions and help you become an active FP7 participant!

Way forward for more effective research cooperation

The EECA cluster projects' aim is to pave the way for the enhancement of strategic partnerships in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) domain between the European Union and the EECA countries, both at research and policy level. More than ever, we need to pool efforts and remove the barriers that hinder collaboration between the EU and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and to ensure that researchers and industry from EU and EECA countries work closely together and maximize the social and economic benefits of new ideas.

What could be the efficient way forward?

Along the 3 FP7 projects, the recommended courses of actions have been

identified and summarized in a common report. These proposals came from relevant policy makers and ICT specialists, feedback from projects' events, from the analysis of lessons learnt. Some courses of actions are valid for the whole EECA region, while some are specific for one or another country... Examples of recommended courses of actions are as following:

- Enhance the FP7 support infrastructure, and in particular the National Contact Points: It has been recognized that the lack of awareness and information about the opportunities offered by the European Commission are still a barrier for creation of strategic partnerships. National Contact Points and other representa-

tives of the support infrastructure can provide information for the country's ICT RTD actors on the opportunities for international collaboration and help them to participate in FP7 programmes and provide guidance on how to increase their visibility to their EU counterparts.

- Launch national consultation: Consultation could collect the views of the main ICT stakeholders on how national rules and legislation could be adjusted to facilitate their participation, because it's still an obstacle in many EECA countries.
- Launch of twinning project(s) with authorities of EU Member States, for example, on the topics such as building and running of the national ICT policy monitoring and evaluation system, the designing, developing and management of 'support structures' and so on.



- Investigate for a framework of benefits at both state and organisational level to change the mentality and increase the mobility of EECA ICT, because the interactions between people are the key elements in international cooperation
- Better involve young researcher in the joint projects and in the mobility programs such as ERASMUS MUNDUS, as it could help the young researchers to receive international recognition.
- Better use the possibilities of the Research Diaspora: Namely the highly qualified EECA PhD students, professors, researchers, that already work in EU, can act as 'intermediaries' limiting the communication barriers and supporting the initiation of international collaborations.
- Analyse possibility of setting up a "State Task Force" and a "EU Task Force" for a more effective international cooperation in research, as a small and flexible "team of advisors on international cooperation in research".

These courses of actions are targeting policy makers, while other suggestions are directed to the ICT researchers and their organizations, and take into account the experience and lessons learned of the three projects to support R&D partnerships.

For more detailed information, please consult the document "Identified courses of action for EU-EECA ICT R&D cooperation"



Upcoming opportunities

PREPARE THE UPCOMING FP7 ICT CALLS!

The [ICT Work Programme 2011-2012](#) of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) defines the priorities for [ICT research](#) funding and the related calls for proposals. The research priorities are grouped into '**Challenges**' and '**Objectives**' of strategic interest to Europe.

The upcoming FP7 ICT Calls 8 and 9 offer more than one billion Euros of EU funding and cover a number of topics:

Challenge 1 – Pervasive and Trusted Network and Service Infrastructure

- 1.1 - Future Networks
- 1.2 - Cloud Computing, Internet of Services and Advanced Software Engineering
- 1.4 - Trustworthy ICT
- 1.6 - Future Internet Research and Experimentation (FIRE)
- 1.8 + 1.9 PPP FI - Phase 2: Use Case scenarios & early trials and Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support
- PPP FI - Core Platform - Open call for new partners

Challenge 2 – Cognitive Systems and Robotics

- 2.1 - Cognitive Systems and Robotics

Challenge 3 – Alternative Paths to Components and Systems

- 3.1 - Very advanced nanoelectronic components: design, engineering, technology and manufacturability
- 3.2 - Smart components and smart systems integration
- 3.5 - Core and disruptive photonic technologies

Challenge 4 – Technologies for Digital Content and Languages

- 4.3 - Digital Preservation
- 4.4 - Intelligent Information Management

Challenge 5 – ICT for Health, Ageing Well, Inclusion and Governance

- 5.2 - Virtual Physiological Human

Challenge 6 – ICT for a Low Carbon Economy

- 6.1 - Smart energy grids
- 6.3 - ICT for efficient water resources management
- 6.5 - PPP EEB: ICT for energy-positive neighborhoods
- 6.7 - Cooperative systems for energy efficient and sustainable mobility
- 6.8 - PPP GC: ICT for fully electric vehicles

Challenge 7 – ICT for the Enterprise and Manufacturing

- 7.1 - PPP FoF: Smart factories: energy-aware, agile manufacturing and customisation
- 7.2 - PPP FoF: Manufacturing Solutions for new ICT products

Challenge 8 – ICT for Learning and Access to Cultural Resources

- 8.1 - Technology-Enhanced Learning
- 8.2 - ICT for access to cultural resources

Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)

- 9.1 - FET Open: Challenging current Thinking
- 9.2 - FET Open: High-Tech Research Intensive SMEs in FET research
- 9.3 - FET Open: FET Young Explorers





