

# 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](http://www.istok-ru.eu) implemented in Russia in 2006-2008, the ISTOK-SOYUZ project expanded this experience in 2009-2011 to several other Eastern Europe & Central Asia countries, identifying and promoting visibility of mutual RTD potential and collaboration opportunities.

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

### ISTOK-SOYUZ at a Glance:



#### **Project Coordinator:**

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**Project Website:** <http://www.istok-soyuz.eu/>  
<http://www.eeca-ict.eu> (EU-EECA ICT Gateway)

**Duration:** 30 months

**Project start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009

**EC Contribution:** 880 000€

#### **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)

### **Main objectives**

The 30-month project started on 1 January 2009 and aimed 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 region);
- 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 have been done in collaboration with national stakeholders and other relevant co-operation projects in view of exploiting synergies and maximising impact.

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](http://www.scube-ict.eu)) and EXTEND

([www.extend-ict.eu](http://www.extend-ict.eu)) (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.

## Work performed since the beginning of the period

The Period 2 allowed to continue the project activities started during the Period 1, and therefore:

- ✓ To implement the Awareness Raising and Dissemination Plan activities and to raise awareness and disseminate project results (update the project web-site, contribute to the development of EU-EECA ICT gateway, prepare and distribute the third and fourth newsletter...)
- ✓ To translate in Russian language the Training Guide “Getting started with EU ICT research” and widely disseminate it
- ✓ To continue liaison, networking and dissemination activities with other projects, aiming for synergies, and 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 two networking and brokerage events
- ✓ To organise one delegation tours to bring together EU and EECA ICT specialists
- ✓ To continue hands-on support to the winners of the cluster’ call for proposals and to expand the support to the new teams with cooperation potential, with the goal to help 20+ teams to integrate consortia submitting proposals for FP7 calls
- ✓ To increase the visibility of Russian ICT competences in Europe by involving at least 25 organisations from the five target countries in ETPs or NoEs
- ✓ To contribute to the development of recommendations for EU-EECA cooperation
- ✓ To reinforce cluster cooperation.

In addition, the project team took into account the review” recommendations and performed additional activities, as explained below in this report.

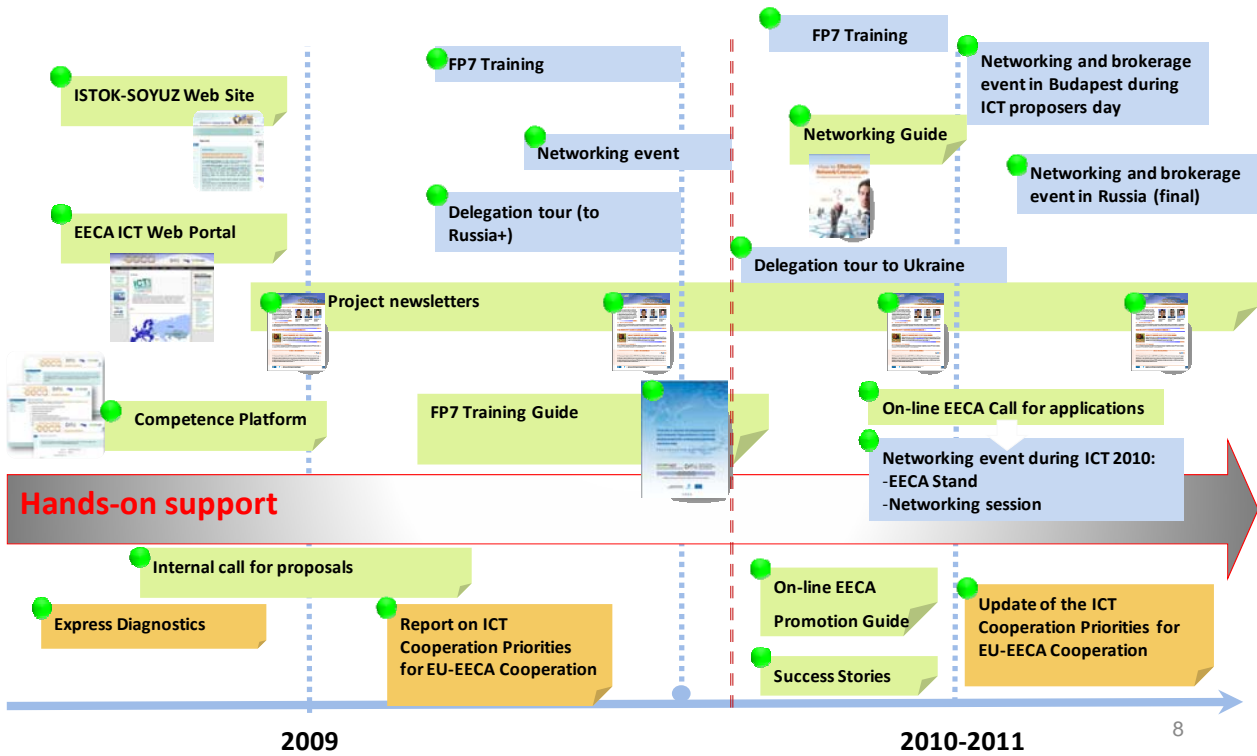
## Main results achieved by the end of the Period 2

