

Dear Reader,

This is the penultimate issue of the incrEAST newsletter. The web portal incrEAST is currently run by the EU-funded projects IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA (STI International Cooperation Networks for Eastern Partnership countries / Central Asian countries). IncoNet CA will conclude its activities next month and IncoNet EaP will end in December 2016, making the upcoming November issue the last in the frame of these projects. As EU-funded follow-up projects with the Eastern Partnership region or Central Asia have not allocated sufficient resources to incrEAST to ensure the web portal's continuity, regular updates will cease at the end of this year and there will be no further newsletters.

Until then we hope to provide you with up-to-date information that will help you to create successful international STI cooperation activities between the EU and our target regions.

European Commission launches three Horizon Prizes for Energy Innovation

On 5 July 2016, the European Commission launched three Horizon Prizes to encourage innovation and find solutions to challenges in the area of energy. Worth a total of €3.25 million and funded under Horizon 2020, the prizes will reward innovative approaches to integrating solar energy into historical buildings, using renewable energy in hospitals, and developing products that help cut emissions by reusing carbon dioxide.

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Results of the EU-Central Asia & EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Stakeholders Conferences on 'Health'

EU-Central Asia and EU-Eastern Partnership cooperation on 'Health' was discussed at two Policy Stakeholders Conferences (PSCs) in Budapest and Warsaw earlier this year. The outcomes of these conferences have recently been published. A new brochure summarises the discussions, recommendations and conclusions of the EU-Eastern Partnership PSC.

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[more regional news](#)

[more on health](#)

Workshop to discuss Climate Change National Adaptation Plan for Armenia

Climate change adaptation and the formulation of a National Adaptation Plan in Armenia will be discussed at the workshop in the country's capital Yerevan on 31 August 2016. Organised by the EU-funded Clima East project and supported by the country's Nature Protection Ministry, the event invites all interested participants to attend and debate how the country is moving towards the development of the climate change National Adaption Plan.

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- **Georgia:** Georgia takes part in EU Sustainable Energy Week
- **Kazakhstan:** New service for Kazakh PhD applicants who want to study in the UK
- **Russia:** Skoltech and German Aerospace Center sign Cooperation Agreement
- **Ukraine:** German Research Minister encourages Science Cooperation with Ukraine at Conference in Berlin
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- Россия: Конкурс научных статей для магистрантов и аспирантов.
- Украина: НАТО и Украина дают оценку успешному научному сотрудничеству.



2016 Update incrEAST Country Reports

The incrEAST Country reports provide in depth information about 12 countries in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. They are written by experts in these countries and updated annually. incrEAST Country Reports offer general information, an overview of research policy developments, details about science landscapes, relevant stakeholders and international cooperation activities.

The following reports have already been updated in 2016 (click your preferred language to download the PDF):

- Armenia: [English](#) | [Russian](#)
- Georgia: [English](#)
- Kazakhstan: [English](#) | [Russian](#)
- Kyrgyzstan: [English](#) | [Russian](#)
- Tajikistan: [English](#) | [Russian](#)
- Ukraine: [English](#) | [Russian](#)
- Uzbekistan: [English](#) | [Russian](#)



EU and regional news

Update of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2017

On 25 July 2016, the European Commission announced an investment of €8.5 billion to be released during 2017 into research and innovation, following an update to the Work Programme of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding programme.

The updated Work Programme builds on the success of Horizon 2020 to date, but introduces important novelties. A particularly important change is the introduction of open research data in all new Horizon 2020 calls and the strong commitment to research integrity and simplification as a driver for research quality. For projects funded under the programme, free online access to scientific data will become the norm. This move will boost competitiveness through open science by accelerating innovation and collaboration, improving transparency, and avoiding duplication of efforts.

The programme also reacts to topical developments by reinforcing research into migration. In response to the refugee crisis, €11 million will be dedicated to new research to understand migration but also to develop effective policies for managing the influx and integrating migrants in the society and economy.

The funding opportunities offered by the Work Programme are directly aligned with the policy priorities of the Commission and will substantially contribute to the Jobs, Growth and Investment Package, the Digital Single Market, Energy Union and Climate change policy, Internal Market with stronger industry and making Europe a stronger global actor. In line with strategic priorities of Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Horizon 2020 will be open to innovation, open to science, and open to the world.

The recent update releases the second round of funding from the two-year Horizon 2020 work programme announced last October. This includes support for a range of cross-cutting initiatives in 2017: Industry 2020 in the Circular Economy (€325 million) to develop strong and sustainable economies; Smart and Sustainable Cities (€115 million) to better integrate environmental, transport, energy and digital networks in EU's urban environments; Technologies and standards for automatic driving (over €50 million); and the Internet of Things (€37 million) to foster the take-up of digital technologies in Europe.

The updated Work Programme confirms details of the calls for proposals for 2017 first announced last October and specifies the deadlines for applications. The Work Programme of the European Research Council also adopted in July will allow supporting excellent researchers with nearly €1.8 billion. All funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 are accessible from the Participant Portal.

Source and further information: [European Commission](#)

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EU and regional news

European Research Council to invest record budget in 2017

On 25 July 2016, the European Research Council (ERC) announced its 2017 grant competitions with a total budget of around €1.8 billion, the highest ever since the ERC's inception in 2007. It is also the record ERC annual funding reserved for young researchers with two to seven years of post-PhD experience (Starting grants).

This is the first increase of the ERC annual budget since 2013, when it amounted to €1.75 billion. Some 1,070 new grantees are expected to benefit from ERC funding next year. They are expected to employ another estimated 6,500 post-docs, PhD students and other members as part of their research teams.

The first 2017 grant competition opened on 26 July 2016, the 'Starting Grants 2017' with an 18 October 2016 application deadline. It is expected that this call, with a budget of €605 million, will provide some 415 grants, worth up to €1.5 million each.

The other competitions will open according to the Work Programme calendar: the 'Consolidator Grants' will open on 20 October 2016 with a 9 February 2017 deadline, which is anticipated to provide €575 million to approximately 320 researchers, and on 16 May 2017 the 'Advanced Grants' call will open, with a 31 August 2017 deadline and a €567 million budget expected to provide around 245 grants. Proof of Concept grants will also be available for ERC grant holders to bring the ideas from their ERC-funded projects closer to market. The call will have 3 rounds in 2017.

The ERC grants, part of the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, support ambitious researchers from anywhere in the world, who are ready to carry out their research projects in the EU or associated countries.

Apart from the amount of funding, this is new in the Work Programme 2017:

- **Open data:** ERC grantees must take appropriate measures to ensure open access to the data generated by their project, unless they specifically decide to opt-out.
- **Gender balance:** Firstly, the obligation of the ERC grantees to take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, and aim for gender balance of personnel assigned to their project, is emphasised. Secondly, the current eligibility window for applicants can be further extended for maternity leaves if appropriately documented.
- **Evaluation of ERC-funded research:** The ERC will continue the work to qualitatively analyse the scientific output of its funded projects with a particular focus on any potential breakthroughs and discoveries. There is currently a similar analysis ongoing, and the results of the 2015 pilot study on the qualitative evaluation of the first completed ERC-funded projects are presented at an ERC press conference at ESOF 2016 in Manchester on 26 July.

Source and background information: [ERC](#)

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European Commission launches three Horizon Prizes for Energy Innovation

On 5 July 2016, the European Commission launched three Horizon Prizes to encourage innovation and find solutions to challenges in the area of energy. These so-called challenge prizes (also known as 'inducement' prizes) offer a cash reward to whoever can most effectively meet a defined challenge.

They prescribe a goal but not how the goal should be achieved. Worth a total of €3.25 million and funded under Horizon 2020, the prizes will reward innovative approaches to integrating solar energy into historical buildings, using renewable energy in hospitals, and developing products that help cut emissions by reusing carbon dioxide.

