

1. Publishable summary

ISTOK-SOYUZ

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 will expand this experience to the Eastern Europe & Central Asia countries, identifying and promoting visibility of mutual RTD potential and collaboration opportunities.

ISTOK-SOYUZ at a Glance:

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<p>Project Website: http://www.istok-soyuz.eu/</p>
<p>Duration: 30 months Project start date: 1st January 2009 Total Cost: 880 000€ EC Contribution: 880 000€</p>
<p>Project Partners: Inno AG – Project Coordinator (Germany), Russian Technology Transfer Network (Russia), Institute for System Programming of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia), Russian Centre for Technology Transfer (Belarus), Technology Business Incubator “Kharkov technologies” (Ukraine), Yerevan State University (Armenia), Fondation Sophia Antipolis (France), National Innovation Fund (Kazakhstan)</p>

Key words: *FP7, Information and Communication Technologies, ICT taxonomy, EU-EECA collaboration, R&D*

Main objectives

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 (www.scube-ict.eu) and EXTEND (www.extend-ict.eu).

Work performed since the beginning of the project

Specific objectives for the period 1 were:

- ✓ To prepare the solid ground for the project work: to refine the plan of activities and to organise strategic Consortium kick-off meeting and 5 national kick-off meetings in the five target countries: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia and Kazakhstan
- ✓ To design the first version of Awareness Raising and Dissemination Plan (ARDP) and to start to implement it
- ✓ To launch the project web-site
- ✓ To prepare and distribute the first and the second newsletter
- ✓ To translate in Russian and adapt the Training Guide "Getting started with EU ICT research"
- ✓ To start networking and dissemination activities with cooperation projects
- ✓ To start networking and liaison activities with stakeholders (1) in Russia, (2) in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and (3) in addressed countries in Central Asia
- ✓ To organise one training event and one networking and brokerage event
- ✓ To organise one delegation tour to bring together EU and EECA ICT specialists
- ✓ To organise an internal call for proposals and to select at least 15 organizations with strongest ICT R&D collaboration potential from the five targeted countries of EECA, and to provide them with personalized support in order to increase number of ICT partnerships under FP7



Main results achieved so far

All the mentioned objectives were achieved.



Expected impact

The main idea of ISTOK-SOYUZ is to foster common research activities within the 7th Framework Programme in the field of ICT. This will enable emergence of new research initiatives, interlinking not only R&D actors, but also their own users and beneficiaries. This will also support and promote European Competitiveness through strategic research partnerships with Eastern Europe and Central Asia in science and technology, by engaging the best scientists from this region to work with Europe.

The ISTOK-SOYUZ initiative will underpin the development of and EU presence in all the addressed regions of Eastern Europe and especially Central Asia where visibility of the European Union and particularly the S&T programme remains very vague. Establishing policy dialogues with national ICT stakeholders, ISTOK-SOYUZ expects joint partnerships with EU organisations which will be funded both by the European Community and National R&D programmes, and also national funds. Therefore, these follow-up actions will contribute to other EC policies of implementation of research and technological development programmes.