Dear Reader

A look at the incrEAST calender will convince you that 2015 is a year full of opportunities for international STI cooperation between the EU, the Eastern Partnership region and Central Asia. This spring and summer will see a wealth of workshops, brokerage events, info days and international conferences.

No26

incrEAS'

newsletter

The IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA projects have joined forces with SEA-EU-NET II and offer two workshops on 'Health Research' and 'Climate Change and Water Management' at the upcoming EU-ASEAN STI Days in Paris. And the NoGAP project invites all EU and EaP stakeholders active in the energy sector to take part in a Brokerage Event in Frankfurt in June.

See more events March - June 2015...

Health Research from an International Perspective: Scientific Landscapes of Eastern Partnership and Central Asian Countries

The 2nd 'EU-Asean STI Days' will take place in Paris on 17-19 March 2015. They bring together researchers, scientists, science policy makers, innovative companies, and other stakeholders for a three-day conference on science, technology, and innovation issues and bi-regional cooperation in these fields. Two specialised workshops will showcase the STI landscapes of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries, one of them on health research.

Conclusions of the EaP Policy Stakeholders Conference on Climate Change

The first Policy Stakeholders Conference successfully organised by the IncoNet EaP project took place in Yerevan in 2014. It was the 7th in a series of policy dialogue platforms organised by EU funded STI cooperation projects with Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia since 2008. Last year's conference focused on the EU-EaP STI cooperation in addressing Climate Change. Now a 12 pages brochure aquaints you with results and recommendations of this Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference.

Energy statistics: INOGATE helps Georgia develop its first complete energy balance

Georgia's Ministry of Energy and the National Statistics Office GEOSTAT have officially presented a major development in the energy statistics of Georgia: a complete energy balance developed in line with internationally accepted standards. The work was done with the assistance of the EU-funded INOGATE Programme. INOGATE experts and Georgian stakeholders have worked closely since 2012 to elaborate a methodology and an energy data collection model.

Новости на русском языке



in Russian

click headline to go to article

click headline

to go to article

- NoGAP Energy Brokerage Event, Frankfurt | 16 June: Call for proposals
- Conclusions of the EaP Policy Stakeholders Conference on Climate Change
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University now coordinates German Agricultural Centres in Kazakhstan and Ukraine
- ISTC International Science and Technology Center discusses Scientific Strategy
- Networking made easy in the EU, the Eastern Partnership and worldwide
- Eastern Partnership and Central Asia relations rank high on the agenda of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Kick-off Policy Mix Peer Reviews of Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan
- Winter School in European Integration for young academics from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- Participation of EaP and CA researchers in the SET-Plan Conference and official visit to the ENEA Research Centre
- EU-ASEAN STI Days with special sessions on Health Research and Climate Change in EaP and CA countries, Paris | 17-19 March
- Upcoming Events
- Open Calls

country news

- Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan increases its international science cooperation
- **Georgia:** Energy statistics: INOGATE helps Georgia develop its first complete energy balance
- **Kazakhstan:** Nürtingen-Geislingen University now coordinates German Agricultural Centres in Kazakhstan and Ukraine
- **Kazakhstan**: The 'Newton Al-Farabi Partnership Programme' supports capacity building, people exchange and joint centres
- Kyrgyzstan: Virtual Science Library introduces remote log in feature
- Moldova: EU Competitevness Programme for SMEs launched in Moldova
- **Russia:** EU-Russia Year of Science 2014 12 Months of Excellence and Cooperation in Science, Higher Education and Innovation
- Russia: Green light for EU project CREMLIN to start in autumn
- Russia: Facilitating EU-Russian Scientific and Societal Engagement
- **Russia:** Russian science minister Livanov announces support for research in 'promising areas of multilateral cooperation' under Horizon 2020
- **Russia:** 'Noah's Ark': Russia to build world's first complete DNA databank
- **Russia:** Factsheet on local support for Horizon 2020 participants from Russia published
- Russia: Horizon 2020 Practical Guide for Russian Researchers
- Ukraine: Nürtingen-Geislingen University now coordinates German Agricultural Centres in Kazakhstan and Ukraine
- Ukraine: 'Polish Erasmus for Ukraine' Poland supports Ukraine in Higher Education
- **Ukraine:** Web portal 'Horizon 2020 Ukraine' provides comprehensive information in Ukrainian language and links to National Contact Points
- Ukraine: BILAT-UKR*AINA 2nd Stakeholders' Forum: Enhancing Ukraine's Competitiveness in RI on the way to the Association to Horizon 2020
- Ukraine: NATO SPS boosting scientific cooperation with Ukraine

societal challenges: health, climate change, energy

click headline to go to article

- EU-ASEAN STI Days: Health Research from an International Perspective Scientific Landscapes of Eastern Partnership and Central Asian Countries
- EU-ASEAN STI Days: Climate Change and Water Management from an International Perspectiv – Scientific Landscape of Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA) Countries
- NoGAP Energy Brokerage Event, Frankfurt | 16 June: Call for proposals
- Conclusions of the EaP Policy Stakeholders Conference on Climate Change
- Energy statistics: INOGATE helps Georgia develop its first complete energy balance

Новости на русском языке



- В России появится первый в мире банк биоматериалов всех живых организмов
- Энергетическая статистика: ИНОГЕЙТ помог Грузии разработать первый полный энергетический баланс
- Горизонт 2020 Практическое руководство для исследователей из России
- Год науки Россия-ЕС 2014: 12 месяцев превосходного сотрудничества в науке, высшем образовании и инновациях



<u>EU-Russia Year of Science</u>: Impression from the Open Innovations Forum 2014 in Moscow | © Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation

<u>Год науки Россия–ЕС</u> и Форум 'Открытые инновации - 2014' | © Министерство образования и науки Российской Федерации



2nd NoGAP Energy Brokerage Event -Call for proposals

Frankfurt a.M. | 16 June 2015

The EU funded NoGAP project is looking for novel ideas which could have a strategic and meaningful impact to the energy sector in the EU and the Eastern Partnership region. If you are a researcher an/or an entrepreneur from one of these regions, you are encouraged to respond to this call.

The Call for Proposals

Profiles have to be provided online at the <u>NoGAP Partnering Platform</u>. The proponents of selected proposals will be invited to present their projects and have face-to-face meetings with potential partners at the NoGAP Brokerage Event taking place in Frankfurt on 16 June 2015.