- The €750.000 [Horizon Prize Photovoltaics meets history](#) addresses the technical constraints in integrating photovoltaic energy sources in historical urban districts. The prize will be awarded to the most suitable architectural and aesthetical design for a photovoltaic energy system which at the same time presents an optimal technical solution.
- The €1 million [Horizon Prize Low carbon hospital](#) will contribute to finding solutions for using 100% renewable energy sources for heat and power generation in hospital buildings. The award will go to an innovative solution integrating several technologies into one energy system, which can guarantee uninterrupted energy supply.
- The €1.5 million [Horizon Prize CO2 reuse](#) will be awarded to the developer of an innovative product that reuses carbon dioxide (CO2), making a genuine contribution to achieving net emissions reductions.

Contestants can apply until 26 September 2018 for the 'Photovoltaics meets history' contest and until 3 April 2019 for the two others. Applicants have total freedom in the approach they take to deliver the breakthrough solution. The rules of the contests are available on the [Horizon Prizes website](#).

Horizon Prizes are challenge prizes (also known as 'inducement' prizes) which offer a cash reward to whoever can most effectively meet a defined challenge. They act as an incentive for innovation by prescribing the goal, but not how the goal should be achieved. The European Commission is introducing a [set of challenge prizes under Horizon 2020](#), the EU's €77 billion research and innovation programme running from 2014 to 2020.

The three prizes in the area of energy contribute to the objectives of both the Energy Union and the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan. They can generate breakthroughs and boost innovation in low carbon energy technologies, leading to greater sustainability and efficiency, while increasing our energy security and supporting the decarbonisation of the European economy.

Source: [European Commission](#)

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New Round of 'Call for EU-Eastern Partnership Twinning Projects'

The IncoNet EaP project will launch a 3rd call for proposals for 'Twinning Grants': After the great success of the first two calls, a new round of twinning among projects will open in early and close at the end of September 2016.

The intention is to boost the participation of the newly associated countries in Horizon 2020 consortia, but the call will also be open to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine.

This funding instrument represents one of the core project activities and has so far been implemented very successfully in two rounds.

Within the first call, 16 proposals were submitted and 11 projects have been funded. Several Horizon 2020 project proposals have been elaborated so far. By now, 1 of these proposals has been selected for funding. Within the second call, 7 submitted proposals were found eligible and 4 projects have been funded.

Due to the new developments in the EaP region (signature of Association Agreements to Horizon 2020 of Georgia/ April 2016 and Armenia/ May 2016) and taking into consideration the success of the first two calls, a new round of twinning among projects will soon be started. The intention is to boost the participation of newly associated countries in Horizon 2020 consortia.

At the same time, the call will be open to the other Eastern Partnership countries as well (apart from Armenia and Georgia, these are: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine). The new twinning projects will receive **financial support for the organisation of preparatory meetings of research teams wishing to apply for Horizon 2020 funding.**

Successful twinning projects will address open or forthcoming calls in the 2016-2017 Work Programmes for **Energy, Climate Change and Health.**

The support will be given in the form of **lump sums of €2,000** for each twinning project.

The grants may be used for costs related to the organisation of preparatory workshops and meetings, including for travel costs.

The timeline will be:

- Publication: **early September 2016**
- Deadline for proposals: **30 September 2016**
- Duration of projects: 15 October until 30 November 2016
- Payment of lump sums: November 2016

The call will be published on the IncoNet EaP website as well as on the web portal incrEAST in early September.

Source: [IncoNet EaP](#) | Contact: ✉ [Dr Jörn Grünewald](#)

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Success Story: The EU-Central Asia Twinning Grants

Twinning has a long tradition in Europe as an efficient instrument in the capacity building process. It was successfully used in the building of the governmental capacities in the New Member States and afterwards it was inherited in many other areas (governmental institutions, municipal organisations, universities, schools etc.).

Furthermore, many FP7 NCP projects use twinning as an instrument to build capacities in other countries. The concept of twinning typically includes a direct exchange of experience between people, personal presence, on site consulting in the beneficiary country and it is based on trainer-trainee relationships, where one participant in the process is giving and the other is receiving expertise.

Twinning in IncoNet CA

The IncoNet CA consortium used this instrument to enhance EU-Central Asia S&T cooperation and to increase capacities on both sides. The grant scheme described below became a tool for developing sustainable EU-Central Asia cooperation among experienced partners in the realm of research.

Within IncoNet CA, an adopted 'Twinning Grants' funding instrument was implemented, which represents one of the core project activities. The main goal of the twinning action was to

- enhance mutual learning,
- strengthen cooperation between the EU Member States and the Central Asian countries,
- projects involving partners from both regions.

The idea was to run a call among EU and Central Asia project coordinators and project consortia, who were experienced in the the three societal challenges 'Climate Change', 'Health' and 'Energy' that had been identified as of mutual interest for both regions, and and who were also interested in the preparation of new joint proposals under Horizon 2020.

A first call for proposals for Twinning projects was launched in May 2014 as part of task 1.2 'Pilot actions' of IncoNet CA.

A second call for proposals was launched in late 2015 (as an activity of task 3.2 'Ad-hoc support to bi-regional policy dialogue', but being de-facto part of the twinning activities of task 1.2). Within this second call for proposal, the successful twinning teams were to benefit not only from the financial support but also from individual coaching by the IncoNet CA consortium regarding successful Horizon 2020 project proposal writing and consortium building.

The twinning projects – 1st call

Within the first call, 11 proposals were submitted and found eligible for funding. Of these 11 proposals, the following eight projects were funded (sorted by start date):

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Topic (Energy, Health, Climate Change)	Countries involved	Duration of the twinning projects
Climate	Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Poland	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016
Energy	Tajikistan, Germany	Sep 2015 - Aug 2016
Health	Uzbekistan, Poland	Jul 2015 - Jul 2016
Climate	Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Germany	Sep 2015 - Aug 2016
Climate	Kazakhstan, Germany	Aug 2015 - May 2016
Energy	Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany	Sep 2015 - Apr 2016
Health	Uzbekistan, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, United Kingdom	Oct 2015 - Jul 2016
Health	Tajikistan, Germany	Jan 2016 - Aug 2016

With the exception of Turkmenistan, each Central Asian country was represented in at least one twinning project, with partners from Uzbekistan participating in 5 projects, partners from Kazakhstan participating in 3 projects, partners from Tajikistan participating in 2 projects, and partners from Kyrgyzstan participating in 1 project.

With regards to their thematic focus, the Twinning Grants were evenly split between the three thematic fields. Three projects each focused on Climate Change and Health and two projects on Energy.

The twinning projects – 2nd call

Within the second call, five eligible proposals were submitted. Of these, the following three projects were funded:

Topic (Energy, Health, Climate Change)	Countries involved	Duration of the twinning projects
Energy	Uzbekistan, Italy	Mar 2016 - Jun 2016
Health	Kazakhstan, Italy, France	Mar 2016 - Jun 2016
Health	Uzbekistan, France	Mar 2016 - Jun 2016

Thus, two twinning projects were supported in the field of health and one in the field of energy. In total more than €100,000 were or are still being spent on these Grants.

On a strategic level the Twinning Grants have been a clear success. In several cases standing consortia between European research institutes took the Grants as an incentive to try and include partners from Central Asia into their research projects. At least two of these enlarged consortia in the meantime successfully applied for Grants from bilateral funding.

The Twinning Grant proved to produce multiple synergies especially with bilateral calls from the EU Member States/Associated Countries. Several research consortia that were founded in the context of the Twinning Grant have in the meantime successfully applied to bilateral calls in European countries. Given that only two projects have filed a report so far, it is however too early yet, to fully assess the outcome with regards to calls in the frame of Horizon 2020.

