

Dear Reader,

'Health Research and Innovation' are in the focus of two Policy Stakeholders Conferences this spring. The first one addresses EU-Eastern Partnership cooperation on the issue and will be held in Budapest on 19-20 April 2016, alongside two other major health events. It will be the third in a series of policy dialogue activities organised by the IncoNet EaP project.

Just a little later, on 16-17 May 2016, Warsaw will host the 'EU-Central Asia Policy Stakeholders Conference on STI Cooperation in Addressing Health Research and Innovation'. This event is organised by the IncoNe CA project and will also be the third in a series of events that tackle EU-Central Asia STI cooperation on key societal challenges.

[Learn more...](#)

EBRD, EU and GEF promote Climate Change Mitigation in Ukraine

Ukraine has become the newest member of the Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change (FINTECC) programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) designed to transfer technology in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation. FINTECC will help Ukrainian businesses invest in the best available technologies, which will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

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[more EU news](#)

[more on climate change](#)

EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference on Health in Budapest, 19-20 April 2016

The IncoNet EaP project organises its 3rd EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference (PSC). The upcoming event will address 'Health' as a focus area of EU-Eastern Partnership Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation. A draft agenda is now available. This year's PSC will take place alongside two major health events which will also be held in Budapest in April.

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[more regional news](#)

[more on health](#)

Moldova's new 'Sustainable Energy Information Centre' announced at Eco Energetică Awards

The establishment of a national Sustainable Energy Information Centre for Moldova with the support of experts from the EU-funded energy programme INOGATE was announced at Moldova's Eco Energetica Awards on 4 December. The Centre, which will officially be opened in March 2016, will be a hands-on, learning environment to create greater awareness of energy efficiency.

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EU and regional news

EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference on Health

19- 20 April 2016 | Budapest

The upcoming conference will address 'Health' as a focus area of EU-Eastern Partnership Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation. IncoNet EaP's 3rd Policy Stakeholders' Conference will take place alongside two major health events, which will also be held in Budapest.

The event will take place at Danubius Hotel Gellért.

Programme

For details please download the [Preliminary Agenda](#).

Other 'Health' events in Budapest in April 2016

The 3rd IncoNet EaP Policy Stakeholders Conference has been adjusted to two major health events which will also take place in Budapest in late April:

- 21-24 April 2016
[ADI 2016 – 31st International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease](#)
- 22-23 April 2016
[Onco Update Europe 2016](#)

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Learn more about IncoNet EaP's [previous EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders' Conferences...](#)

Source and further information: [IncoNet EaP](#)

EU-Central Asia Policy Stakeholders Conference on Health

16-17 May 2018 | Warsaw

Visit the [IncoNet CA website](#) for updates on this event!

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11th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting

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click image to download infographic from EEAS website | © European Union, 1995-2016

21 December 2015 | Astana

Federica Mogherini, the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, visited Astana on 21 December 2015, where she chaired the 11th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting. Ministers and Deputy Ministers from the five Central Asian Republics, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also participated in the meeting.

'What happens in this region of the world is extremely important for the European Union', said the High Representative following the Ministerial. 'The new EU Strategy on Central Asia is a strong sign of the political investment by all EU Member States and the European institutions in a strategic partnership, a strategic relationship with Central Asia. Only through strengthened cooperation can we solve the challenges we have and take full advantage of the many opportunities our regions have', she added.

The discussions focused on the development of overall relations between the EU and Central Asia, particularly in light of the [recent review of the EU Central Asia Strategy](#), regional and international issues of mutual interest across a range of sectors, and approaches to combatting common threats and challenges. The meeting also served as an opportunity to discuss the strong support to and engagement in the region, including by the European financial institutions. EU support to programmes in the Central Asian countries will amount to over EUR 1 billion for the period 2014-2020.

Downloads:

- [EU-CA Ministerial Meeting - Joint Press Release](#)
- [EU-Central Asia Cooperation - Infographic](#) (s. above, PDF, 2 MB)

Source: [European External Action Service](#)

EU and regional news

Research Commissioner advances plans for new European Innovation Council

As 2016 gets under way, the EU Research Commissioner Carlos Moedas will start to lay the foundations for an ambitious new institute. The aim is to create a cohesive pan-European body for innovation that will parallel what the European Research Council has done for science.

The EU Research Commissioner is now moving ahead with his plan to create a European Innovation Council (EIC), to act as a one stop shop for innovation and bring order to the widely dispersed innovation competitions running under the Horizon 2020 R&D programme.

European Commission officials have been working on the initiative behind the scenes for a few months and are now beginning to tap ideas from universities and industry on what exactly the new council should do.

As yet, there is no firm timetable, however, a spokeswoman for the Commissioner told Science|Business, 'We are currently analysing the ideas and contributions received [from] a number of stakeholders and foresee a number of events over the coming months to deepen the debate on the EIC's future set-up.'

Source and further information: [Science|Business](#)

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AAAS-TWAS Science Diplomacy Course - apply until 4 March 2016

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Washington DC, and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Trieste, Italy are seeking candidates to participate in the third AAAS-TWAS Course on Science and Diplomacy to be held in Trieste, Italy, from 11 to 16 July 2016.