The Brokerage Event, 16 June 2015, Frankfurt

The Brokerage Event of NoGAP will offer opportunities for networking and finding potential collaborators and partners companies, organisations, entrepreneurs and researchers from different EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries. The event is organised in the frame of the international trade fair 'ACHEMA 2015', the world's largest trade fair on process industries and chemical engineering.

The Brokerage Event consists of pitch presentations and a series of bilateral meetings, lasting approximately 30 minutes each. The Brokerage Event will comprise approximately 40-50 participants from EU Member States and Eastern Partnership Countries.

NoGAP Partnering Platform

Make your profile available to potential partners you want to meet at the NoGAP Brokerage Event. Browse the profiles of other participants and get in touch. Only proposals using the format provided by NoGAP will be accepted.

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noga	P		<u>Log-In</u>
	NoGAP	Partnering for Brokerage Event in Frankurt 2015	
partners in the European Un		cure, clean and efficient energy. To foster networking between different tis going to be organised on 16 June 2015, in Frankfurt/ Germany. e possibility to participate in the event in Frankfurt.	
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If not, click <u>here</u> to creat Forgot your password?			
(c) Deutsches Zentrum fü	ir Luft- und Raumfahrt	Version 1.0.5, TEDSoft Gmb	н



только на английском языке



Conclusions of the EaP Policy Stakeholders Conference on Climate Change



back to

overview

next article

только на английском языке

This <u>new 12 pages brochure</u> in PDF format aquaints you with results and recommendations of the 7th Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference which took place in Yerevan in May 2014 and focused on joint endeavours to address climate change.

This PSC was the first of 3 PSCs to be organised in the frame of the IncoNet EaP project, with the next two scheduled to take place in Minsk and Budapest. Previous events in this series of policy dialogue platforms between the EU and the Eastern Partnership region have taken place since 2008.

The Conference provided an overview of the international policies, initiatives and programmes targeting the region, from the multilateral UN driven initiatives via large EU-funded projects and bi-lateral EU-EaP projects to the latest national EaP programmes. In addition, the Conference provided an opportunity to bring together a good number of best practice examples of projects from the region with the aim to create synergies among them and exploit the potential for future cooperation under Horizon 2020.

More than 100 participants were present at the event. Around 60 policy makers and representatives of the academic and scientific communities from EU member states and EaP countries, and around 50 stakeholders form Armenia, among them representatives of various international organisations, like the Austrian Red Cross, UNDP, Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucuses, as well as representatives of the Clima East and other projects focusing on Climate Change, which could serve as a good platform for establishing future cooperation in the field.

Over the course of the two days of the Policy Stakeholders Conference more than 30 presentations were made, which are available for download on the project's website.

Source and further information: IncoNet EaP



Nürtingen-Geislingen University now coordinates German Agricultural Centres in Kazakhstan and Ukraine

Since the beginning of this year, the University of Economics and Environment, Nürtingen Geislingen (HfWU) has operated the German Agricultural Centres (DAZ) in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Other partners in the consortium are DEULA Baden-Württemberg, the ADT Projekt GmbH and the University of Hohenheim. At the Academy of Economics and Environment, the project is led by Professor Dr. Heinrich Schüle.

The agricultural centers are training, demonstration and research institutions which contribute, in both countries, to the modernisation of agriculture. The centres are funded by a group of leading European companies from the agricultural sector, and financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

Kazakhstan and Ukraine have enormous agricultural potential. However, they still lag behind in terms of investments, qualified specialists and executives. Therefore the German Ministry of Agriculture and agro-based companies have established the agricultural centers in both countries in order to promote modern agricultural production techniques and educate agricultural professionals. The economic cooperation projects will contribute to a targeted transfer of knowledge and production technologies in both countries. Up to 2,000 professionals take part in the course programme annually.

In addition to the training programme, both centers manage approximately 50 ha of experimental and demonstration areas that showcase modern farming techniques, plant varieties and crop protection experiments. The participating companies provide state of the art technology and equipment to the German Agricultural Centres for the practical training. Highlights are the annual DAZ Field Days each summer, which, both in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, attract professional visitors from all over the countries.

In Ukraine (<u>www.daz-ukraine.net</u>), the German Agricultural Centre is located in the oblast Cherkasy in central Ukraine in the midst of the fertile black soil zone. In recent years DAZ Ukraine has become a nationally prominent platform of European agriculture in Ukraine and an important information centre. The Centre is supported by the companies CLAAS, Lemken, Amazone, Väderstad, Josera and KWS.

In Kazakhstan, the Agricultural Centre (<u>www.daz-kasachstan.net</u>) is located in the north of the country. Training in the fields of agricultural technology, business management as well as plant and animal production have taken place for four years now. DAZ Kazakhstan is supported inter alia by the companies John Deere, CLAAS, Kuhn, Horsch and Bayer CropScience, as well as by the agricultural research agency 'KazAgroInnovazia' of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture.

Author: Gerhard Schmücker (original article in German) Source: <u>Nürtingen Geislingen University</u>



ISTC - International Science and Technology Center discusses Scientific Strategy

Brussels | 25 February 2015

Founded in 1992 as a multigovernment nonproliferation programme, ISTC has become an organisation connecting scientists from Russia and other CIS countries with their peers in the EU, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, and the United States. On 25 February a 'Scientific Strategy Meeting' in Brussels discussed future scientific priorities and funding mechanisms.

A new agreement on the continuation of ISTC is about to be finalised. The ISTC Headquaters have already temporarily taken office on the premises of Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, and will move to the new Science Park there in 2016. The Moscow office is expected to close in 2015.

At these important crossroads, it seemed important to continue a dcussion process that started in 2014 at the initiative of the Japanese party. It was now proposed to deepen this reflection and define clear funding priorities for the coming years, taking into account:

- the complexity of current S&T developments and there often multidisciplianry nature;
- the need to strengthen networks among scientists and their institutions to promote mutilateral cooperation;
- a number of limiting factors such as scarce financial resources.

The discussion addressed – inter alia – the following topics:

- identify future scientific priority areas for ISTC;
- describe appropriate funding mechanisms (including semi-public and private entities);
- design specific activities targeted at young scientists.

Programme:

For more information please <u>download the agenda</u>.