Source and full article: [IncoNet CA](#)

EU and regional news

Webinar: Coordinators share their views about EaP/CA Twinning Grants

The IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA projects jointly organised two calls for twinning grants. A third call – targeting only the Eastern Partnership region – has been pre-announced for September 2016. In order to evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of this funding instrument, the DLR Project Management Agency organised a short webinar session with coordinators of projects supported by the twinning grants on 27 July 2016. Main results:

- *Were the twinning grants an appropriate instrument in order to increase EU-EaP / EU-CA cooperation?*

The instrument was generally understood to be a very appropriate and useful instrument. Whilst it was perceived to be difficult to start cooperation within the framework of Horizon 2020, the twinning grants were seen as very useful instruments to start scientific cooperation. They were described as appropriate not only to start cooperation between individual scientists, but also to strengthen cooperation between institutions. *Typical quote:* 'Yes, of course it is up to now the best instrument to stimulate the cooperation for scientific teams and industrial companies.'

- *What was the experience with the technical and administrative implementation of the twinning projects?*

The technical and administrative implementations were described as very adequate and smooth. Asked individually, the participants of the webinar saw no reason for any kind of criticism regarding the implementation and the administrative handling of the Twinning Grants by DLR. Some partners asked for information from other twinning projects in order to further support the exchange of information. *Typical quote:* 'It was perfect.'

- *Experience with cooperation within the twinning projects*

Problems of cooperation (in some cases) were connected to communication (language). This was especially the case when it came to writing project proposals: Communication among the partners often was and still is conducted in Russian language, while project proposals ask for English language. There is a need for capacity building in the field of proposal writing and English language in general.

In some cases (e.g. Kazakhstan), it was found to be difficult to cooperate with administrations, especially all in the case of state-owned institutions. Brain drain was found to be a problem as well. Scientists trained in English and proposal writing tend to leave the countries for better job opportunities. Therefore mere capacity building in the regions would not solve the problem but only help individuals with the development of their income opportunities. More complex solutions are asked for.

Source and further details: [IncoNet CA](#) | [IncoNet EaP](#)

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The main aim of the 6 Policy Stakeholders Conferences organised by the EU-funded projects IncoNet EaP and IncoNet CA was to bring together policy makers and representatives of both the research community and the private sector to address specific challenges that are of mutual interest to the EU MS/AC and the countries in the partner regions.

The third Policy Stakeholders Conference organised by the IncoNet EaP project took place in Budapest on 19-20 April 2016. It addressed 'Health Research and Innovation' as a focus area of EU-Eastern Partnership STI cooperation. The EU-Central Asia Policy Stakeholders Conference on 'Health Research and Innovation' took place in Warsaw, Poland on 16-17 May, 2016.

Two recently published brochures sum up the results of the events.



EU-Central Asia PSC on 'Health' in Warsaw 2016 | © Robert Graff, PAN KPK

Presentations and session wrap-ups for both Policy Stakeholders Conferences are available for download from the projects' websites.

Source and further details: [IncoNet CA](#) | [IncoNet EaP](#)

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Summer School on 'Energy Efficiency: International Project Management - from Theory to Practice' held in Vienna

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Summer School 2016 | © Carmen Heidenwolf, ZSI

The IncoNet EaP Summer School on 'Energy Efficiency: International Project Management – from Theory to Practice' was held between 13-17 June 2016 in Vienna under the co-organisation of ZSI and TUBITAK. 24 participants, with academic, NGO, and private sector backgrounds, attended the summer school. They came from 18 different countries, the majority of them from the Eastern Partnership region.

The main focus of the summer school was on providing the participants with insights about H2020 funding opportunities, proposal writing and international project management.

The first two days consisted of sessions in which participants improved their familiarity with basic concepts related

to Horizon 2020, such as programme components, call types and the 2016/17 Work Programme.

In addition to the basic training, keynote speakers were invited from various Austrian agencies. They shared their experience in proposal writing and the conduct of H2020 funded projects as well as important concepts regarding energy efficiency such as life cycle cost analysis.

During the last three days, the participants worked on their proposals in four groups while receiving guidance from the trainers. These proposals were presented during the last day of the school in an interactive session.

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



Summer School 2016 | © Carmen Heidenwolf, ZSI

EU and regional news

These EU-Central Asia cooperation projects have made a difference

■ List of promoted EU-Central Asia project deliverables

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FEATURED DELIVERABLES
<p>🔗 Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains (PALM)</p> <p>Targeted CA countries: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Source of funding: Global Environment Facility (GEF)</p>	<p>The overall goal of the PALM project was to restore, sustain, and enhance the productive and protective functions of the trans-boundary ecosystems of the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains, of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, so as to improve the social and economic well-being of the rural communities and households utilising the region's ecosystem resources to meet their livelihood needs, while preserving its unique landscape and globally important biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 UNU-EHS Publication Series, Policy Brief No. 5, August 2012, Towards sustainable land management in the Pamir-Alai mountains 🔗 Strategy and Action Plan for sustainable land management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains 🔗 Video: Innovative crops of the Alai Valley Video
<p>New curricula in trade theory and econometrics (CD - JEP-26012 - 2005)</p> <p>Targeted CA country: Kazakhstan</p> <p>Source of funding: TEMPUS EU Programme</p>	<p>The objective of the TEMPUS 'New curricula' project was to harmonise curricula of the subject 'trade and finance' as well as curricula of applied economics at Ph.D. level and align them with the Bologna Process; to introduce innovative methods of teaching and to promote international accreditation of BSc and MSc degrees in economics in the targeted universities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Economics – A B.Sc. Course (in English, Russian, Kazakh) International Economics – A M.Sc. Course (in English, Russian, Kazakh) Introduction to Econometrics Course (in English) 🔗 Report on projects funded under Tempus III in Kazakhstan
<p>🔗 The estimation of Potential Biological Danger from Natural Arbovirus Foci in Kyrgyz Republic with a Help of Modern Molecular-Genetic Methods, Studying of Isolated Viruses and Development of Diagnostic Preparations (ISTC Kr 1327)</p> <p>Targeted CA country: Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Source of funding: International Science and Technology Center (ISTC)</p>	<p>The project was aimed at conducting systematic research of the natural Arbovirus Foci and estimation of present state of existing pestholes on the territory of Kyrgyz Republic. It also included such tasks as immunochemical description of isolates, identification of nucleotide genome sequence in field samples and collection of viral cultures, as well as comparison of the results of nucleotide genome sequence in Arboviruses.</p> <p>Under this project, the sites not free from TBE (tick-born encephalitis) were fixed through GPS system. Test systems for ELISA diagnosis of this disease were prepared. Together with the collaborators sequence of TBE agent was done.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 Tick-Borne Encephalitis Virus, Kyrgyzstan. Briggs et al. Emerging Infectious Diseases 2011 May; 17(5): 876-879.

click image to view full list of projects

Have you ever wondered about the outcome of the many international STI cooperation projects the EU is involved in?

So have the partners in the IncoNet CA project. They have compiled a list of noteworthy deliverables from other EU-Central Asia STI cooperation projects that are available to the public:

These projects have e.g. made a significant contribution to development of national health standards; improved the quality of services in health facilities; trained young scientists in molecular diagnostics; researched infectious diseases; introduced innovative methods of teaching; or developed sustainable land management practices – to name but a few.