The course will expose participants to key contemporary international policy issues relating to science, technology, environment and health, while providing an overview of how technical information has contributed to different policy developments and international structures, both physical and political. Another focus of the course will be to gain a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the roles that governments, international organisations and the private sector play in complex science-based issues, and how different governance structures are developed to address the needs of these different stakeholders.

The third AAAS-TWAS Course on Science and Diplomacy will encourage active interaction among participants as they develop a project that builds on the case studies presented through the week. By the end of the workshop, each group will have prepared and presented a short summary memo on a topic or theme related to science, health or technology and their applications that has relevance to the international policy community. Written papers will then be prepared for publication on the TWAS website.

Source and further information: [TWAS](#)

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EU and regional news

NoGAP Final Conference in Cluj Napoca 27-28 July 2016



research, innovation, business creation



© NoGAP project

Final Event: 'Knowledge Transfer Community to bridge the gap between research, innovation and business creation' in ENERGY

The overall objective of the NoGAP project (September 2013-August 2016) is to reinforce cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries to develop a 'Common Knowledge and Innovation Space' on the societal challenge 'secure, clean and efficient energy'. The NoGAP consortium is composed of 13 organisations from 6 countries of which 3 are EU members (Germany, Romania, Slovakia) and 3 are members of the Eastern Partnership (Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia).

The project's Final Event will present an overview of its activities, which aim at fostering the transfer of technology in the energy sector. They included trainings for researchers, companies and multipliers as well as twinnings between EU and EaP countries, analytical work and networking and brokerage events.

Together with other relevant projects, synergies for the cooperation in science, technology and innovation in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and with partners from EU Member States will be discussed.

Sessions are going to center around examples of country experiences in the transfer of technologies in the energy sector. The presentation of funding schemes will open up new opportunities for stakeholders from all over the region and the EU. The conference aims at identifying good practice that can be applied in other countries and industries. Networking among stakeholders will be facilitated as well.

The event is organised by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTC-N) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

- Proceed to [online registration](#).
- Download the [preliminary agenda](#).

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Source and further information: [NoGAP](#)

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EU and regional news

Advisory Assistance Programme: Environment Expertise in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and beyond

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Germany's 'Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety' (BMUB) is responsible for a wide range of government policies reflected in its name. Since 2000, BMUB's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) has supported the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and other EU neighbouring regions in a development which is aligned to European environmental standards. A new brochure available in German, English and Russian presents the Advisory Assistance Programme, its framework and motivation.

To learn more about the Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) and to download the brochure, please select your preferred language:

- [English](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [German](#)

The links will take you directly to the website of the Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt, UBA), Germany's main environmental protection agency, which in addition to its core activities also offers valuable environment related information regarding international research cooperation (see background info below).



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Background

The cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and other countries neighbouring the EU is a focus of international activities of the Federal Environmental Agency.

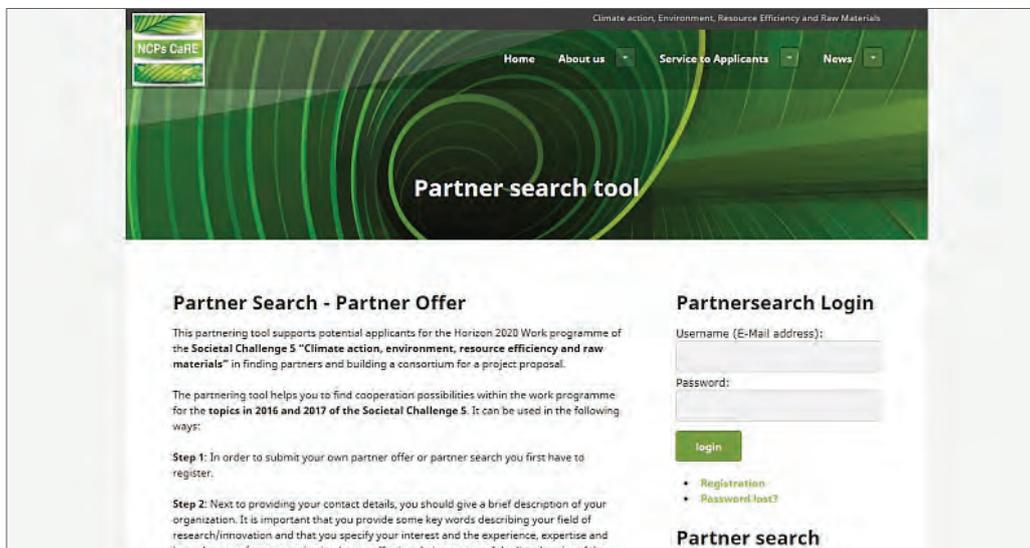
The Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry (BMUB) supports countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union in their efforts to advance environmental protection.

The AAP database lists all projects realised by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) since 2000 and contains project information on most of these projects as well as project results.

Source: [UBA](#)

EU and regional news

Partner Search Tool for those active in Societal Challenge 5 of Horizon 2020



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© NCPs CaRE project

This partnering tool by the NCPs CaRE project supports potential applicants for the Horizon 2020 Work programme of the Societal Challenge 5 '**Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials**' in finding partners and building a consortium for a project proposal.

The NCPs CaRE project strives to form a joint cooperation network of experienced and less-experienced National Contact Points on Societal Challenge 5, which aims at pooling their resources and know-how to raise the overall quality of services provided to their clients.