Contact:

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Source and further information: ISTC

next article

back to overview

только на английском языке



The EU webplatform 'capacity4dev.eu' enables you to interact in online groups for the worldwide development community. You can provide your own profile, exchange your experience with others working in your field, upload documents and more. Here just a few of the groups that might be interesting for you: 'Environment in the EU's Eastern Neighbours', 'European Neighbourhood and Russia', 'Communicating EU-Ukraine cooperation' or 'MedMedia Neighbourhood & Russia'. Or maybe you want to start your own group?

'Capacity4dev.eu' is the European Commission's primary online knowledge sharing platform on development, external cooperation and policy. Launched in 2009 it now has over 11,500 members including staff from EuropeAid and other European Commission directorates, the European External Action Service, EU member states, partner governments, civil society, academia and the private sector.

Created and managed by EuropeAid, capacity4dev.eu aims to improve capacity development through knowledge sharing by:

- Consolidating knowledge and building an institutional memory
- Supporting thematic expertise
- Enabling cross-learning among practitioners from the EU institutions and other organisations
- Consolidating knowledge sharing tools and communities of practice around a common environment.

Source: <u>capacity4dev.eu</u>

EaP and CA relations rank high on the agenda of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

What are the European Union's main challenges which the incoming Latvian Presidency of the EU Council will need to address? On 4 December 2014 a large-scale Latvian EU Pre-Presidency conference titled 'Moving the Union forward: Involvement, Growth, Sustainability' was held in Riga. EU relations with the Eastern Partnership and the Central Asian countries ranked high on the agenda.

In preparation of the <u>Eastern Partnership Summit</u>, wich is scheduled to take place in Riga on 21-22 May 2015, a panel session titled 'Towards the Riga Summit: Eastern Partnership as a Community of Values or Interests?' addressed related issues:

'The foundations and direction of the Eastern Partnership are now being reconsidered, not least because of the events in Ukraine. What future developments can the EU introduce on its own side and what can we expect from our partners? Can we expect ever greater convergence between the visions of development of the EU and its Eastern neighbors?' (quote from the conference programme)

'Going Beyond the Eastern Partnership: Central Asia as a Priority of the Latvian EU Presidency' was another panel discussion:

'Over the last few years Central Asia came back on the EU's map of world politics. To a great extent this was driven by Latvia's efforts. The upcoming presidency plans to focus on such aspects as security and stability, border management, economic development, transit and transportation networks, and education. The EU's Central Asia strategy will also be reviewed. Why is this region increasingly important for the EU? What are the main challenges to overcome? (quote from the coference programme)

The Programme of the Latvian Presidency states:

'During the Riga Eastern Partnership Summit, a strong signal reaffirming longterm EU strategic support for the ENP should be sent. The review process should allow the EU to develop more flexible and inclusive approaches to all its partner countries based on differentiation and an emphasis on joint ownership.' and 'Latvia also looks forward to the review of the EU-Central Asia Strategy. EU engagement with the region can be enhanced by discussions on security, border management, energy supply, and educational exchange, while keeping civil society interests and human rights on the table.'

The Trans European Policy Studies Assocoiation (TEPSA) has formulated <u>recommendations to the incoming presidency</u>. They stress that the current geopolitical situation is evidently calling into question the basis of the EU foreign and security policy and proving that the EU ambitions to have a strategic partnership with third countries (including Russia) have not been accomplished.

Sources: <u>Website of the Secretariat of the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council</u> and <u>Official Website of the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council</u>

next article

back to overview

только на английском языке

Kick-off Policy Mix Peer Reviews of Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan

On 22-23 January 2015, the Centre for Regional and International STI Studies & Support (CeRISS, Greece) and the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI, Austria) organised a Kick-off Meeting for the S&T Policy Mix Peer Reviews of Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan in the framework of the IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA projects. Senior experts and policy-makers from the EU Member States and Associated Countries as well as high-level stakeholders from Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan specified the areas to be reviewed and set a time schedule for the on-site visits of the three expert panels in March/ April 2015.

next article back to overview

> только на английском языке



impression from the kick-off meeting $\mid \ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Yannis Kechagiaras (CeRISS)

The participation of respresentatives from the national science, technology and innovation authorities of Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan demonstrates the high interest of these governments in the Policy Mix Peer Reviews and its potential impact on domestic reforms.

Most of the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia are currently undergoing a period of transition, which includes profound reforms of their research and innovation systems. In this context several Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries have already requested an outside view from European partners. The policy mix peer review suggested by the IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA projects offers a scientific base that will increase the legitimacy for planned or ongoing reforms in the field of science, technology and innovation (STI).

The Policy Mix Peer Reviews of Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan are a followup of similar successful reviews implemented under the IncoNet EECA project in Moldova and Kazakhstan in 2012. This year's evaluation will benefit from the already developed methodology and the lessons learned. The report of the Reviews will be presented in the respective countries in autumn 2015.

A policy mix peer review (PMR) is a systematic examination and assessment of the national STI system by international experts. Special attention is put on the individual national challenges (and the policy response to these).

Source: <u>CeRISS</u>

Winter School in European Integration for young academics from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

11-20 January 2015 | Saarbruecken, Germany

The Winter School in European Integration is carried out by the Europa-Institut of the Saarland University and receives financial support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It will take place from January 11-20, 2015 at the Europa-Institut in Saarbrücken, Germany. The Winter School's theme is 'Democracy and Human Rights in the European Union'.

With the past and current developments in mind, Eastern Europe inhabits numerous conflicts. Some of them are within a country's border, some transcend borders. Given our interrelated world and the particular interdependencies of many players in the region, any crisis immediately impacts the counties inhabiting the conflict, the European Union, Russia as well regional and international institutions. International and European law are central to the acting and working of many players involved. The Winter School enables participants to enhance their knowledge about democracy, the rule of law as well as human rights protection in Europe (e.g. the EU and the ECHR). Moreover, it will serve as a platform, on which young academics can share their insights and experiences from at least four national contexts.

The Winter School in European Integration is carried out by the Europa-Institut of the Saarland University and receives financial support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It will take place from January 11 - 20, 2015 at the Europa-Institut in Saarbrücken, Germany. The Winter School's theme is 'Democracy and Human Rights in the European Union'.