- 9.4 - FET Open: International cooperation on FET research
- 9.6 - FET Proactive: Unconventional Computation (UCOMP)
- 9.7 - FET Proactive: Dynamics of Multi-Level Complex Systems
- 9.8 - FET Proactive: Minimising Energy Consumption of Computing to the Limit (MINECC)
- 9.9 - FET Proactive: Quantum ICT (QICT) including ERANET-Plus
- 9.10 - FET Proactive: Fundamentals of Collective Adaptive Systems (FOCAS)
- 9.11 - FET Proactive: Neuro-Bio-Inspired Systems (NBIS)
- 9.12 - Coordinating Communities, Identifying new research topics for FET Proactive initiatives and Fostering Networking of National and Regional Research Programmes
- 9.14 - Science of Global Systems

ICT priorities outside ICT Work Programme 2011-2012 that also have calls for proposals:

- e-Infrastructures

We invite you to read the ICT Workprogramme 2011-2012 ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/ict-wp-2011-12_en.pdf and visit the web site of the ICT Proposers' Day 2011 (Budapest, May 19-20, 2011): http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ictproposersday/2011/index_en.htm

You can find there the topics' descriptions, useful links, presentations of the EC officials and much more.

Provisional schedule of the Calls:

ICT Call 8: open July 26th, 2011 – deadline January 17th, 2012.

ICT Call 9: open January 18, 2012 – deadline April 17, 2012.

What comes after FP7 – "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation"



Framework Programme 7 will end in 2013, and activities are ongoing for the preparation of the next programme, which will shape the future of European research starting in 2014. The European Commission proposed a **Green paper** on a **Common Strategic Framework** for the management of future EU research and innovation funding.

The CSF identifies the high-level objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which were endorsed by the February 2011 European Council as key to future growth and jobs.

On 10 June 2011 the outcome of the consultation on future EU research and innovation funding was discussed at a major conference in Brussels. The consultation was based on a European Commission Green Paper published on 9 February 2011, with a deadline for contributions of 20 May 2011. The **Green Paper** proposed major changes to EU research and innovation funding to make participation easier, increase scientific and economic impact and provide better value for money. The changes, to be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013, will cover

- the current Framework Programme for research,

- the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/> and
- the European Institute of Innovation and Technology <http://eit.europa.eu/>.

The outcomes of the consultation are available through this website:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm?pg=home

- A **summary analysis** of the consultation, based on written responses and around 1300 online questionnaires that were submitted by interested individuals, companies, research institutes and citizens.
- The **written responses** provided by over 750 associations, large organisations and others that provide in-depth views which are published on this website, organised by country.
- An **interactive blog**, where various questions and topics from the Green Paper were posted for open comment, debate and ideas.
- Links to **events**, in particular the major event on 10 June to bring together and discuss the main outcomes.

The outcomes are being used to design the proposals, to be presented by the Commission by the end of 2011, for a legislative decision of the Council and Parliament on the Common Strategic Framework.

Climate change, energy, health and SMEs will form the centre of the European Commission's proposals for research funding within the new Common Strategic Framework, starting in 2013, but debate around the new funding pool is likely to be lively as the Commission reflects on a White Paper to be released later this year.

The White Paper will outline how the research budget should be allocated under the new programme, which will roll together several existing structural and cohesion funding mechanisms under a common umbrella.

"Horizon 2020" became the winner of «You Name it» online vote to name the future EU-funding programme for research and innovation. The full name of the legislative proposal for the new programme will therefore be: "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation".

HOME



We need your feedback

Dear readers!

Our projects came to the end but we hope to continue our activities in the future projects.

To improve our performance please answer on couple questions:

- Did you receive our Information Newsletters and how can you estimate their content quality?

good

average

bad

I didn't receive ISTOK-SOYUZ Newsletters

- Would you like to be involved in future activities on R&D cooperation between the EU and EECA countries in ICT area and/or receive information on them?

Yes

No

Please, send your feedback on: info@eeeca-ict.eu

country	Russia	Ukraine	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Georgia	Moldova	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan
ISTOK - SOYUZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SCUBE - ICT	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
EXTEND	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

Projects presence in EECA countries

Project Acronym	ISTOK-SOYUZ (co Number 231665)	SCUBE-ICT (Co Number 231148)	EXTEND (Co Number 231137)
	Information Technologies to Open Knowledge for Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Strategic Cooperation in Ukraine, Belarus and EU in Information and Communication Technologies	Extending ICT research co-operation between the European Union, Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus
Duration	30 Months	24 months	30 Months
Start – End Date	01/2009 – 06/2011	01/2009 – 12/2010	01/2009 – 06/2011
Web-Site	www.istok-soyuz.eu	www.scube-ict.eu	www.extend-ict.eu
Project Coordinator	Mrs. Svetlana KLESSOVA	Mr. Kostas BOUGIOUKLIS	Mr. Raphael KOUMERI