Source: [NCPs CaRE](#)

BSH Workshops to identify 'Pertinent Topics for RTI Cooperation'

The Black Sea Horizon project announces three workshops scheduled for March 2016 and focusing on the thematic fields 'sustainable agriculture', 'resource efficiency and environment' and 'chemistry and smart materials'. They will take place in Sofia, Moscow and Tbilisi, and offer a platform to discuss and identify future research sub-topics that are of mutual interest for both regions:

- Workshop1: '[The Future of Agriculture: Grand Challenges and Technological Change](#)' | March 2016, Moscow
- Workshop2: '[Resource efficiency and environment - Black Sea Region Challenges](#)' | March 2016, Tbilisi
- Workshop 3: '[Applied research in chemistry: Smart materials for a smart future](#)' | March 2016, Sofia

Source and further information: [Black Sea Horizon](#)

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EU and regional news

New project ahead - EU-STRAT 'The EU and EaP Countries: An Inside-Out Analysis and Strategic Assessment'

What should the EU do to support Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova? How can the European Union adapt its policies towards these countries in a very difficult and challenging geopolitical context? Ten years after its inception, the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) has fallen short of accomplishing its mission and is currently undergoing major changes. The conflict in Ukraine and rising tensions with Russia have made a re-assessment of the EU's tools and approaches to its Eastern neighbourhood both more urgent and more challenging than ever.

A team of 11 partners will conduct research on developments in the Eastern Neighbourhood. The EU-STRAT project ('The EU and Eastern Partnership Countries: An Inside-Out Analysis and Strategic Assessment') will address two main questions:

- First, why has the EU fallen short of creating peace, prosperity and stability in its Eastern neighbourhood?
- And secondly, what can be done to strengthen the EU's transformative power in supporting political and economic change in the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries?

Research under EU-STRAT is expected to start in May 2016, as Leiden University reports.

Source and further information: [Leiden University](#)

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IncoNet EaP publishes Conclusions of EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conference on Energy



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The Policy Stakeholders Conference 'Energy Research and Innovation in the Eastern Partnership' was held in Minsk, Belarus on 12-13 October 2015.

It was the second PSC organised by the IncoNet EaP project and the seventh in a series of similar successful forums for policy dialogue organised in the framework of its predecessor Project IncoNet EECA.

Participants represented public policy coordination bodies at national and EU level, international organisations, and major international projects in the energy sector.

Source: [IncoNet EaP](#)

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EU and regional news

Key information about the 'Europe 2020' strategy and related concepts now available in Russian

The 'Europe 2020 Strategy' is the main instrument of the European Union defining its policy of growth in the coming decade. In a rapidly changing world, the EU would like to achieve a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. These three mutually reinforcing priorities should help the EU and its Member States to ensure a high level of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Research and innovation contribute directly to the European level of prosperity and well-being of individuals and society as a whole. The main aim of policy in the field of research and technological development is to transform the European Union into a leading knowledge based economy.

To better understand the 'Europe 2020 strategy,' as well as for information about the layout of the 'Innovation Union' and such concepts as the 'European Technology Platforms', the 'European Technology Market', the 'Enterprise Europe Network' and to find out what 'Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC)' are all about, please check the following documents.

Key documents in Russian

- [Стратегия Европа-2020](#)
(Information about the 'Europe-2020' strategy)
- [Европейская Предпринимательская Сеть – ЕПС](#)
(Information about the 'Enterprise Europe Network')
- [Единое Европейское Исследовательское пространство](#)
(Information about the 'European Research Area')
- [Что такое Европейские Технологические Платформы?](#)
(What are 'European Technology Platforms'?)
- [Табло производительности в рамках мониторинга Инновационного Союза \(интерактивная карта развития инноваций\)](#)
(What is an 'Innovation Trendchart' and how is it formed?)
- [Инновационный Союз](#)
(What is the 'Innovation Union'?)
- [Сообщества знаний и инноваций](#)
(What are the 'Knowledge and Innovation Communities'?)

More [background information...](#)

Source: [InExCB-KZ](#)

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EU and regional news

Innovation performance of selected EECA countries discussed in Minsk

An International Conference titled 'Better Policies for More Innovation: Assessment – Implementation – Monitoring' was held in Minsk on 17-18 November 2015 by the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic Belarus and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The event was organised in the framework of so-called Innovation Performance Reviews (IPRs), a series of analytic country studies on the state of innovation performance of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine undertaken by the UNECE in 2010-2015. The IPR reports are available online at the UNECE website.

The idea of the Conference was to sum up the outcomes of the reviews and develop recommendations for the second round of the IPRs to be launched in the interested EECA countries starting from 2016. UNECE is not the only organisation working in this area: the European Commission supports similar activities within FP7-funded projects aimed at promoting bi-regional dialogue in science, technology and innovation between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries/Central Asia. Thus, discussing different methodological approaches and sharing practices is of significant interests for all involved parties.