The participants will understand the development of European integration, the principles of European law and their effect on democracy. In that, the chances and limits of European integration in promoting democracy will be systematically explored by the participants. Deepened knowledge and newly acquired perspectives will broaden the participants' academic view on human rights protection and democracy in multi-level governance systems. The gained knowledge and new professional contacts will impact their daily work as academics. Furthermore, participants will have the chance to visit European institutions at Strasbourg and Luxembourg.

The Winter School is exclusively designed for nationals from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It its aimed at academics (completed MA) and young researchers of law, political science and economics or other related sciences which are keen to improve their knowledge regarding human rights protection and the legal aspects of democracy. A good knowledge of English and a strong interest in the topics of EU law and human rights are preconditions for a successful application.

Source: Europa-Institut

next article

back to overview

только на английском языке

Participation of EaP and CA researchers in the SET-Plan Conference and official visit to the ENEA Research Centre

10-11 December 2014 | Rome

The IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA projects promote international STI cooperation and research policy dialogue between the EU and its member states on the one hand, and the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Countries on ther other. One of the projects' tasks is to collaborate with EU Innovation Platforms. In this context the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) organised the participation of innovative EaP and CA energy researchers in the 2014 SET Plan Conference. The event was held in Rome on 10-11 December under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

The Euopean 'Strategic Enery Technology Plan' (SET Plan) establishes an energy technology policy for Europe. It is a strategic plan to accelerate the development and deployment of cost-effective low carbon technologies. The plan comprises measures relating to planning, implementation, resources and international cooperation in the field of energy technology.

The related SET Plan Conference is a forum for experts, researchers, producers, stakeholders and representatives of national and EU institutions to have indepth discussions on the future developments of the SET Plan needed to respond to energy challenges. The 2014 edition of the conference falls at a crucial time, when momentum is gathering towards the development of the SET Plan Integrated Roadmap and an Action Plan promoting stronger collaboration in areas such as energy efficiency, competitive low-carbon supply of energy, and system optimisation including smart cities and communities.

With the collaboration of the IncoNet EaP and CA local partners, ten EaP researchers from the five EaP Countries and ten from the five CA countries were selected (two researchers for each target country).

The participants from the Eastern Partnership region were: Islam Mustafayev and Zafira Aliyeva from Azerbaijan; Suren Shatvoryan and Stepan Petrosyan from Armenia; Vladimir Elisashvilil and George Melikadze from Georgia; Henadzi Zhavenerko and Vladimer Novikau from Belarus; and Natalia Timofte from Moldova.

The participants from Central Asia were: Tatyana Ivanova and Baktybek Asanov from Kyrgyzstan; Marat Koshumbayev and Zhumalugov Nurlan from Kazakhstan; Mamadsho Ilolov and H.M. Akhmedov from Tajikistan; Mirzasulton Mamatkosimov and Rustam Ashurov from Uzbekistan; Nazar Korpeyev and Serdar Mammedziyazov from Turkmenistan.

All the afore-mentioned attended the SET Plan Conference from 10-11 December 2014.





Dr. Massimo Izzi and Dr. Stepan Petrosyan at the SET Plan Conference | © Greca Campus (APRE)

On 11 December, three topic talks between Italian researchers from ENEA (Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development) and researchers from the Eastern Partnership countries were recorded:

- Environmental Aspects of Energy Development | Dr. Francesco di Mario talked with Dr. Islam Mustafayev from Azerbaijan
- Photovoltaic Technologies and Developments | Dr. Massimo Izzi talked with Dr. Stepan Petrosyan from Armenia
- Carbon Capture and Storage, and Geothermal Opportunities | Dr. Paolo Deiana talked with Dr. George Melikadze from Georgia

The respective videos will be published, as soon as they become available.

On 12 December, the EaP team participated at a one-day technical visit to ENEA's Research Centre in Casaccia following an official programme.

The partcipation of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian researchers in the SET Plan Conference, combined with the visit to one of the top Italian research centres, and the opportunities provided by the interviews are a good example of how the IncoNet EaP and CA project go about implementing their tasks: The feedback from the stakeholders was enthusiastic and the activity contributed to creating new mutual collaboration opportunities between the EU and EaP and CA countries.

Further information: SET Plan Conference website

EU-ASEAN STI Days:

Health Research and Climate Change from an International Perspective: Scientific Landscapes of EaP and CA Countries

17-19 March 2015 | Paris

The ASEAN-EU STI Days bring together researchers, scientists, science policy makers, innovative companies, and other stakeholders from ASEAN and EU countries for a yearly three-day conference on science, technology, and innovation issues and bi-regional co-operation in these fields.

This year two workshops dedicated to the Eastern Partnership region and Central Asia will be part of the programme.

Similarly to SEA-EU-NET 2 (the organisers of the STI Days), IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA also support the advancement of the policy dialogue among the European Union (EU) and the countries in the partner regions, aiming at mutual benefit and thus contributing to develop the collaboration in Science, Technology and Innovation.

These projects also explicitly focus on the societal challenges Climate Change/ Environment, Energy and Health so there is an obvious overlap of thematic focus areas. The main idea behind the invitation of these two projects to the STI days was the enlargement of the pool of researchers to reach a critical mass, to ensure networking on a larger scale on the above mentioned thematic fields.

In order to achieve this goal both slots dedicated to EaP and CA researchers are open for EU and ASEAN researchers. The invited speakers and stakeholders from the above regions will also participate in the Brokerage Event to become members of potential consortia in Horizon 2020 calls.

Objectives

- To inform EU and ASEAN researchers about the research landscape in EaP and CA countries.
- To network among the four regions.
- To build up new contacts and possible consortia for Horizon 2020 calls.

Thursday, 19 March 2015 | Time: 8:30 – 10:30:

<u>Climate Change and Water Management from an International Perspective</u>: Scientific Landscape of Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA) Countries

Thursday, 19 March 2015 | Time: 11:00 – 13:00:

<u>Health Research from an International Perspective</u>: Scientific Landscape of Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA) Countries

For the agendas and a full list of speakers please visit the workshop websites.