Source and more details: [IncoNet CA](#)

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EU4Energy: New EU project to continue the work of INOGATE

The international organisation [Energy Community](#) has signed a contract with the European Commission to provide technical assistance to the Eastern Partnership region in the framework of the EU4Energy Programme, which is a continuation of the previous regional energy cooperation programme [INOATE](#). The four-year initiative covers six countries: Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. It will focus on improvement of energy legislative and regulatory frameworks, implementation of policy recommendations and investment promotion for key energy infrastructure strategic projects.

The programme, with a budget of €6.8 million, will be built on the countries' obligations under the Energy Community Treaty, EU Association Agreements (when applicable) and national priorities. EU4Energy will cover gas, electricity, energy efficiency and renewables issues. The Energy Community Secretariat will coordinate the overall programme, while the implementation in three countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus) will be subcontracted to the Energy Charter Secretariat. Programme offices in Kyiv and Tbilisi will manage all the activities.

Source: [EU Neighbourhood Info Centre](#)

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NoGAP project concludes its activities with Final Conference

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NoGAP Final Conference in Cluj Napoca on 27 July 2016 | © DLR, Birgit Ditgens

The NoGAP project (1 September 2013 to 31 August 2016) aimed to reinforce cooperation between the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries to develop a 'common knowledge and innovation space' on 'secure, clean and efficient energy' in order to bridge the gap between research and innovation. NoGAP produced a number of public deliverables, all available from the project's website.

The project's Final Conference in Cluj Napoca, Romania on 27 July 2016 brought together the coordinators of all R2I ('Research to Innovation') INCO projects targeting Eastern Partner Countries, as well as representatives from several other projects in the field.

NoGAP partners talked about their experiences with twinning activities in the projects and presented first results and impacts. More than 50 participants from 13 countries all over the EU and the Eastern Partnership attended the event.

Source and more details: [NoGAP](#)



NoGAP Final Conference in Cluj Napoca on 27 July 2016 | © DLR, Birgit Ditgens

EU and regional news

New Master Degree Study Programme for Technical Vocational Training in South Caucasus to be developed

Germany supports the South Caucasus region with its programme 'Private Sector Development South Caucasus', which is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Together with with GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation (AIZ) and its Centre for Competence Development in TVET (UNEVOC Centre Magdeburg), the GIZ Regional Programme on Private Sector Development developed the Human Capacity Development programme 'International Leadership Programme (ILT), Master Trainer in TVET', with the objective to qualify 17 multipliers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The modular structured training program is implemented partly in Georgia, partly in Germany. After successful completion of the programme participants can achieve up to 60 ECTS credits, which can be transferred in a complete Master Degrees study programme.

At a workshop in Magdeburg on 7 July 2016, representatives of ministries and involved institutions discussed possible scenarios for developing and setting up joint Master Degree study programmes that could continue the ongoing programme 'Master Trainer in TVET'. By signing a Memorandum of Understanding, the involved parties agreed to jointly develop a Master Degree Study programme on International Technical Vocational Education and Training for TVET teachers.

Source and full article: [BIBB](#) | ✉ [Marita Riedel](#)

Ukraine and Georgia take part in EU Sustainable Energy Week

The European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is a month-long series of activities to build a secure energy future for Europe. It brings together public authorities, private companies, NGOs and consumers to promote initiatives to save energy and move towards renewables for clean, secure and efficient power. For the fifth year in a row Ukraine will join in: Between 12 and 17 June, the EU Delegation to Ukraine and their partners have organised a number of events across Ukraine, which showcase the energy efficiency potential of the country.

A special [website dedicated to EUSEW 2016 in Ukraine](#) lists all event (website in Ukrainian language).

Information is also available from [EUSEW main website](#) (in English language) and from the [Facebook page of the EU Delegation to Ukraine](#) (posts in Ukrainian and in English).

Georgia is another EaP country to join the events in 2016: The EUSEW website lists a number of '[Energy Day](#)' activities across Georgia.

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EU and regional news

Memorandum of Understanding signed at Eastern Partnership STI Evaluation Platform Meeting

On 27-28 June 2016, the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation hosted an international workshop of the 'Eastern Partnership Science, Technology and Innovation Evaluation Platform'.

The IncoNet EaP project had started preparations for a Memorandum of Understanding among the active research funding agencies and research committees in the EaP countries in 2014. Two previous workshops led up to the current event, which aimed to progress the drafted documents and to find ways to establish an active network functioning beyond the existence of IncoNet EaP.

The event involved the relevant organisations from all 6 EaP countries. It focused on the developed roadmap and the future responsibilities to implement the 10 identified activities.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by five of the six countries, the sixth country will sign after approval of the corresponding foreign ministry in the next months to complete the process.

The MoU sends out a signal to EU Member States, demonstrating the interest of the Eastern Partnership region to cooperate in joint activities. The Roadmap was incorporated as an Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding. It outlines these dedicated activities:

- Exchange of thematic reviewers on a case to case basis
- Establishment of a joint reviewer database
- Further use of existing reviewer data currently collected in 'Eval-Inco'
- Quality mechanisms for review and reviewer databases
- Exchange on current practice of agencies and programme owners
- Twinning actions with EU STI funding agencies
- Peer review of funding agencies
- Exchange on STI funding practice
- Capacity building for the STI stakeholders
- Maintenance of the network itself (2 years, hosted jointly by two organisations)

The event was the third workshop following meetings in [Chisinau \(May 2014\)](#) and [Kiev \(October 2015\)](#).

Download the [Workshop Agenda](#).

Source and full article: [IncoNet EaP](#) | ✉ [Mariam Keburia](#)

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EU and regional news

Open Calls

Call will open: early September 2016

[Pre-announcement: New Round of 'Call for EU-Eastern Partnership Twinning Projects'](#)

The IncoNet EaP project will launch a third call for proposals for 'Twinning Grants': In view of the recent association of Armenia and Georgia to Horizon 2020 and taking into account the success of the first two calls, a new round of twinning among projects will open in early September. The intention is to boost the participation of the newly associated countries in Horizon 2020 consortia, but the call will also be open to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine.

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Deadline: 6 September 2016

[Request for proposals for Audit Services 2016-2017](#)

The Science and Technology Center of Ukraine (Kyiv) and the International Science and Technology Center (Astana) have issued a joint request for proposals for audit services for the years ending 31st December 2016 and 2017. Completed proposals must be received by 17:00 Kyiv time on Tuesday 6th September, 2016. Any contract awarded will be awarded to the Auditor, who, based upon evaluation of all proposals, is determined to have submitted the proposal with the lowest evaluated price, considering both technical merit and cost.

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Deadline: 12 September 2016

[Research Papers Competition for Russian and European Graduate and Postgraduate Students in Social Sciences and Humanities](#)

The Centre for German and European Studies (St. Petersburg State University—Bielefeld University) together with the Council of Young Scientists of the Faculty of Sociology (St. Petersburg State University) invite submissions to a Russian-European competition of research papers by junior scientists focusing on Russian society and culture. The papers (unpublished or recently published) should address topical issues in social sciences and humanities. (-> [на русском языке](#))

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Deadline: 15 September 2016

[KAS Eastern Partnership School of Excellency – Call for applications](#)

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung invites young leaders from politics, law, civil society, media, economy and science from the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Russia to take part in its programme 'KAS Eastern Partnership School of Excellency', which aims to further the European idea and democratic values through the facilitation of a new generation of elite leaders and future propagators. KAS are looking for the future elites who wish to actively champion for their country within the European context and who have already proven their past engagement in this area.

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Open Calls

Deadline: 28 September 2016

IraSME Call open to Russian participation

The 18th IraSME call is organised and funded by national & regional ministries & agencies participating in the IraSME network through their existing funding programmes. Therefore it is important for all candidate project partners to consult in an early stage with their respective agencies during the preparation of the proposal to secure compliance with the applicable national and regional criteria. Russia: Only small enterprises (< 100 employees) are eligible, research organisations only as subcontractors.