The number of participants exceeded 110 people including experts from Germany, UK, Hungary, Belgium, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus and UNECE. The pull of Belarusian experts included representatives of national academic community, government bodies, research institutions, business sector and etc. The results of the Conference have allowed to identify the main bottlenecks and opportunities arising when performing the 1st Review in 2010–2015, to propose some addenda to current Review's methodology, and to prepare the field for the second round of the Review. In particular, the separate part of the review will analyse how innovation helps in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals defined in the recently adopted UN strategy 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

Belarus has pioneered to be the first country in second round of the IPR, Armenia applied for undertaking it in 2017. On 19-24 November 2015 the preparatory fact-finding mission of the UNECE experts for the IPR II took place in Minsk. The next stage of the national study is planned for the spring of 2016, when a big team of international experts invited by the UNECE will visit Belarus to explore to how extent the country has used the recommendations provided 5 years ago in the 1st IPR.

Information on the topic in Russian, including materials and photos of the Conference are available at the [National Science Portal of the Republic of Belarus](#).

Source: [BellSA](#)

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Open Calls

Deadline: 21 March 2016

[Armenia: Call for Proposals to support Organic Agriculture Initiatives](#)

The Organic Agriculture Support Initiative (OASI), a project supported by the European Union with contribution from Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), aims at further developing organic agriculture in Armenia. To be eligible, project should fall into at least one of the following two priorities: 1. Encourage smallholder farmers to switch from traditional/conventional to organic agriculture or 2. Enhance productivity and market access of already established organic farmers and processors.

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Deadline: 24 March 2016

[HOMING – Project based postdoctoral fellowships for young doctors coming to Poland from abroad](#)

The aim of the HOMING programme is to improve the human potential in the R&D sector by financing breakthrough projects designed as postdoctoral fellowships, carried out by young doctors (postdocs) from all over the world (regardless of nationality), with a special focus on the return to Poland of outstanding scientists of Polish descent.

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Deadline: 30 March 2016

[IRA SME Call open to Russian participation](#)

The 17th IraSME call is organised and funded by national & regional ministries & agencies participating in the IraSME network through their existing funding programmes. Russia: Only small enterprises (< 100 employees) are eligible, research organisations only as subcontractors.

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New extended Deadline: 31 March 2016

[Regional Mobility Fund for Experts in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans](#)

The objective of the Regional Mobility Fund (RMF) is to encourage the mobility of civil society/ think tank/ academic experts in the region as to foster knowledge sharing, expertise and exchange of best practices within the framework of enabling environment for CSOs and the Istanbul Principles. The RMF for Experts in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans is initiated by the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND with the financial support of CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE).

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*More funding opportunities: [incrEAST calls page](#)
Open Calls under Horizon2020: [Participant Portal](#)*

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Upcoming Events

- 3 March 2016 | Brussels
[Science with and for Society Brokerage Event](#)
- 14-17 March 2016 | Astana
[Workshop on Water Management and Environmental Impact Assessment in the Oil and Gas Industry](#)
- 14-18 March 2016 | Hanover
[Future Match 2016 at CeBIT](#)
- 23-25 March 25 2016 | Moscow
[5th Conference on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)
- 4-6 April 2016 | Almaty
[Symposium on Agricultural Transitions along the Silk Road: Restructuring, Resources and Trade in the Central Asia Region](#)
- 6-7 April | Prague
[FoodIntegrity 2016: Assuring the integrity of the food chain - Fighting food fraud](#)
- 8-9 April 2016 | Almaty
[Kimep International Research Conference](#)
- 11-12 April 2016 | Athens
[Workshop on EU-Central Asia Water-related Research Collaboration](#)
- 19-20 April 2016 | Budapest
[Policy Stakeholders Conference 'EU-Eastern Partnership STI Cooperation in Addressing Health Research and Innovation'](#)
- 25-26 April 2016 | Istanbul
[Training for National Contact Points in Central Asian Countries](#)
- 16-17 May 2016 | Warsaw
[Policy Stakeholders Conference 'EU-Central Asia STI Cooperation in Addressing Health Research and Innovation'](#)
- 17-19 May 2016 | Obninsk
[Conference on 'Health Effects of Chernobyl: Prediction and Actual Data 30 Years after the Accident'](#)
- 24-26 2016 | Moscow
[Medical Diagnostics 2016](#)
- 21-23 June 2016 | Budapest
[IPC 2016 – International Scientific Conference on Probiotics and Prebiotics](#)
- 27-28 July 2016 | Cluj Napoca
[NoGAP Final Conference](#)

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For more events visit the [incrEAST calendar](#).

country news



Armenia to join Horizon 2020 soon

As the website 'Horizon2020 Projects' reports, the European Commission will soon sign a deal with Armenia to enable its participation in Horizon 2020.

The original announcement was made by the Armenian Minister of Education and Science, Armen Ashotyan, following talks in Brussels. According to his Facebook page, the deal will be signed in 2016.

The minister wrote: 'The agreement is to be signed in January next year. Our scientists are expected to become full beneficiaries of the mega-project.' Brussels and Yerevan have been negotiating Armenia's participation in the EU research and innovation framework programme during the last few months.

Source and further information: [Horizon2020 Projects](#)

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Armenia: Call for Proposals to support Organic Agriculture Initiatives

Deadline: 21 March 2016

The Organic Agriculture Support Initiative (OASI), a project supported by the European Union with contribution from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), aims at further developing organic agriculture in Armenia. The initial success of the organic products on domestic and international markets is to be enhanced by improving the policy and regulatory framework, provision of comprehensive product development as well as marketing support. Support functions, i.e. extension and certification services will be further developed through demand-driven trainings and strengthening of existing local organisations. Financial support for farmers' groups, cooperatives, processing units as well as other actors along the value chain will be addressed through a targeted grant scheme.