Source and detailed information: EU-ASEAN STI Days



Upcoming events March 2015

- 3 March 2015 | London
 '<u>Trouble in the Neighbourhood? The future of the EU's Eastern Partnership</u>'
 second seminar
- 1-5 March 2015 | Moscow <u>Extracellular vesicles: mechanisms of biogenesis and roles in disease</u> <u>pathogenesis</u>
- 5-6 March 2015 | Almaty <u>The VII International Conference Innovative Development Problems in Oil</u> <u>and Gas Industry</u>
- 2-6 March 2015 | Brussels ES:GC2 – 'EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration'
- **11-13 March 2015 | Sofia** <u>11th Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Forum and Exhibition for</u> <u>South-East Europe</u>
- 12-15 March 2015 | Suzdal
 Advanced Polaritonics and Photonics
- **17-18 March2015 | Berlin** Lab Surfing workshop on Future and Emerging Technologies
- **16-18 March 2015 | Montpellier** <u>Climate Smart Agriculture 2015 – Global Science Conference</u>
- 17-19 March 2015 | Paris Asean-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days
- **19 March 2015 | Paris** <u>Health Research from an International Perspective: Scientific Landscape of</u> <u>Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA) Countries</u>
- 19 March 2015 | Paris
 <u>Climate Change and Water Management from an International Perspective:</u>
 <u>Scientific Landscape of Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asian (CA)</u>
 <u>Countries</u>
- 18-19 March 2015 | Strasbourg European Cluster Days 2015
- **17-20 March 2015 | Moscow** International Congress and Exhibition 'Biotechnology: State of the Art and Prospects of Development' and 'Biotech World 2015'
- 25-17 March 2015 | Hanover Herrenhausen Conference 'Big Data'
- 31 March 2015 | Brussels
 Building a Knowledge-oriented and Forward-looking EU Neighbourhood

next article

back to overview

только на английском языке



Upcoming events April-June 2015

- 15 April 2015 | Bishkek Information Day on Horizon 2020 in Kyrgyzstan
- 13-15 April 2015 | Moscow
 EAGE/SPE Joint Workshop on Shale Oil
- **17 April 2015 | Tashkent** Information Day on Horizon 2020 in Uzbekistan
- 17-19 April 2015 | Moscow
 ICIPCE 2015 2015 International Conference on Information Processing
 and Control Engineering
- 22 April 2015 | Puschino
 Russian-German BioTech Session
- 19-23 April 2015 | Astana <u>Regenerative medicine for lifelong health and wellbeing</u>
- 28-30 April 2015 | Muehlheim an der Ruhr <u>Cities of the Future Conference</u>
- 16-19 May 2015 | St. Petersburg
 <u>22nd International 'Stress and Behavior' Neuroscience and Biopsychiatry</u>
 <u>Conference</u>
- 21-22 May 2015 | Riga
 Eastern Partnership Summit 2015
- 1-4 June 2015 | Vienna EUBCE 2015 – 23rd Biomass Conference and Exhibition
- 2-6 June 2015 | St. Petersburg <u>4th International Conference on Modern Problems of Genetics</u>, <u>Radiobiology</u>, <u>Radioecology</u>, <u>and Evolution</u>
- 10 June 2015 | Berlin Info session for SMEs on Precision Mechanics, Bio- and Labtechnology in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
- **10-12 June 2015 | Riga** <u>EuroNanoForum 2015</u>
- 16 June 2015 | Frankfurt am Main 2nd NoGAP Brokerage Event (Energy)
- 15-17 June 2015 | Riga <u>First Innovative Enterprise week 'Access to Finance for Research,</u> <u>Innovation and SMEs 2015'</u>
- **17-23 June 2015 | Tbilisi, Batumi und Kutaissi** Market Exploration Trip to Georgia for the German Construction Sector



Open Calls

Deadline: 3 March 2015

Joint Russian-French initiative research projects competition of the Russian Foundation for Basic research (RFBR) and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) in accordance with the Agreement on scientific cooperation with Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) proceeds with continuous competition NCNIL_a of joint research projects conducted by groups of Russian and French scientists in the research areas of mutual interest.

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Deadline: 31 March 2016

IncoNets EaP and CA support twinning activities - apply until 31 March!

Twinning itself has a long tradition in Europe as a an efficient instrument in capacity building processes. The IncoNet EaP and CA consortia plan to use this instrument to enhance STI cooperation and increase capacities on both sides. The grant scheme is envisaged to become a tool to develop sustainable cooperation among experienced EU and regional partners in the realm of Science, Technology and Innovation.

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Deadline: 12 May 2015

Horizon 2020 Call 'Encouraging the research and innovation cooperation between the Union and selected regional partners – proposals targeting Eastern Partnership'

A new call trageting the Eastern Partnership opened in December 2014. Its aim is to stimulate and enhance the cooperation between researchers from the Union and those of the regional partners in question, including and in particular through Horizon 2020 and the partner's funding programmes; and to eliminate remaining obstacles to cooperation between researchers from the Union and its international regional partners. Proposals should target international partners in a regional context.

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You might be missing another open call dedicated to our target regions here, which we were asked to not publish. We were also asked not to publish any reactions to this call. The editor of this newsletter and the incrEAST web portal complies with this request, although we would rather have presented the different view points and let you – as a well informed and educated audience – draw your own conculsuions.

More funding opportunities: <u>incrEAST calls page</u>

next article

back to overview

только на английском языке



Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan increases its international science cooperation

In recent years, international cooperation of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) has increased significantly. Connections with the academic institutions of foreign countries and international organisations has entered a new stage according to the President of ANAS, academician Akif Alizadeh, who emphasizes the great importance of relations with foreign countries and the benefits gained from their experience.

He stresses the interest of scientific institutions in Horizon 2020 and notes that, to ensure the active participation of scientists in the programme, national focal points for 16 priority areas habe been identified.

'Participation of a number of scientific institutions of Academy in the international grant projects is a result of effective scientific cooperation together with the advanced scientific centers of the USA, Germany, and Italy. I believe that the Azerbaijani scientists, first of all, have to take active part in the organization and carrying out joint researches on the scientific directions to the most actual, both for the country, and for the whole world with use of foreign experimental devices, not having analog in Azerbaijan.

I think that the Azerbaijani scientists, first of all, have to take active part in the organization and carrying out joint researches on the scientific directions to the most actual, both for the country, and for the whole world with use of foreign experimental devices, not having analog in Azerbaijan.