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Deadline: 14 October 2016

Germany-Russia: Federal Ministries support the Development of Methods and Processes in Industrial Biotechnology

Two corresponding calls by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (MON) support research cooperation between the two countries in the field of Bioeconomy. The focus is on methods and processes in industrial biotechnology that lead to the development of bio-based products and materials. German and Russian partners are encouraged to submit identical applications to their respective ministries. Details of the calls will be available in German and in Russian.

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Deadline: 1 February 2017

Joint Russian-Austrian initiative research projects competition of the Russian Foundation for Basic research (RFBR) and Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), in accordance with the Memorandum on Cooperation with the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), announce a call for proposals for joint Russian-Austrian projects in basic research. The aim of the competition is to develop international cooperation and to grant financial support for initiative research projects being conducted by Russian and Austrian researchers.

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

EU and regional news

Upcoming Events

- Aug 31 2016 - Aug 31 2016 | Yerevan
[Workshop to discuss Climate Change National Adaptation Plan for Armenia](#)
- Aug 29 2016 - Sep 02 2016 | Novosibirsk
[BGRS\SB-2016 - Bioinformatics of Genome Regulation and Structure\ Systems Biology](#)
- Aug 31 2016 - Sep 03 2016 | Almaty
[Advances in eye research towards the prevention of visual loss](#)
- Aug 22 2016 - Sep 04 2016 | Frankfurt a.d. Oder
[Viadrinum Ukrainian Summer School 2016](#)
- Sep 04 2016 - Sep 09 2016 | Lisbon
[11th Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems – SDEWES 2016](#)
- Sep 14 2016 - Sep 14 2016 | Brussels
[Horizon 2020 Info Day & Brokerage Event: Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency & Raw Materials](#)
- Sep 13 2016 - Sep 15 2016 | Almaty
[ISTC and ICP Joint IX International Symposium](#)
- Sep 14 2016 - Sep 15 2016 | Vilnius
[Life Sciences Baltics 2016](#)
- Sep 15 2016 - Sep 16 2016 | Batumi
[6th Black Sea Summit of the Assembly of European Regions \(AER\)](#)
- Sep 14 2016 - Sep 16 2016 | Valencia
[21st International Conference on Science and Technology Indicators](#)
- Sep 12 2016 - Sep 16 2016 | Ispra
[International Summer School on Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Management](#)
- Sep 19 2016 - Sep 19 2016 | Vienna
[Launch event: Building Bridges in Social Welfare Policy in Eastern Europe](#)
- Sep 19 2016 - Sep 21 2016 | Kyiv
[European Agriculture towards 2030 - Perspectives for further East-West Integration – 155th EAAE seminar](#)
- Sep 19 2016 - Sep 21 2016 | Kyiv
[Days of Agricultural Economics in Ukraine](#)
- Sep 21 2016 - Sep 23 2016 | Ureki
[International Conference on Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and related fields](#)

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Upcoming Events

- Sep 19 2016 - Sep 23 2016 | Almaty
Management of Innovation in the Agricultural Sector
- Sep 19 2016 - Sep 23 2016 | Dushanbe
Regional ISTC/BACAC Capacity Building Training Seminar on CCHFV, Zika virus and Ebola
- Sep 22 2016 - Sep 24 2016 | Ohrid
1st Black Sea Association of Food science and Technology (B-FoST) Congress
- Sep 22 2016 - Sep 24 2016 | Ohrid
VII Balkan and Black Sea 'Days of Cluster' Conference
- Sep 26 2016 - Sep 27 2016 | Bratislava
ICT Proposers Day 2016 - Networking Event
- Sep 26 2016 - Sep 30 2016 | Trieste
Macro-Regional Innovation Week
- Sep 28 2016 - Sep 30 2016 | Constanta
Black Sea from Space Workshop
- Sep 29 2016 - Sep 30 2016 | Brussels
Science and Policy Making: towards a new dialogue
- Sep 26 2016 - Oct 02 2016 | various locations across Europe
European Biotech Week: Celebrating Innovation
- Oct 03 2016 - Oct 06 2016 | Dagomys / Sochi
International Conference on Advanced Fluorescence Imaging (ADFLIM)
- Oct 06 2016 - Oct 07 2016 | Tbilisi
EaPEC 2016 – 1st Eastern Partnership Conference on E-Infrastructure
- Oct 03 2016 - Oct 07 2016 | Dushanbe
5-Day Scientific Writing Workshop for Young Researchers from Central Asia in Water Policy Studies
- Oct 11 2016 - Oct 11 2016 | Brussels
Joint Research Centre (JRC) Annual Conference: Human capital for territorial growth
- Oct 12 2016 - Oct 12 2016 | Brussels
Research Strategies: Europe 2030 and the next Framework Programme
- Oct 14 2016 - Oct 14 2016 | Brussels
Horizon 2020 Information Day on the Research Public-Private Partnerships
- Oct 12 2016 - Oct 14 2016 | Athens
9th International Scientific Conference on Energy and Climate Change

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Upcoming Events

- Oct 17 2016 - Oct 17 2016 | Linz
[Partnering Day - Solutions for a better Life](#)
- Oct 20 2016 - Oct 21 2016 | Duesseldorf
[meet@K Matchmaking at K 2016 Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber](#)
- Oct 19 2016 - Oct 22 2016 | Hamburg
[6th European Congress of Virology \(ECV\)](#)
- Oct 26 2016 - Oct 28 2016 | Moscow
[Open Innovations Forum 2016](#)
- Oct 26 2016 - Oct 28 2016 | Rome
[3rd Meet In Italy for Life Sciences Brokerage Event](#)
- Oct 26 2016 - Oct 28 2016 | Bratislava
[Re-Industrialisation of the EU 2016](#)
- Nov 02 2016 - Nov 05 2016 | Samarkand
[IAMO Samarkand Conference 2016](#)
- Nov 08 2016 - Nov 09 2016 | Berlin
[Falling Walls 2016 – The International Conference on Future Breakthroughs in Science and Society](#)
- Nov 07 2016 - Nov 09 2016 | Vienna
[ERA-LEARN Training Course: Using Foresight in Public-Public-Partnerships \(P2Ps\)](#)
- Nov 09 2016 - Nov 10 2016 | St. Petersburg
[Life Sciences Invest. Partnering Russia.](#)
- Nov 15 2016 - Nov 16 2016 | Oslo
[European Telemedicine Conference \(ETC 2016\) @ E-Health in Norway Future Health \(EHIN-FH 2016\)](#)
- Nov 15 2016 - Nov 16 2016 | Marrakech
[Sustainable Innovation Forum \(SIF16\)](#)
- Nov 14 2016 - Nov 17 2016 | Duesseldorf
[MEDICA 2016 – World Forum for Medicine](#)
- Nov 07 2016 - Nov 18 2016 | Marrakech
[Marrakech Climate Change Conference \(COP 22\)](#)
- Nov 24 2016 - Nov 24 2016 | Prague
[IraSME Partnering Event](#)
- Nov 30 2016 - Nov 30 2016 | Bratislava
[Networking4Innovation – Energy Brokerage Event at SET Plan 2016](#)

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



Armenia: Horizon 2020 Association Launching Workshop and Info Day



Horizon 2020 Association Events in Armenia | © Shahane Hovhannisyan

The Horizon 2020 Association Launching Workshop and Information Day devoted to Armenia's association to the European Union Framework Programme on Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020 was held on 2-3 June 2016, at the conference hall of Matenadaran in Yerevan.

The main objective of the events was to present to the Armenian authorities and STI stakeholders the additional opportunities arising from association of Armenia to the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

The Agreement on association of Armenia to European Union Framework Programme on Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020 was signed in Brussels on 19 May 2016, by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Levon Mkrtchyan; and EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Mr. Carlos Moedas.