To be eligible, project should fall into at least one of the following two priorities:

1. Encourage smallholder farmers to switch from traditional/conventional to organic agriculture, or
2. Enhance productivity and market access of already established organic farmers and processors.

Deadline for submission of full application: 21 March 2016, 16:00 CET.

Source and full Call information: [Austrian Development Agency](#)

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Country Report February 2016



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Armenia updated

Experts at the 'National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia' (NAS RA) have updated the incrEAST Country Report for Armenia, which is now available online as well as for download in PDF format, both in English and in [Russian](#) language.

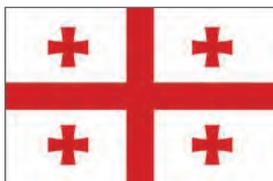
The report provides detailed information about the scientific landscape, research structure, STI policies and international cooperation activities of Armenia.

Source: [NAS RA](#)

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Georgia will introduce German model of higher education

Georgia's Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili says Georgia will introduce the German model of higher education where the Government will fund the most needed professions, as 'Agenda.ge' reports. While meeting businessmen in the capital Tbilisi, PM Kvirikashvili spoke about the necessity of a systemic reform of higher education in Georgia.

He said Germany's higher education system was the 'most effective' model and Georgia would adopt this model to develop the country's tertiary education sector.

'I believe the German model [is the best] as the country founded the modern-day education system', Kvirikashvili said. The PM emphasised through the new education system, the Government would finance the professions demanded by certain industries and not only those wished by youth.

Kvirikashvili believed the higher education reform might force changes within existing educational institutions so they can respond to necessity upgrades however in the long run this would be hugely beneficial for Georgia and its students.

Source and further information in German: [Agenda.ge](#)

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EU and Kazakhstan sign Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, and Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, signed the 'EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement' in Astana on 21 December 2015. Prior to the signing, the EU delegation was received by Prime Minister Karim Massimov.

Idrissov emphasised that 'Kazakhstan and the EU will enhance cooperation within the framework of educational programmes, research activities, and a framework agreement seizes many opportunities to deepen cooperation in this very important area.'

EU High Representative Mogherini added: 'Kazakhstan has become the first of our Central Asian partners to conclude a new generation agreement with the EU. [...] The new agreement will give a significant boost to economic and political ties between the EU and Kazakhstan.'

The Agreement will reinforce cooperation in 29 key policy areas, including energy, environment and climate change, education and research. The new Agreement will replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement that has been in force since 1999.

Source and further information: [Astana Times](#)

Changing the Mindset - Commercialisation of Innovation in Kazakhstan

A feature article on the World Bank's website highlights the achievements of Kazakhstan's 'Technology Commercialisation Project'.

This World Bank-financed project was designed to improve science in Kazakhstan, using robust tools for the adequate financing of high-quality Kazakhstani research and development (R&D).

The Senior Scientist/Junior Researcher Grant Program financed 33 groups overall to conduct international research and development. Selection and supervision were undertaken by high-level professionals at ISCB. Central to the program was rigorous merit-based selection and performance monitoring in order to ensure achievements in technology commercialisation, which was coupled with sufficient funding for a 3 year-period.

Source and further information: [World Bank](#)

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EU and Kyrgyzstan cooperate on the environmental remediation of uranium mining legacy sites

Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, recently met Erlan Abdyldaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, to discuss their common support for the creation of a multi-donor Fund, the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia (ERA), which will finance physical environmental remediation projects.

Commissioner Mimica and Minister Abdyldaev welcomed the joint cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union on the environmental remediation of uranium mining legacy sites, which nonetheless still pose a grave threat to the environment in Central Asia.

That is why they discussed their common support for the creation of a multi-donor Fund, the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia (ERA), which will finance physical environmental remediation projects. The Minister expressed his gratitude for the European Commission's major contribution of 16.45 million EUR made to ERA. The fund will be managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Commissioner and the Minister reiterated the importance they attach to the coordination role played by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The European Commission will continue to support the work done by the IAEA in developing a strategic master plan for the environmental remediation of uranium mining legacy sites in Central Asia.

Commissioner Mimica and Minister Abdyldaev also discussed the implementation of EU-funded development cooperation projects in Kyrgyz Republic, and how these can best contribute to achieving the development objectives of the Kyrgyz government. The EU has agreed a Multiannual Indicative Programme of development cooperation, with the Kyrgyz Republic, covering the years 2014 to 2020 and with a budget of €184 million. The focal sectors of this programme are Rule of Law, Education and Integrated Rural Development. The Multiannual Indicative Programme for Kyrgyzstan is complemented by a variety of regional projects in Central Asia, covering topics such as border management, infrastructure investment and environmental protection.

Both parties jointly welcomed the progress achieved to date, in particular in developing feasibility studies for remediation work at mining sites in the Kyrgyz Republic, such as Min-Kush and Shekaftar.