Today one of brightest examples for domestic science in this direction is participation of our scientists-physicists in CERN, geologists and geophysicists in MIT, and also in some other large-scale projects of Europe. Participation of Azerbaijan research institutes in such international mega-projects for local scientists opens possibilities of work with the most modern and also unique devices and the equipment.

Along with it, Azerbaijan can offer unique devices and natural phenomena on the basis of which it is possible to create the international research centers. Head of ANAS reported that in connection with this, one of the most important questions is transformation of the lead scientific institutions of Azerbaijan into the centers where large international projects and programs will be realized, and also involvement of foreign scientists in researches within a scientific exchange.' says the President of ANAS.

Source and full article: <u>ANAS | www.science.gov.az</u>





Georgia: Energy statistics - INOGATE helps Georgia develop its first complete energy balance

Georgia's Ministry of Energy and the National Statistics Office GEOSTAT have officially presented a major development in the energy statistics of Georgia – a complete energy balance developed in line with the internationally accepted standards. The work was done with the assistance of the EU-funded INOGATE Programme.

During the presentation on 26 December, Minister of Energy Kakha Kaladze underlined the long-standing and fruitful cooperation with the INOGATE programme, while Gogita Todradze, Head of Business Statistics Division of GEOSTAT, singled out 'methodological support of the EU-funded INOGATE Programme which largely contributed to the successful implementation of this work.'

The INOGATE experts and the Georgian stakeholders have worked closely since 2012 to elaborate a methodology and a model of energy data collection as well as to develop data monitoring forms and questionnaires. This work culminated in the preparation of the first comprehensive energy balance, which is a significant development for Georgia, particularly in light of its candidate status of the Energy Community, a press release said.

The EU-funded INOGATE Programme is the first large-scale regional cooperation programme promoting practical skills and know-how to its 11 partner countries to develop energy statistics according to international standards. The INOGATE Programme has been supporting cooperation in energy statistics between its 11 partner countries since 2012 with the aim to improve the quality and reliability of their energy statistics.

This work helped develop individual Action Plans for all 11 partner countries, enhance regional cooperation and exchange of experience, elaborate methodologies based on modern practices and strengthen capacities of national institutions in collecting, processing and disseminating a better quality data.

Source: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre





Kazakhstan:'Newton-Al-Farabi Partnership Programme' supports capacity building, people exchange & joint centres

The Newton Fund is part of the UK's official development assistance. Its aim is to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The 'Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme' is a five-year, £20 million joint programme launched in 2014 by the UK Government and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The programme will initially support capacity building, people exchange and joint centres. By working together on bi-latereal programmes the UK and Kazakhstan hope to build strong, sustainable, systemic relationships in research and innovation.

Source and further information: British Council





Kyrgyzstan: Virtual Science Library introduces remote log in feature

The Kyrgyzstan Virtual Science Library (VSL) has launched a remote log in feature, which will allow researchers to log into the VSL through any internet connection. Remote log in will facilitate the viewing and downloading of peer-reviewed journal articles by allowing users to enter the portal at their universities, libraries, home computers, or even abroad. To register, each user is required to provide basic contact information and the institution with which he/she is affiliated. The VSL provides an efficient way to search and access millions of full-text research articles. The website is accessible to faculty, students, researchers, laboratory technicians, and science and technology innovators working from their scientific institutions and universities.

The virtual science library will provide access to more than 12.8 million research articles and over 16,500 journals in all fields of science and technology. Cooperation on this project started three years ago and is scheduled to be completed in September 2015.

Source and further information: <u>Kyrgyzstan Virtual Science Library</u>







Moldova: EUCompetitevness Programme for SMEs launched in Moldova

On 5 December 2014, the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) was officially launched in the Republic of Moldova.

The event was conducted by the Organisation for the Development of the SME Sector in Moldova (ODIMM) in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, and with the support of the EU Technical Assistance to Sector Budget Support Programme 'Economic Stimulation in Rural Areas'.

Moldova is eligible to 3 out of the 4 COSME actions:

- Access to markets;
- Supporting entrepreneurs;
- More favorable conditions for business creation and growth.

The agreement on the participation of the Republic of Moldova to the COSME programme was signed by the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on 29 September 2014. As a result, Moldova becomes the first Eastern Partnership country that joined COSME Programme.

Source: Organisation for the Development of the SME Sector in Moldova



английском языке

EU-Russia Year of Science 2014 - 12 Months of Excellence and Cooperation in Science, Higher Education and Innovation



This <u>booklet</u> provides a chronology of the events which have taken place as part of the EU-Russia Year of Science, and with its selection of some of its highlights tries to give a flavour of the vibrancy and dynamism which made the Year such a success. Scientific cooperation between the European Union, its Member States and the Russian Federation has been a story of remarkable achievements.



Source: EU-Russia Year of Science 2014

Russia: Green light for EU-Russia project CREMLIN to start in autumn

The European Commission has given the green light for a new collaborative project: as part of the European research program Horizon 2020, the threeyear project CREMLIN (Connecting Russian and European Measures for Largescale Research Infrastructures) will create stronger links between European and Russian research institutions in the area of large-scale facilities and enable a more intensive scientific and technological cooperation.

'With CREMLIN we bring two research landscapes, with a longstanding tradition of scientific cooperation, even closer together,' says Prof. Helmut Dosch, Chairman of the DESY Directorate. A total of 13 European and 6 Russian research centers and institutions will join forces in the 1.7-million-euro project which seeks to improve the integration and facilitate the exchange between Europe and Russia.

For some time, Russia has been planning the construction of new large-scale research facilities on its own soil. While Russia participates in European research facilities such as the European XFEL, FAIR, ESRF or in the LHC experiments at CERN, CREMLIN should also support European scientists to become engaged in major Russian projects. For example, the research program of the planned Russian Research Reactor PIK, close to St. Petersburg, can be coordinated with those of European neutron sources, or the ion acceleration system NICA could be aligned with FAIR.

The project, which received excellent marks in its Commission assessment, is to be launched in autumn 2015.

Source and further information: <u>DESY</u>

Russia: Facilitating EU-Russian Scientific and Societal Engagement

In an article for 'Science and Diplomacy', a quartely publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the authors Alexander Sokolov, Karel Haegeman, Manfred Spiesberger, and Mark Boden reflect on EU-Russia relations in the field of science and technology cooperation.

Their article 'describes an approach aimed at better understanding these challenges and determining how future scientific collaborations can most appropriately and effectively tackle them'.