The Association Launching Workshop organised on 2 June 2016, was mainly dedicated to Horizon 2020 National Contact Persons and information multipliers from various scientific and research institutes and universities, as well as representatives of SMEs, NGOs and other concerned organisations. It was attended by around 75 participants, including a delegation of the European Commission, experts from Belgium, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, and IncoNet EaP partners from Austria, Belarus and Greece.

On 3 June 2016, a Horizon 2020 Information Day was held with main focus on Climate Change, SME Instruments and the COSME Programme. The event evoked high interest in the stakeholders' community and was attended by more than 150 participants representing research institutes, universities, SMEs and industries, agencies and associations, NGOs and international organisations.

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All the high level Armenian officials stressed the importance of the association of Armenia to the largest in the world collaborative research and innovation programme which will allow Armenian scientific and research institutes, universities, SMEs and individual researchers to be part of European Research Area, and get involved and benefit from participation in joint research projects together with advanced European research organisations and SMEs.

The agenda included a general introduction towards the association to Horizon 2020. The EU4BUSINESS Panel presented various EU initiatives and mechanisms, which will support the SME sector development in Armenia in addition to the Horizon 2020 SME Instrument. Representatives of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ministry of Economy of Armenia, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank and Enterprise Incubator Foundation of Armenia took part in this session.



Horizon 2020 Association Events in Armenia | © Shahane Hovhannisyanyan

The panel was followed by a more practical session on Horizon 2020 with a focus on MSCA Actions, ERC Grants, IncoNet EaP activities to support the NCP network, legal and financial issues, and a more detailed presentation of the work programme 2016-2017 for Climate Change, the SME Instrument and the COSME Programme.

The infoday was organised by the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in close cooperation with the IncoNet EaP project coordinating teams from ZSI and CeRISS, the EU Delegation to Armenia, and the Enterprise Europe Network. A contribution to the agenda was also made by Impulse Brussels, Belgium, as a part of twinning visit within the SIS Net Project-Network of Science with and for Society NCPs.

The event was widely highlighted by nearly all major TV channels and mass media agencies of Armenia.

For more information on Armenia-EU cooperation in science, technology and innovation please also visit the [website of the Horizon 2020 National Information Point of Armenia](#).

Source: [IncoNet EaP](#) | ✉ [Tigran Arzumanyan](#)

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Armenia: Workshop to discuss Climate Change National Adaptation Plan

Climate change adaptation and the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in Armenia will be discussed at the workshop in the country's capital Yerevan on 31 August. Organised by the EU-funded Clima East project and supported by the country's Nature Protection Ministry, the event invites all interested participants to attend and debate how the country is moving towards the development of the climate change NAP, including in light of the recent Paris Agreement on this issue.

The [event agenda](#) is available in [English](#) and [Armenian](#). All interested participants are welcome to apply by sending an email at info@climaeast.eu, mentioning their name, contact details and affiliation.

According to Clima East, the adaptation to climate change and management of climate change risks is considered a challenge for Armenia's development. This has been proved by several studies conducted by UN and the World Bank that highlighted the urgency of the adaptation and called for proper consideration of adaptation in the country's strategic planning documents and funding anticipatory measures for adaptation and risk reduction.

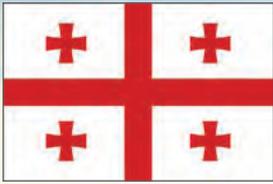
The Clima East project supports climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia. More specifically, it aims to foster improved climate change policies, strategies and market mechanisms more in line with the EU acquis in the partner countries, by supporting regional cooperation and improving access to information regarding EU climate change policies and acquis.

Source: [EU Neighbourhood Info](#)

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Georgia: Horizon 2020 Association Workshop held in Tbilisi

On 31 May 2016, a workshop about Georgia's association with Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation, was held at the Ministry of Education and Science. The event was organised by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the practical aspects of participation in Horizon 2020 by Georgian scientists with policy makers and organisations from the field of technology and innovation.

The event was attended by representatives of the EU Research and Innovation Directorate, which are directly involved in the developing of collaboration with Eastern Partnership countries. During the workshop the following topics were discussed:

- priorities of EU's framework programme for research and innovation,
- ongoing and planned calls,
- network of national contact points and mechanisms of its improvement,
- information about submitting project proposal,
- financial regulations,
- individual programs such as: Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, and
- funding opportunities in the framework of European Research Council.

The representatives of the European Commission expressed recommendations about specific steps that must be taken by the state to support Georgia's integration into Horizon 2020 and effective use of the program by the Georgian scientists.

The event was also attended by Georgia's Horizon 2020 National Contact Points, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, and Georgia's Innovation and Technologies Agency (GITA).

During the workshop representatives of Horizon 2020 associated countries made presentations about their countries' participation in the EU's framework programme for research and innovation and discussed the challenges their countries faced during the first phase of the association with Horizon 2020.

The workshop was held in the framework of EU funded project IncoNet EaP ('STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries').

Source: [Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation](#)

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Georgia: Horizon 2020 Information Day and NCP Workshop

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Horizon 2020 Info Day and NCP Workshop in Tbilisi | © Tea Mrhavanadze, SRNSF

On 30 May 2016, an EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme Horizon 2020 information day and NCP workshop took place in Tbilisi, Georgia. The event hosted a wide range of participants and speakers from the European Commission, EU Delegation to Georgia, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, European Investment Bank InnovFin programme, National contact points from Georgia as well as from the Horizon 2020 associated countries. Scientists and innovators from Georgia, representatives of various research institutions, universities and SMEs attended the information day.

Presented topics covered an overview of the Horizon 2020 opportunities, and practical information on effective participation in the programme. Activities and challenges of Georgia's NCP network were discussed and recommendations about the enhancement of the NCP network were provided by the guest speakers. [The presentations are available for download.](#)

Interactive sessions and lively discussions at the events clearly depicted the interest of Georgia's researchers in the priorities, topics, calls, and participation related information of Horizon 2020.

Source: [IncoNet EaP](#)



Horizon 2020 Info Day and NCP Workshop in Tbilisi | © Tea Mrhavanadze, SRNSF

Georgia: 2017 will be the 'Germany-Georgia Friendship Year'

Georgia has not only been associated to the EU's Framework Programme Horizon 2020 this year. It also has long lasting relations with individual European countries. One of them is Germany. In 2015 both countries decided to celebrate their multi-faceted relationship with the '2017-Germany-Georgia Friendship Year'. This decision was confirmed at a recent meeting of the foreign ministers of both countries, Mikheil Janelidze and Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Germany was the first country in the European Community to recognise Georgia under international law after it gained independence in 1991 and to open an embassy in Georgia in 1992. Within the European Union, Germany supports closer ties between Europe and Georgia and the entire region. Germany has strongly advocated including Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and has actively supported the EU's decision to create an Eastern Partnership.

On 5 May 2015, the German Federal Foreign Office hosted the first meeting of the '2017 Germany-Georgia Friendship Year' steering group. The Group, comprising of well-known Georgian and German experts working in different spheres, discussed the preparatory works for 2017. The then Georgian Foreign Minister Tamar Beruchashvili and German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier, acting as the heads of the group, attended the first meeting.

The steering group mapped out joint Georgian-German measures - exhibitions, concerts, film weeks, educational exchange programmes, sporting events, conferences and festivals - to be carried out in 2017 both in Germany and Georgia.

The 'Germany-Georgia Friendship Year' was officially announced after Georgia's Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili met Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin, Germany on 16 June 2016. The two top officials also agreed Steinmeier would come to Georgia in a reciprocal visit in early July.