Source and further information: [European External Action Service](#)

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Moldova's new 'Sustainable Energy Information Centre' announced at Eco Energetica Awards

The establishment of a national Sustainable Energy Information Centre for Moldova with the support of experts from the EU-funded energy programme INOGATE was announced at the [Moldova Eco Energetica Awards](#).

The Centre, which will officially be opened in March 2016, will be a hands-on, learning environment to create greater awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy among householders, energy managers and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

The Centre will be hosted by the Moldovan Agency of Energy Efficiency (AEE) and its development is supported by INOGATE experts, the national NGO AEER and the Ministry of Economy of Moldova.

The announcement will set in motion the organisation of the many activities that the Centre will offer: it will invite suppliers to provide exhibits and documentation on energy efficient products, develop information materials in the form of infographs, DVDs, video spots and web and FB pages, develop interactive displays and exhibits, organise seminars and roundtables with journalists, suppliers, teachers and students and energy managers and recruit staff for the operation of the Centre. Visitors will be able to see how energy efficient appliances and building materials will affect their daily lives in enabling them to control and reduce their energy use. The Centre will also act as a hub for related activities carried out by civil society, educational institutions and industry.

INOGATE's input includes assistance in developing a structured approach to awareness raising, assisting in the development of a concept, strategy and action plan for the Centre and assisting in the development and provision of information materials and exhibits. INOGATE is also providing training for the centre's personnel and planning the implementation of the initial stage of operations.

To find out more, please visit the [AEE website](#).

Source: [INOGATE](#)

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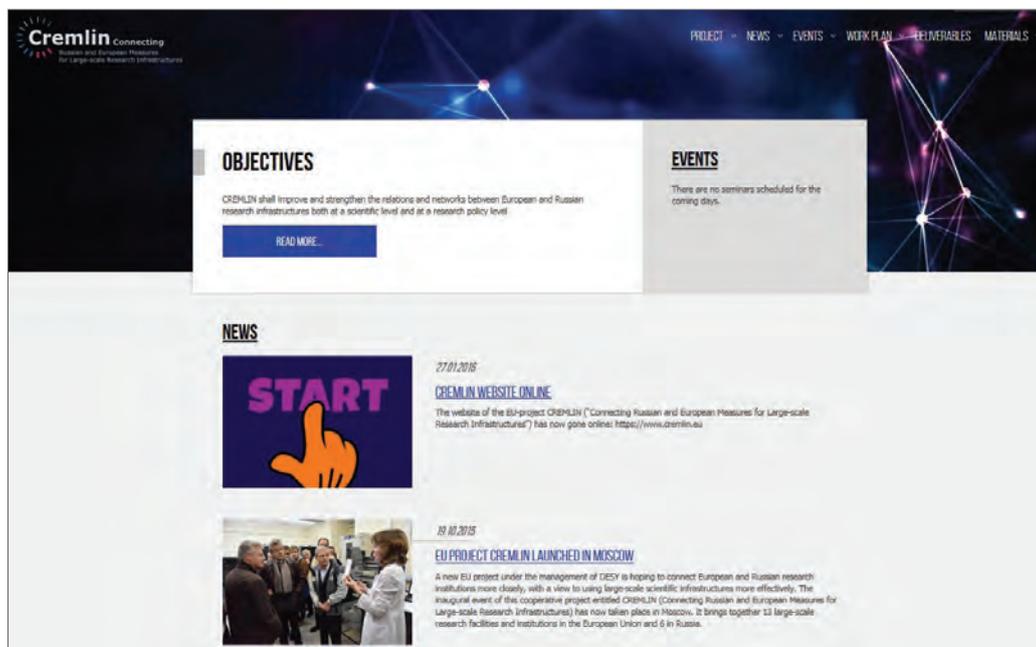
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Russia: CREMLIN project now online



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© CREMLIN project

The CREMLIN project ('Connecting Russian and European Measures for Large-scale Research Infrastructures') aims to create stronger links between European and Russian research institutions in the area of large-scale facilities and enable a more intensive STI cooperation, both at a scientific level and at a research policy level.

While Russia participates in European research facilities such as the European XFEL, FAIR, ESRF or the LHC experiments at CERN, CREMLIN aims to also support EU scientists to become more engaged in major Russian projects.

CREMLIN will enhance science cooperation between the six Russian megascience facilities and the European RI counterparts, including e-infrastructure and big data handling, and establish an effective exchange platform of findings and results within each respective Russian megascience project and will stimulate and ensure a process of mutual learning across the various science disciplines and European and Russian communities.

The new website will provide information about the project, but also serve as a forum which can be used for discussions and as a bottom-up initiative to elaborate further needs to establish common research actions.

Source and further information: [CREMLIN](#)

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Russia to increase fundamental research financing to \$2 billion in 2016

As Russian news agency TASS reports, the Russian Government will scale up fundamental research financing in 2016, quoting Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the ceremony of granting 'Cabinet Awards in Science and Technology 2015'.

'We will increase financing of fundamental research to 135 bln rubles (\$2 bln) next year', the prime minister said. 'This has not taken place lately. Even in current conditions we have an opportunity of making certain changes in priorities', Medvedev said.

According to the Russian prime minister, it is impossible to support strong and efficient economy without achievements in the field of science and technology.