They are convinced that 'Now, with the events in Ukraine and mutual EU and Russian sanctions, science can again—as it did during and immediately after the Cold War—play a role in sustaining dialogue and continuing fruitful and mutually beneficial connections that could help reestablish broader links.'

Source and full article: <u>Science & Diplomacy</u>





Russia: Science Minister Livanov announces support for research in 'promising areas of multilateral cooperation' under Horizon 2020

In an interview with weekly science magazine 'nature', Dmitry Livanov said that the government is planning support for researchers in potential areas of international collaboration under Horizon 2020.

As Russia – like other industrialised countries and emerging economies – is not eligible for funding from the European Commission, Livanov announced a scheme to support Russian researchers' participation in Horizon 2020 for next year. The minister specifically mentioned 'Future Emerging Technologies and ERA-NET projects' as areas of cooperation.

In his interview with 'nature' the minister also talked about the current circumstances for international science cooperation and the funding situation in Russia.

Source and full article: nature

Russia: 'Noah's Ark': Russia to build world's first complete DNA databank

Moscow State University (MSU) has been awarded Russia's largest-ever science grant for the project 'Noah's Ark' on the construction of a 430 sq km facility to hold DNA. If the project is successful it will hold DNA samples from every known species, living and extinct, by 2018.

'It will enable us to cryogenically freeze and store various cellular materials, which can then reproduce. It will also contain information systems. Not everything needs to be kept in a petri dish,' explaines MSU rector Sadivnichy.

The new database will first be sourced with materials already being held by the university's many research departments, including the zoological museum, botanical garden and anthropological museum. All of its departments will also be involved in sourcing new material.

While the new database will be grand in its aims, it's not entirely unique; the country has also begun work to create a storage facility in Siberia that will use thick, ice-cold permafrost to preserve a variety of seed and plant samples for posterity.

Source and full article: UPI





Russia: Factsheet on local support for Horizon 2020 participants from Russia

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A short <u>factsheet</u> outlining the general framework of EU-Russia science and technlogy cooperation under Horizon 2020 was recently published as part of the online manual of the EU's participant portal.

The factsheet also lists current contact options for further information. Russian National Contact Points (NCPs) are now being appointed. Their contact information is expected to become available shortly.

Source: European Commission Participant Portal



Russia: Horizon 2020 Practical Guide for Russian Researchers



This brochure in Russian language offers comprehensive information about Horizon 2020.

It is specifically directed at researchers from Russia.

Source: Delegation of the European Union to Russia



Ukraine: 'Polish Erasmus for Ukraine' supports Ukraine in Higher Education

Poland's Ministry of Science wants 400 more students and 50 graduate students from Ukraine to start studying in Poland in February 2015 - said Polish Minister of Science Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, who met with the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine. Serhiv Kwit in late January. The Polish Science Minister visited Kiev as a member of the government delegation of Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz, which met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenjouk.

'Poland supports Ukraine in building the structures of a democratic and modern state, as well as its efforts to conclude an association agreement with the European Union. Cooperation in the field of higher education is also subordinated to that. Programs involving Ukrainian students focus on building staff competence and experience for the Ukrainian state and economy" - said Kolarska-Bobińska.



Source: Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Ukraine: 'Horizon 2020 Ukraine' - web portal in Ukrainian language and links to National Contact Points





next article

back to

только на

overview

английском языке

All about Horizon 2020, the EU's current Framework Programme for Ressearch and Innovation, in Ukrainian language, plus related news, events, and documents. The portal also offers links to the Ukrainian National Contact Points, which provide support and advice to Ukrainian participants in Horizon 2020.

Linkto the web portal: <u>http://h2020.link/</u>



Ukraine: BILAT-UKR*AINA 2nd Stakeholders Forum

27-28 January 2015 | Kiyv

Lessons learnt and good practices of the process of association to Framework Programmes and innovation supporting measures and policies were in the focus of the 2nd Stakeholders' Forum of the project BILAT-UKR*AINA held on 27-28 January, Kyiv, Ukraine. Presentations of distinguished speakers being experts of these fields enriched the programme followed by discussions. The event was of high interest; more than 70 participants registered and attended.

Since Ukraine will officially associate to Horizon 2020 in the forthcoming months, the event proved to be even more appropriate. Research and innovation is an important field in which Ukraine is linking ties closer with the EU. The significance of the event was underlined by Dr. Maksym Strikha, Deputy Minister of Education and Science for Ukraine, Anatoly Zagorodny, Vice President of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine as well as Thierry Devars, International Relations Officer of the EC responsible for the BILAT-UKR*AINA. On behalf of the consortium, Mr. Gorazd Weiss, BILAT-UKR*AINA project coordinator, presented also the latest project results.



impression from the 2nd Stakeholders Forum | © Gorazd Weiss, BILAT UKR*AINA project

During the first session, important lessons learnt on the process of association and possible benefits were demonstrated by country examples, such as from Poland, Hungary, and Moldova which associated H2020 last year.

Efficient use of opportunities provided by research and innovation FPs necessitates the existence of a well-organised NCP system. First, the current structure and services provided by Ukrainian NCP network were introduced. Practices of certain EU Member States (i.e. Germany, France, Hungary, Poland, and Austria) presented in the forum would definitely provide good examples for the reinforcement of the present system.

Based on the peer review of the current Ukrainian system executed by the project BILAT-UKR*AINA, it was highlighted that at first place, standardisation and introduction of internal rules would be needed in the system. Additionally, ongoing dialogue with the EC and NCPs from other MSs and ACs shall be reinforced to channel in information, good practices and useful contacts.



английском языке





Impression from the 2nd Stakeholders Forum | ${\mathbb C}$ Gorazd Weiss, BILAT UKR*AINA project

On the second day, presentations focused on the theoretical background and case studies of innovation supporting measures and policies. Also, main difficulties of research and innovation cooperation between Ukraine and the EU were outlined. Examples of good cooperation between EU Member States and Ukraine were demonstrated and quite probably deepened through the formal and informal discussions.

Conclusions of the two-day event are summarising the most relevant practices and lessons learnt from EU Member States which can serve as good examples for Ukraine.