This meeting took place only two weeks later, on 1 July. As the Federal Foreign Office reports, Georgia's current Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mikheil Janelidze and German Foreign Minister not only took part in the opening of the 25th session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, but also talked about the '2017 Germany-Georgia Friendship Year'.

Sources: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia](#) | [Federal Foreign Office \(Germany\)](#)

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Kazakhstan: New service for Kazakh PhD applicants who want to study in the UK

As part of the [Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme](#), the British Council are working with the [UK Higher Education International Unit](#) and the [Centre for International Programmes](#) to offer a free support service to Kazakhstani students who would like to study for a PhD in the UK through the [Bolashak Presidential Scholarship Programme](#). The support service can:

- Help you to identify a suitable UK supervisor and put you in touch with potential UK universities based on your profile and research interests
- Help you to navigate the UK university application process in order to obtain a letter of acceptance
- Give you advice and support on applying for the funding programme you choose (for example, Bolashak)
- Once you have been awarded funding, give you advice and guidance on how to apply for a UK visa in order to begin your studies or research in the UK.

For more, please contact: ✉ newton-al-farabi@kz.britishcouncil.org

Source: [British Council Kazakhstan](#)



Russia: Skoltech and German Aerospace Center sign Cooperation Agreement

On 13 June 2016, the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) signed an agreement to strengthen their scientific cooperation. The cooperation extends over a wide range of research fields, from material research via life sciences to climate research, space law and planetary research. Intended are joint scientific projects, but also exchange programmes for scientists and students. The Framework Agreement also enables the exchange of scientific data and the organisation of joint events.

According to Skoltech provost, Prof. Rupert Gerzer, 'The the most important consequence of the implementation of this agreement will be the direct involvement of Skoltech Space Center in experiments during real space missions.'

Sources: [Skoltech \(in English\)](#) | [DLR \(in German\)](#)

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Ukraine: German Research Minister encourages Science Cooperation with Ukraine at Conference in Berlin

The German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Johanna Wanka, emphasized the good relations with Ukraine and acknowledged the first successful steps of the country towards an integration into the European Research and Higher Education Area. She also stressed that the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF) is willing to support Ukraine in its efforts to reform and restructure the Ukrainian research and higher education landscape.

'We understand that it is extremely important to establish stability in Ukraine. Then the country will be in a position to implement policy reforms. Obviously, after the annexation of Crimea and the beginning of the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine there was a need to invest more in security and defense, and, accordingly, education and science have less money. Although German scientists today widely maintain contacts with Ukraine, I call on them, and on the German scientific institutions to enhance the extent of their cooperation with Ukraine where possible', said Johanna Wanka.

The German minister welcomed her Ukrainian counterpart Liliya Hrynevych in Berlin. The Ukrainian Minister of Education and Science came into office only recently and the trip to Germany was her first official visit to an EU Member State. Liliya Hrynevych expressed her gratitude for the German support and noted that peace is a key condition for the development of all sectors of society, especially in education and science.

Both ministers jointly opened the conference '[German-Ukrainian Dialogue: Prospects for Education and Science](#)', which brought together representatives of the political and science communities of both countries. Their aim was to present plans for a reform of the Ukrainian education and science system, which is supported by the German federal ministry and German research institutions, as well as to analyse the potential for future cooperations.

Germany already supports Ukrainian-German research projects in a wide range of scientific fields and fosters the exchange of students and scientists. A [recent call](#) for project proposals from 15 April 2016 to 3 June 2016 was open to scientific organisations, research groups, universities, research institutions and SMEs of both countries.

Sources: [Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine \(in Ukrainian\)](#)
[Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(in German\)](#)

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Ukraine: Polish and Ukrainian Science Ministries prepare Cooperation Agreement

Exchange of academic staff and university cooperation within the framework of Horizon 2020 are the issues discussed by the Polish and Ukrainian science ministers. They announced the signing of a new agreement between the ministries and collaborative work on its content.

Minister of Science and Higher Education Jarosław Gowin met with Ukrainian Minister of Education and Science Liliya Hrynevych. 'We agreed to sign a new agreement between our ministries and we will work on the text of this agreement', Liliya Hrynevych told reporters after Thursday's meeting. 'Recently we had changes in governments in Ukraine and in Poland. Therefore it is very important to meet and discuss our positions, our future cooperation', she added.

'Strengthening cooperation in the field of science and higher education is certainly in the interest of Ukraine and Poland. The Polish and Ukrainian governments have the same goals in matters related to universities. We should make better use of the channels of cooperation that already exist, and share experiences with each other. In some respects, we Poles can share both positive and negative experiences with reforms that we have conducted. In other respects, we want to learn from the experience of our friends in Ukraine', commented Minister of Science and Higher Education Jarosław Gowin.

Liliya Hrynevych explained that a new law on higher education is now being introduced in Ukraine. 'I think there are many positive aspects that we can draw from one another. Soon we will have an agency to evaluate education. In Poland, such agency is already operating and this is one of the items of our cooperation', emphasised the Ukrainian minister.

She recalled that Ukraine had recently ratified its agreement for the association to Horizon 2020. 'We are interested in a cooperation of our universities in the framework of Horizon 2020. In cooperation with Polish institutions and universities we can achieve greater success in this programme', she noted.

'We also discussed on anti-plagiarism activities. This is a very important issue for Ukraine, we are also preparing a repository of scientific texts and can share our experience on how to implement anti-plagiarism mechanisms at universities', Hrynewycz emphasised.

She announced that on the agenda of Polish-Ukrainian talks was also the issue of double diplomas between Polish and Ukrainian universities and the exchange of students and academic staff. 'We have strong universities, we should expand the university mobility opportunities for students, for example in Erasmus+. Exchange between scientists is not quite symmetrical. If we ensure this mobility also among professors, lecturers, it will be conducive to rapprochement of our education systems and making our universities - more European', she added.

Source: *[Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education](#)*

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Ukraine joins the Euratom Research and Training Programme

The European Union and Ukraine are taking another step to further widen their mutually beneficial cooperation in science and research. Today, they will conclude an agreement on the association of Ukraine to the Euratom Research and Training Programme. The agreement will be signed in Brussels by Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The signing will take place in the presence of Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

Commissioner Moedas said: 'Ukraine's great research and innovation potential offers promising partnerships for Europe. Ukraine will now have access to the full spectrum of Euratom activities. I hope Ukraine will make the most of these opportunities, conducting research for a prosperous future.'

The new agreement comes one year after Ukraine joined Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme. While Horizon 2020 covers a wide range of activities from fundamental research up to close-to-market activities, the Euratom Research and Training Programme is specifically aimed at improving the levels of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

The association agreement will still need to be ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament. Nevertheless, Ukrainian legal entities will be able to already participate in the Euratom call for proposals funded under the 2016 and 2017 budget, as this association covers the period 2014-2018.

The European Union and Ukraine will both benefit from widening opportunities for science and research cooperation by developing new partnerships and new scientific ideas.

The current five-year Euratom Research and Training Programme, running from 2014 until 2018, complements Horizon 2020, the EU's €77 billion research and innovation programme (2014-2020). The budget for the three remaining years (2016-2018) for direct and indirect actions in fission and fusion is €872.5 million. Ukraine was also associated to the previous Euratom research programmes between 2007 and 2013.

Source: [European Commission](#)

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ТОЛЬКО НА
АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

country news

Ukraine: NATO and Ukraine take stock of successful scientific cooperation

Scientists, experts and policy makers from Ukraine, the region and NATO member states gathered for the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme Information Day 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine on 27 May. The event provided an opportunity for the dissemination of the tangible results achieved through practical cooperation and the implementation of SPS projects in Ukraine.