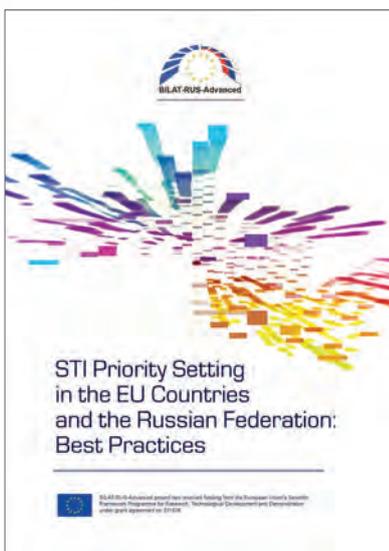
Source and further information: [TASS](#)

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STI Priority Setting in the EU and Russia: Best practices



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Most of the developed countries regularly work on STI priorities setting, providing the basis for their STI policies.

The focus is put on dealing with strategic socio-economic development objectives, efficient exploitation of national competitive advantages, and concentrating on application of particularly efficient innovative technologies.

The main objective of this brochure is to present a review of best STI priority setting practices in the EU countries and the Russian Federation, compare sets of priorities adopted by various European countries, and identify

promising subject areas for further enhancement of international cooperation between the European countries and Russia.

The brochure is available in [English](#) and in [Russian](#).

It was compiled by the BILAT-RUS-Advanced project.

Source: [BILAT-RUS Advanced](#)

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Russian Parliament discusses plans to fight brain drain

As University World News report, the Russian Duma is to draw up proposals to impose restrictions on the employment of graduates of national universities abroad, with the aim of preventing further brain drain out of the country.

It is planned that these restrictions will mainly involve imposing financial sanctions on graduates of Russian universities who studied at state-funded Russian colleges and universities and did not pay for their education. Data from the Russian Ministry of Education and Science suggests that about 15% of graduates of Russian universities find a job abroad each year.

Source and further information: [University World News](#)

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EBRD, EU and GEF promote climate change mitigation in Ukraine

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is owned by 65 countries, the European Union and the European Investment Bank. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.

Ukraine has become the newest member of the EBRD's Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change (FINTECC) programme designed to transfer technology in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation. It successfully operates in 14 countries where the EBRD invests.

The three-year programme is supported by USD \$7 million grant funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a €4 million grant from the EU's Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF). FINTECC will help Ukrainian businesses invest in the best available technologies, which will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. These may include energy, materials and water efficiency technologies as well as renewable energy technologies not yet available or rare in Ukraine.

FINTECC resources will be available to the existing local clients of the Bank planning to introduce modern climate technologies. Under the programme, individual companies may receive grant funding covering up to 25 per cent of the cost of a new technology and capped at US\$ 1 million. As a result, companies are expected to become more resource efficient and should significantly reduce their energy-related costs.

Source and further information: [EBRD](#)

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EU Bank supports Ukraine's agri-food sector as EU-Ukraine Free Trade Area comes into force

The European Investment Bank (EIB) lends EUR 400 million to Ukraine to finance projects implemented primarily by SMEs and Mid-caps in the agri-food sector, in order to help the country benefit from the opportunities offered by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) which has come into force on 1 January 2016 as part of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union.

EIB funds will provide longer term finance to support investments by SMEs and Mid-caps, as well as public service providers, along the entire value chain. Potential beneficiaries therefore include input suppliers, farmers, processors, storage and logistics operators, as well as testing laboratories, research and education institutions and extension services that contribute to the functioning of target value chains.

The cereals, oil seeds and aquaculture and fisheries value chains are being targeted by the loan, having been identified as those best placed to satisfy domestic demand for quality produce and increase the competitiveness of the sector and its exports to the EU and global markets, in line with trade liberalisation and standards harmonisation commitments made by both sides of the EU-Ukraine DCFTA. The EIB loan will be made available through the Government of Ukraine, and is expected to be supported further by the EU through grants made available by its Neighbourhood Investment Facility.

The European Investment Bank is committed to supporting Ukraine and has adopted a set of exceptional measures to finance EUR 3 billion of new loans, for the period 2014 - 2016 as part of the EUR 11 billion EU support package that the European Union committed to in March 2014. The EIB is well on track in this regard, as the Bank has provided support to Ukraine, including the current loan, amounting to EUR 1 257 million in 2015 and EUR 940 million in 2014.

Source and further information: [European Investment Bank](#)

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Новости на русском языке

ЕБРР, ЕС и ГЭФ содействуют смягчению климатических изменений в Украине.

Украина присоединилась к программе финансирования и передачи технологий для борьбы с климатическими изменениями (Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change или FINTECC) ЕБРР, основной целью которой является передача технологий в сфере смягчения климатических изменений и адаптации к ним. Эта программа в настоящее время успешно реализуется в 14 странах, в которых ЕБРР осуществляет инвестиции.

Программа рассчитана на три года и поддерживается грантовым финансированием Глобального экологического фонда (ГЭФ) в размере \$7 млн. и Инвестиционного фонда соседства (NIF) ЕС в размере €4 млн. Программа FINTECC поможет украинским компаниям инвестировать в лучшие доступные технологии, что должно привести к сокращению выбросов парниковых газов. В частности, это могут быть технологии эффективного использования энергии, материалов и воды, а также технологии возобновляемой энергетики, которые еще не используются или не очень распространены в Украине.