Source: Gorazd Weiss, ZSI

Ukraine: NATO SPS programme boosting scientific cooperation

Ukraine is now the top beneficiary of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, according to a feature article on the NATO website. Practical, scientific cooperation with the country is being increased substantially in response to the crisis in Ukraine. Previously, Russia received the most SPS funds but cooperation has been suspended until further notice. The SPS Programme is a NATO policy tool that enhances cooperation and dialogue with all partners, based on scientific research, innovation, and knowledge exchange. It provides funding, expert advice, and support to security-relevant activities.

'SPS projects with Ukraine not only have a scientific value – they also have a substantial impact on security,' says NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, Ambassador Sorin Ducaru. 'The SPS Programme is a versatile tool – through our cooperation with Ukraine we have created a model of practical cooperation.'

In line with decisions taken at the last NATO Summit, the SPS Programme has more than doubled the initial allocation of funds for activities with Ukraine in 2014. Since April 2014, 15 new SPS activities, including 12 large-scale multi-year projects have been approved.



английском языке

Source: NATO

Новости на русском языке

Россия: В России появится первый в мире банк биоматериалов всех живых организмов

Первый в мире банк биоматериалов всех живых организмов будет создан МГУ им. М.В. Ломоносова в рамках крупнейшего научного гранта «Ноев ковчег», сообщил Виктор Садовничий. В основу банка лягут коллекции, которыми уже располагает университет. Депозитарий для хранения биоматериалов планируется построить на новой территории университета на Воробьёвых горах. Ведущий научный сотрудник кафедры молекулярной биологии МГУ Пётр Каменский рассказал RT, какие типы биоматериалов будут храниться в депозитарии и в чём состоит принципиальное отличие банка биоматериалов МГУ от уже существующих как в России, так и за рубежом.

Выигранный МГУ конкурс Российского научного фонда предполагает создание депозитария — банка данных всего живого на Земле, сообщает РИА Новости. По словам ректора университета Виктора Садовничего, он будет включать в себя и те виды, которые «исчезают, и те, которые здравствуют». Кроме того, по его словам, будет создана система, объединяющая этот банк данных с другими, которые есть в России, а может быть и за рубежом. На первом этапе на данный проект был выделен 1 млрд рублей.

«МГУ подал заявку с описанием научной основы создания Национального банка депозитария живых систем. При этом планы у Московского университета гораздо более масштабные, потому что научные основы — это хорошо, а сам депозитарий — ещё лучше. Потому что научные основы — это фундаментальная наука, а депозитарий — ещё и инфраструктурные моменты, в том числе строительство. Соответственно, то, что ректор университета называет «Ноев ковчег», подразумевает и науку, и создание соответствующей инфраструктуры», — рассказал RT ведущий научный сотрудник кафедры молекулярной биологии МГУ Пётр Каменский.

Он объяснил, что в новом банке могут храниться практически любые типы биоматериала.

«Например, это могут быть и классические биологические коллекции: то, что уже есть в МГУ, но что ещё необходимо развивать и выводить на мировой уровень. Это Зоологический музей, где представлены разнообразные виды животных нашей планеты. Это Гербарий с обширной коллекцией засушенных растений. Это и антропологическая коллекция: у нас есть НИИ антропологии, где хранятся человеческие черепа и кости», — добавил учёный. По его мнению, всем этим учреждениям необходимо развиваться, так что полученный университетом грант как раз поспособствует задачам дальнейшего развития.

«Кроме того, мы хотим хранить в депозитарии клеточный и молекулярный материал. Это как раз то, что в университете пока развито несколько слабее. Здесь подразумевается биоматериал человека, культуры клеток и тканей человека, клетки животных и растений в живом виде или в виде культур клеток, микробы, грибы — в общем, практически все виды биоматериала», — рассказал Каменский.

Источник: <u>RT на русском</u>



Новости на русском языке

Грузия: Энергетическая статистика – ИНОГЕЙТ помог Грузии разработать первый полный энергетический баланс

Министерство энергетики и Национальный статистический институт Грузии "ГЕОСТАТ" официально представили новейшую разработку в сфере энергетической статистики Грузии: полный энергетический баланс, составленный в соответствии с международно-признанными стандартами. Работа выполнена при поддержке финансируемой ЕС программы ИНОГЕЙТ.

На презентации, состоявшейся 26 декабря, министр энергетики Грузии Каха Каладзе подчеркнул давнее и плодотворное сотрудничество с программой ИНОГЕЙТ, а начальник Отделения бизнес-статистики института "ГЕОСТАТ" Гогита Тодрадзе, отметил "методологическую помощь финансируемой ЕС программы ИНОГЕЙТ, которая в значительной степени способствовала успешному выполнению этой работы".

Начиная с 2012 года, эксперты программы ИНОГЕЙТ и бенефициары в Грузии тесно сотрудничали в разработке методологии и модели сбора энергетических данных, а также в подготовке статистических вопросников и форм мониторинга данных. Результатом этой работы стал первый полный энергетический баланс, который имеет особую важность для Грузии в свете ее статуса кандидата в члены Энергетического сообщества, говорится в пресс-релизе.

Финансируемая ЕС программа ИНОГЕЙТ - это первая крупномасштабная региональная программа сотрудничества, которая содействует наработке практических навыков и ноу-хау по развитию энергетической статистики в 11 странах-партнерах в соответствии с международными стандартами. Программа ИНОГЕЙТ с 2012 года поддерживает сотрудничество в энергетической статистике между 11 странами-партнерами с целью повышения качества и надежности их энергетической статистики.

Это сотрудничество помогло составить индивидуальные планы действий для всех 11 стран-партнеров, усилить региональную кооперацию и обмен опытом, разработать методики, основанные на современной практике, и улучшить профессиональные навыки национальных учреждений в сборе, обработке и распространении качественных статистических данных.

Источник: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

Горизонт 2020 – Практическое руководство для исследователей из России



Брошюра о Горизонт 2020 на русском языке.

Научно-инновационное сотрудничество между Европейским Союзом и Российской Федерацией успешно развивается на протяжении последних двадцати лет.

В 7РП Российская Федерация являлась одним из самых активных и успешных международных партнеров. Более 500 участников из России были вовлечены в реализацию порядка 350 проектов в рамках данной программы.







Год науки Россия-ЕС 2014: 12 Imprint/ месяцев превосходного сотруд- Выходные данные ничества науке, высшем B образовании и инновациях



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