The planned results of the Period 2 were achieved, this includes implementation of the recommendations after the Technical review (upgrade of the competence platform, development of Networking Guide etc).

The implementation of the ISTOK-SOYUZ project gave a substantial added value to the activities enhancing the EU-EECA cooperation. This includes many exploitable results, such as the knowledge that has been acquired or transmitted by the project partners and deliverables produced during the project lifetime, and other elements with potential impact for the further **collaboration activities between target EECA countries and Europe in the field of ICT.**

A number of activities were jointly implemented by the whole EECA cluster as well (e.g. awareness, training and networking events, etc), while several supportive ‘tools’ (i.e. the EECA web portal, the EECA Competence Platform, the FP7-ICT Held Desk and the networking guide) were developed at cluster level (i.e. partners from all clustering projects contributed to their development). In addition to this part of the document the **“EECA Cluster exploitable and sustainability plan”** was developed in June 2011 by all 3 clustering projects will describe in detail the exploitation of the Cluster results beyond its completion.

The following figure presents an overview of the main project outcomes, often obtained in cooperation with the two other clustering projects SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND:



Last but not least, several instruments, such as the Web Portal, the EECA Competence Platform etc were developed and/or improved, helping to ICT cooperation with the EECA region.

**EECA Newsletters**

**EU-EECA Web portal:**  
<http://www.eeca-ict.eu/>

**EECA ICT Help Desk**

**EU-EECA ICT Competences Platform:**  
<http://www.eeca-ict.eu/>

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The ISTOK-SOYUZ project team, in collaboration with the EECA clustering projects, has achieved the following **measurable** main results:



Under “**partnership**”, the 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**”, the team understands projects have been written and submitted to FP7 ICT Calls by EECA-EU partnerships.

In addition to the figures in the scheme above, **EECA-EU partners, supported by ISTOK-SOYUZ 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, ERA-Net Programme). These programmes include the use of R&D ICT collaboration potential of supported teams.

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. The results are described in more details in the relevant deliverables.

### Expected impact

The main idea of ISTOK-SOYUZ was to foster common research activities within the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme in the field of ICT. This has enabled the emergence of new research initiatives, interlinking not only R&D actors, but also their own users and beneficiaries. This has also supported and promoted 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 has underpinned 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. Helping to the process of policy dialogue with national ICT stakeholders, ISTOK-SOYUZ expected to form joint partnerships with EU organisations which would be funded both by the European Community and National R&D programmes, and also national funds. Therefore, these follow-up actions have contributed to other EC policies of implementation of research and technological development programmes.