Подробнее: [ЕБРР](#)

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Программа консультационной помощи: Компетентный подход в области охраны окружающей среды в странах Центральной и Восточной Европы, Кавказа и Центральной Азии.



[Скачать](#)

С 2000 года в рамках Программы консультационной помощи (ПКП) Федерального министерства окружающей среды (BMUB) страны Центральной и Восточной Европы, Кавказа и Центральной Азии, а также в других странах, граничащих с ЕС получают поддержку, ориентированную на европейские экологические стандарты. Брошюра покажет общие условия программы ПКП, мотивы своей деятельности и некоторые результаты периода 2000-2015 гг.

Источник: [Федеральное ведомство по охране окружающей среды](#)

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Новости на русском языке

Ключевая информация о стратегии «Европа 2020» на русском языке.

Стратегия Европа 2020 – это главный документ Европейского Союза, определяющий его политику роста на ближайшее десятилетие. В быстро меняющемся мире ЕС хотел бы добиться умной, устойчивой и всеобъемлющей экономики. Эти три взаимно усиливающихся приоритета должны помочь ЕС и его государствам-членам обеспечить высокий уровень занятости, производительности и социальной сплоченности. Научные исследования и инновации непосредственно способствуют европейскому уровню процветания и благополучия человека и общества в целом. Основной целью политики в области исследований и технологического развития является превращение Европейского Союза в лидирующую экономику, основанную на знаниях.

Инновационное сотрудничество – это объединение инновационных концепций, исходящих от государственных органов, государственных и частных компаний и учреждений, а также представителей промышленных групп, банков, бизнеса, науки для того, чтобы обеспечить превращение инновационных идей в новые товары и услуги, которые создают рабочие места и укрепляют экономику страны. Такого рода государственно-частное партнерство широко применяется в странах Европейского Союза и носит общее название «Инновационный Союз».

Инновационное сотрудничество имеет свои инструменты эффективного влияния на рост экономики, такие как диаграмма тенденции развития инноваций, позволяющая в режиме онлайн наблюдать за тенденциями инновационно-индустриального развития и проводить своевременный анализ инновационной политики государства. Оценка и сравнительный анализ (бенчмаркинг) инновационной деятельности всех участников рынка новых товаров и услуг, необходимых для поддержки и развития конструктивного диалога между всеми заинтересованными сторонами любого уровня, от лаборатории до промышленной корпорации и от малой бизнес-структуры до крупного игрока на международном рынке.

Для лучшего понимания того, что такое Стратегия Европа 2020, а также для получения информации о том, для чего создан Инновационный союз и что такое Европейские технологические платформы, Европейский технологический рынок, Европейская сеть предпринимательства и Интерактивная карта развития инноваций; узнать, чем занимаются Сообщества знаний и инноваций, а также получить информацию о Едином Цифровом Рынке, рекомендуем изучить следующие документы.

Документы

- [Стратегия Европа-2020](#)
- [Европейская Предпринимательская Сеть – ЕПС](#)
- [Единое Европейское Исследовательское пространство](#)
- [Что такое Европейские Технологические Платформы?](#)
- [Табло производительности в рамках мониторинга Инновационного Союза](#)
- [Инновационный Союз](#)
- [Сообщества знаний и инноваций](#)

Источник: [InExCB-KZ](#)

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Новости на русском языке

Выбор приоритетов в сфере науки и инноваций в европейских странах ЕС и Российской Федерации: лучшая практика.



[Скачать](#)

Работы по формированию приоритетов научно-технологического развития регулярно проводятся в большинстве развитых стран и создают основу для выработки научно-технической и инновационной политики. Основное внимание при этом фокусируется на решении ключевых задач социального и экономического развития, обеспечении эффективного использования национальных конкурентных преимуществ и концентрации усилий на реализации наиболее эффективных инновационных технологий.

В брошюре представлен обзор лучшей практики выбора приоритетов в сфере науки и инноваций в странах Евросоюза и Российской Федерации, приведено сопоставление систем приоритетов, действующих в разных европейских странах, выявлены перспективные тематические области для дальнейшего развития научно-технического сотрудничества между Европейским союзом и Россией.

Источник: [BILAT-RUS Advanced](#)

Меняя образ мышления: Коммерциализация технологий в Казахстане.

Проект коммерциализации технологий в Казахстане приближается к завершению в декабре 2015 года. Данный проект был запущен при поддержке Всемирного банка с целью усовершенствования науки в Казахстане, используя надежные инструменты для финансирования высококачественных исследований и разработок в Казахстане (НИОКР).

Источник: [Всемирный банк](#)

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DLR Project Management Agency

The DLR Project Management Agency (part of the German Aerospace Center, DLR) is a specialised service provider for the facilitation of research, innovation and education.

The covered spectrum of topics ranges from environment, culture, sustainability, health, education and key technologies to innovation and research transfer. With around 8500 projects as well as over one billion Euros of research funds, the DLR Project Management Agency is the largest institution of its kind in Germany.

The agency supports the federal ministries with the implementation of research programmes and additionally works for the European Commission as well as other public institutions and private customers.

The Central Information Office of both the IncoNet EaP project and the IncoNet CA project has been commissioned to the DLR Project Management Agency by the European Commission.

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