The SPS Information Day, organised jointly with the Ministry of Science and Education of Ukraine, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Mission of Ukraine to NATO, allowed participants to learn more about the work of the SPS Programme, to develop new initiatives for practical cooperation, and to create networks of experts to address security-related civil science and technology issues.

The event attracted more than 200 interested scientists and experts who shared their experience of the SPS Programme and talked about their projects that address mainly the defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and security-related advanced technologies. The funds, training and equipment provided by the SPS Programme benefit not only the Ukrainian scientific community but also local populations. 'The SPS Information Day sends a strong message of NATO support to Ukraine', emphasised Dr Maxim Strikha, Deputy Minister of Science and Education of Ukraine.

After a lively panel on the political importance of international scientific cooperation and SPS activities with Ukraine, Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, opened an exhibition that showcased the fruitful research and concrete results of 24 SPS projects with Ukraine. Over 80 SPS project directors and young scientists displayed their research on posters and handouts, but also by showcasing samples, simulations, and models that they have produced in their SPS projects.

'Not only the number of SPS projects matter, but the quality of these projects', commented Ambassador Ducaru. 'By bringing together high-level scientists, collaboration through the SPS Programme benefits not only Ukraine, but the global scientific community. SPS collaboration creates important networks and synergies, while producing practical results. This exhibition is a proof of the progress being achieved in a wide range of activities.'

Active engagement between NATO and Ukraine dates back to 1991 and has been deepening ever since. Today, Ukraine is the largest beneficiary of the SPS Programme. Since 2014, 49 SPS activities with Ukraine have been launched. These include 40 Multi-year Research Projects, 7 Advanced Research Workshops and 2 Advanced Training Courses. More than 600 international scientists and experts are involved in 35 ongoing multi-year projects.

Source and further details: [NATO](#)

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Россия: Конкурс научных статей для магистрантов и аспирантов.

Центр Изучения Германии и Европы (СПбГУ — Университет Билефельда) совместно с Советом молодых ученых факультета социологии СПбГУ приглашают магистрантов и аспирантов в области гуманитарных и социальных наук к участию в конкурсе научных статей. Главный приз - грант в размере до 1275 евро на проведение эмпирического исследования в Европе или России. К участию принимаются как недавно опубликованные, так и неопубликованные исследовательские работы.

Конкурсные работы направляются в организационный комитет конкурса на info@zdes.spbu.ru и events.cges@gmail.com.

К конкурсной заявке следует приложить академическое CV, включающее адрес и телефон заявителя, и мотивационное письмо. Все материалы представляются на английском языке. Финал конкурса и подведение итогов состоятся в ноябре 2016 года. Прошедшие в финал кандидаты представят свою работу на английском языке перед членами жюри.

Финалисты примут участие в международном семинаре по написанию и публикации статей в международных научных журналах под руководством европейского преподавателя. Победители получают приз в размере до 1275 евро для прохождения научной стажировки в Европе в январе–феврале 2017 г. Цель стажировки — сбор эмпирических данных и развитие исследования, представленного в статье. Итоговый вариант рукописи, написанной по результатам стажировки, будет опубликован в 2017 году в рамках серии «CGES Working Papers» — «Рабочие тетради “Центра изучения Германии и Европы”» (издание обладает международным статусом и номером ISSN, подробнее см. [здесь](#)).

Подробные требования к конкурсным работам ищите в официальном [колле](#).

Источник: [Центр изучения Германии и Европы](#)

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НАТО и Украина дают оценку успешному научному сотрудничеству.

Ученые, эксперты и политики из Украины, стран региона и государств-членов НАТО приняли участие в Информационном дне 2016 года программы «Наука ради мира и безопасности» (НРМБ), который прошел 27 мая в Киеве (Украина). Мероприятие предоставило возможность распространить осязаемые результаты, достигнутые в рамках практического сотрудничества и осуществления проектов НРМБ в Украине.

Информационный день программы НРМБ, совместно организованный министерством образования и науки Украины, Национальной академией наук Украины и постоянным представительством Украины при НАТО, позволил участникам узнать больше о работе программы НРМБ, разработать новые инициативы для практического сотрудничества и создать сети экспертов для решения связанных с безопасностью научных и технологических вопросов.

В мероприятии приняли участие более 200 заинтересованных ученых и экспертов, которые поделились своим опытом участия в программе НРМБ и рассказали о своих проектах, которые главным образом касаются защиты от химического, биологического, радиологического и ядерного оружия, а также о связанных с безопасностью передовых технологиях. Средства, подготовка и оборудование, предоставляемые в рамках программы НРМБ, приносят пользу не только научному сообществу Украины, но также и местному населению. «Информационный день НРМБ подает мощный сигнал о поддержке, оказываемой НАТО Украине», – подчеркнул заместитель министра образования и науки Украины д-р Максим Стриха.

После оживленной дискуссии о политическом значении международного научного сотрудничества и деятельности программы НРМБ в Украине помощник генерального секретаря НАТО по новым вызовам безопасности посол Сорин Дукару открыл выставку, на которой были продемонстрированы плодотворное сотрудничество и конкретные результаты 24 проектов НРМБ в Украине. Более 80 руководителей проектов и молодых ученых представили свои исследования на плакатах и в информационных материалах, а также продемонстрировали образцы и модели, которые они создали в рамках проектов НРМБ.

«Значение имеет не только количество проектов НРМБ, но и качество этих проектов, – отметил посол Дукару. – Сотрудничество по программе НРМБ, в котором участвуют ученые высокого уровня, идет на пользу не только Украине, но и всему мировому научному сообществу. Сотрудничество в рамках программы НРМБ создает важные сети и синергии, при этом обеспечивая практические результаты. Эта выставка является свидетельством достигнутого прогресса по широкому диапазону деятельности».

Активное взаимодействие между НАТО и Украиной началось в 1991 году и с тех пор углубляется. В ответ на кризис в Украине и в соответствии с

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политическими руководящими указаниями, предоставленными министрами иностранных дел стран НАТО в апреле 2014 года, практическое сотрудничество в области науки и технологии еще больше активизируется.

«НАТО – это не только коллективная безопасность, но также знания и экспертный опыт, которые можно использовать и которыми можно обмениваться с Украиной», – сказала о программе НРМБ председатель Комитета Верховной Рады Украины по вопросам здравоохранения и советник президента Украины по гуманитарным вопросам д-р Ольга Богомолец.

Сегодня Украина является крупнейшим бенефициаром программы НРМБ. С 2014 года в рамках НРМБ было начато 49 мероприятий с Украиной. Среди них: 40 многолетних исследовательских проектов, 7 семинаров по перспективным исследованиям и 2 курса продвинутого обучения. Более 600 международных ученых и экспертов участвуют в 35 осуществляемых многолетних проектах. В рамках этих проектов более 250 молодых ученых, многие из которых из Украины, получили возможность проводить исследования в интересующих их сферах совместно с их коллегами из стран НАТО. Кроме того, более чем ста из этих молодых ученых программа НРМБ предоставила финансовую поддержку в виде стипендий, чтобы придать импульс их научной карьере.

В сентябре 2015 года Совместная рабочая группа НАТО–Украина по научному и экологическому сотрудничеству провела свое ежегодное совещание в штаб-квартире НАТО в Брюсселе, чтобы дать оценку деятельности программы НРМБ в Украине. Украинская делегация высокого уровня под руководством д-ра Максима Стрихи представила обзор значительного воздействия нынешнего кризиса безопасности в Украине на научную инфраструктуру и образовательные учреждения в стране. В этой связи программа НРМБ играет важную роль, привлекая ученых и экспертов из стран НАТО и Украины к целенаправленному, практическому сотрудничеству, укрепляя сети и поддерживая укрепление потенциала в стране.

Источник: [НАТО](#)

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